

Boston August 10th 1903

My dear doctor,

The last & second letter received from you was from 'Bonny Edinburgh' where you wrote at Macgregor's Hotel managed by Mac Farish. I hope you did enjoy indeed this land of the Maes - more than I did that of the Micmaes last year, and I hope the bonnie lassies with ye - enjoyed it as much as your letter evidences you did. My Scotch is rather weak you perceive for I have reached the end of my knowledge of it. Your photos of Lynton most fetched me over the ocean - I went so far as to get a sailing list of the Cunarders - but the sum of it is I've bought so many vases this year on tick I did not like to go to the increased expense of a European trip, especially so as I have Japan in view in the nearish future. That's my bonny Scotland dream for the present - it may always remain a dream but its blissful while it lasts. I believe I wrote you last on my return from Locust where I

visited the Washingtons - after that I spent a few days visiting at York. Played tennis, bathed for the first time in many years (that is not counting bath tubs of course) dined with the De Forests & Howard Pickering - in short did the society act as I have not done it since I took up botany. I finished up my vacation from which I have just returned with a trip with Dr. Robinson. We first went to Mt. Washington where for a week we were pestered in by fogs & very strong cold winds. The day we intended descending (by team) the carriage road it was 16° at seven o'clock & did not rise above freezing all day. The mountain was covered with a sheet of half inch ice (July 27th) & it blew 70 miles rising occasionally to 90 or 100. It was impossible to stand on the platform out of the lee of the house & a life rope was used between the house & the Among the Clouds office but that did not protect one from pieces of ice shot by the wind - these often as big as walnuts. For the first time I saw frost feathers these which form at right angles to any vertical

surface are formed against the wind & there were a few 12 inches long. The cannonade of ice against the back of the house was incessant & made a clatter scarcely imaginable. This was an arctic experience which we enjoyed to the full. The next day was beautiful & we drove down to Gorham for dinner then drove to Bethel in the afternoon with a fine team & a good carriage. The next day we drove 50 miles - first to Lakeside at the foot of Lake Umbagog where we had dinner. The drive was through Grafton notch & is very beautiful - possibly you know it. After dinner we went through Rivol & up the Magalloway river to the end of the road where we put up at a very nice sporting house known as Flints' near Aziscoos falls. We made this our headquarters for the next three days & ascended Aziscoos which is in the front of the house. It proved to be a tough little mountain - no trail & plenty of spruce & scrub to fight. Our guide got bewildered & took us up a neighboring peak & we had to

cross a deep saddle full of scrub to get to the real peak. The view was very beautiful over looking all the Rangely Lake region - something like Katahdin but not nearly so grand. We then drove back to Enrol then took the steamer on Lake Umbagog to Sunday Cove & made a buckboard carry of six miles in three hours to Middle dam. This was much like the Lunksoos drive but the buckboard was fine & the road not nearly so bad though the buckboard being hung on fine springs we were jolted full as much. We stayed over Sunday at Middle dam enjoying it very much then went on by steamer through the Upper & Lower Richardson Lakes - Lake Moosilockmaguntic and Rangely Lake to a big hotel at Rangely where we met civilization again - tennis - golf - a hotel band & all the paraphernalia of princely luxury at \$4 a day. It was a fine trip which we enjoyed to the full only marred by beastly weather on Washington and a good deal of rain ever since. In fact, since the dry spell which I wrote you about was broken

it has done nothing but rain here with short intermissions of sunshine & very little warm weather. On the Ranges it was usually 50° at sunrise & 60° to 65° in the middle of the day. I met Hodges a day or two ago. He has just got home from Frisco & seemed well & happy and had a good time. We miss you here like the — (I'm afraid the ladies may see this letter so I won't write what but you can supply the blanks). Don't get so Scotch you'll forget Milton & don't endorse Scotch Universities at the great loss & detriment of Rhodora. I added a few plants to the Mt. Washington list and Robinson made three sets for the Gray herb. exsiccator otherwise he did not do very much botanically except collect the prominent plants of the region visited. To our surprise we found the flora surprisingly uninteresting — Not just the White Mt. Country flora over again & not a trace of the north of Maine specialties which have made our brook trips so exciting.

I'm sorry I did not have my fishing gear
along with me, the waters were more enticing
than the woods.

With love to all of you & hoping to
see you again soon in Norfolk County I
am as ever

Very sincerely Yours
Smith



Williams, Emile Francis. 1903. "Williams, Emile F. 10 Aug 1903." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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