

926 Grant Ave
Rockford Ills
Feb 16th 1899

My dear Mr Deane -

Thanks for the
transcriptions from Charniss - They
are of immediate interest and
accompanying the forms to which
they relate will be of permanent
value. The Island of St Paul
stands for me as yielding two
things Fur seal pelts and a
very peculiar willow - not so very
much unlike related forms but
after all with enough of peculiar
character to be recognized at once -
I doubt if another willow grows on
the island - but every collector is
sure to get this one - It must
be common for the average
collector does not pick up a willow
as a general rule if he can
step over it or get around it -
Now one of the things which I
wished to know was just
where in the series of forms

of I, my still bolder under article
modification ~~Chamisso~~ arranged
by Chamisso. This plant would
find a place - I expected to have
to follow up little hints here and
there and get along the best I
could with what keeps my limited
resources well filled. I may see
therefore my surprise when I found
the description of gamma 4 leading
off "Ex Insula Sancti Pauli". That
sailed w! - even if the description
following had not been entirely
confirmatory -

How delightful and
stimulating it must be to meet
real botanists - to live right
amongst such people - You are
when Babcock was alive, in
Chicago. When Hall also was "in
the form" and Patterson was
active. I did used to see a ~~brother~~
devoted of the ^{one in a while} amiable science - ~~of~~
the sight was rare. But now I
see no one - I go (with Mrs B.) to
Monday evening clubs - and Emerson
clubs and all the rest of it

in any historical question
less than two hundred years
old. Thus I had come to
imagine that he, Ward, having
no interest in any botanical
question not as old as the
Tertiary - to say the least - and
I was both surprised and
delighted to find that he could
still write so enthusiastically
about the plants of the field.
That the sun now shines upon
— not omitting to ask for
a specimen of the "King devil".

By the way I am, along with
rest of us I suppose, receiving a circular
of the projected Monograph of the
British Neracei - price only six
dollars a year for five years
- thirty dollars for a series of
seven species according to Benth
10. Hooker. But after all it is
difficult in such a case to say
how many species there should be.
The 7 or 10. seem as difficult to limit
as the 40 or 50. of other authors -

difficult at this point in the matter. I think it is far more difficult to limit the number of species than to say that there are 7 or 10.

But
in this letter and also
on a manuscript in
this letter and also

in pursuit of mental stimulus
and the pleasures of social
intercourse - but I am not
tempted to "talk shop" even if
I felt so inclined - nobody to
talk to! Still a prophet doth
have honor even in his own
land - Did I ever tell you
about a cranky old maid who
died in town a few years ago
- I never saw her - never had any
communication with her whatsoever
- but she bequeathed me her
Herbarium! - in one volume - one
third full - pink paper - I do
wish you could see it!

I have a very flattering
note from Cutter about my
forthcoming Willow paper in
the Fish Gazette - Yes I enjoyed
Murray's letter in the Bulletin
and Ward's article in the
Gazette very much - I immediately
wrote to Ward that I had
heard that Prescott always
said that he had no interest



Bebb, M. S. 1889. "Bebb, Michael Schuck Feb. 16, 1889." *Michael Schuck Bebb letters to Walter Deane*

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