

H
Louisville Ky

My Dear Mr Davenport

I enclose you an etching of
Aspidium fragrans. Do you think it is
all right. It is very like the specimen
I copied from, one of Mr Hoystracks
drying. (I also enclose a frond.)
It seems to me that the pinnae
are rather narrow, and contracted like
this I want to use as my specimen copy
and of course want it perfect.

Please give me your opinion

I have received 12/13 of Eaton ferns of N.Y. - They are much
better than the last, but why does the artist use so many
stiff lines. I had a letter from Mr S Warren Merrill
and he thinks my *Asp. nuberbecum* is faulty. he thinks
I have made it a little too strong and vigorous in
growth. he says it is a delicate & graceful fern.

I examined quite a number and selected what I thought
was the most characteristic. I am very glad to get
criticisms from my friends and never fall out with any
one, all I want is to have my work right.

Now Mr Davenport I want to tell you something
that I think you will be glad to hear.

a few days ago
I just received, a most charming letter from
Philip Gilbert Hamerton. He is a great
favourite of mine, I have read quite a number of
his books, and of course studied his Etchings
& Etchings. He talks upon art subjects better
than any one I know. I sent him a
copy of my ferns as Editor of The Portfolio.
I also sent a few lines telling him what I
was doing in a humble way. He writes a
long complimentary letter, and advised me
to Etch the common wild flowers, stating that it
would be advancing the Science of Botany.
If I presented them in such a manner as I
have illustrated the ferns, this you know is not
practical. The field is too wide and time is too
short. I am going to stick to ferns.

I spent a pleasant evening last week with Edward
King, correspondent for your Boston Journal, and
New York Evening Post. He is on a visit to the
Southern County taking notes.

Drop me a line even you have time. I
do not want to encroach too much.

Yours Sincerely

Friend John Williamson



Williamson, John. 1872. "Williamson, John undated [4th item]." *George Edward Davenport correspondence*

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