

Pock Island, July 31, 92

Care Wm G. Sands,

Dear Dean,

You will notice from the caption that I properly recognize our affliction and follow the blessed law of priority in women-clature, for they do say that the crew of the Palatine were afflicted with the dread disease - However that may be, we, that is they, viz some usab women of Hotel Maniacs, had it. At once all the boarders as all the hotels flew like fresh-birds at the time of migration, for a few days the island was left utterly me desolate, for I held the fort. I had preceded my family by a week. As soon as Mrs Bailey heard of the danger here she was impressed by a mighty scare, but when I represented the hard facts, and the precautions taken, she came on with the lot. There is now considered to be no danger, but the thing gave a sabbath off to the Island for the summer, we are here a mile away from the disturbance, the infected ones were at

once removed to a remote part of the isle and quarantined, and the hotel and outhouses where the disease appeared were also quarantined. It is now 14 days and there are no new cases. Such is the history of the very natural scare.

When I laid upon myself the task of botanizing this island, I undertook a big job; more than I alone can handle. The undulating surface is full of ponds and bog holes and there abound in plants, such pond-lilies! almost as fine as Victoria. I find tufts of *Cotoneaster laevis* and *viscosa*; *Phlox virginica*, *Populus phlogosoides*, *Euphorbia grisea* etc. On the shore I was delighted to gather what I take to be *Arenaria papilionacea*. *Solidago maritima* is very large. *S. nemoralis* and *Canadensis* also occur. I found *Cladonia alutacea* this morn, but not in bloom. Some of the pond-holes are full of *Cephalanthus*. The only trees are *Populus alba* and a few locusts about the houses. I have seen the following ferns, to wit-

Aspidium Noctua, and *Thelypteris*; *Asplen-gilix* Goem, *Dicksonia*, and *Carmichaelia cinnamomea*, and *Cuscuta*. I find also *Sphagnum*, and a *Polytrichum* - and several lichens. Sea algae are scarce.

I find myself speculating wildly as to the ancient history of this isle, which is all of drift formation, boulders, clay, and sand, where did the plants and trees come from and how? How about the butterflies - *Papilio Asterix*, *Argynnis alba*, *Cynthia carolin*, *Hipparchia alba* etc? How did they get here, I pause for a reply. Hot as the mercurials until today, Mercury at 90 has 10 miles at sea and no breeze. Today the storm came in attenuated the refreshing zephyr - Continue to live and write to you always

Admiring friend
W. W. Bailey



Bailey, William Whitman. 1892. "Bailey, William Whitman Jul. 31, 1892." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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