## 355 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass.

January 20th, 1923.

My dear Mr. Powell:

Your letter of the eighth January has come. I am very much pleased to learn that the plate of Selenipedium chica reached you in good condition. By this time you are in possession of the 2d number of the Schedulae which contains the article that explains the plate. In donnection with this species I wish you would investigate the fruits and ascertain if they have any suggestion of Vanilla. This is an interesting point and one that needs confirmation.

Schlechter has not yet sent me proof of the Pan-

ama paper. I will be interested to see this. What you say about his Scaphosepalum pamamaense is momentous. In my letter of September 27th, 1922 you will remember that I informed you that I was unable to understand on what grounds Schlechter ran this species into Scaphosepalum. Now, in my opinion he has made a mess of the whole thing. I have not yet attacked the problem from the new light, but it would seem that we have a tangle to undo. Surely he is wrong in his conception of Masdevallia Livingstonii, but you will remember that you and I probably know more about this species than does enybody else. PLEASE do not take this matter up with Schlechter until I have had an opportunety to read his paper. Such things are best attended to from this end where we are on the watch for critical work.

We sail on the Heredia from Havana late in February and expect to have enough time in Panama to pay you a visit. We must reach Honduras by March third. I am sorry that my/does not allow of an expedition with you, but I feel that Panama is in good hands and that I can go to new fields more profitably.

I sincerely hope that you have discovered Masdevallia Livingstonii. Coax it into bloom and treasure it like a child. Some Lankester species arrived last week via Kew Gardens. I found several new things among them and these are already in press and a copy of the paper will be sent to you just before I leave for the south on February first. The next number of the Schedulae, by the way, will prove interesting reading for you. I am anxious to keep this little journal coming along at frequent intervals. I have big plans for its development and I believe we can make it a most important addition to the literatuse of Orchidology. Just think what the next number should be if I am able to devote its pages to the orchids of Honduras or to an account of my studies there.

I do not believe that you have scratched the surface of Panama. There are so many things that you seem to have missed entirely! I am looking for as many new things as Schlechter seems to have found among your collections. I am afraid, however, that signe of Schlechter's species must come tumbling down unless he has made sweeping revisions in the published paper. By this time you have undoubtedly realized the truth of my surmises as to the methods of hasty deter/ minations.taimakaiyamitaaiiii and of my earlier letters to you, you will find that I was not far from the truth as to the simplicity of making determinations for temporary effect. However, the past is the past, and some of us dont see the glass in our houses. We throw stones with impunity. You must bear in mind, nevertheless, that the m to //error.

I may not write again before departure.

Yours sincerely.



Ames, Oakes. 1923. "Ames, Oakes Jan. 20, 1923 [to C.W. Powell]." *Oakes Ames Orchid Herbarium correspondence files* 

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