

The  
**Botanical Gazette.**

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October 9. 1890.

My dear Deane:--

You are naturally curious I suppose to know what has become of my scheme as to coming to Cambridge, and I will take the first opportunity since the matter has been settled to enlighten you.

Not very much was done in the way of correspondence as I soon learned that Watson was going to do the unprecedented thing of coming to the meeting of the AAAS at Indianapolis. I therefore deferred all until I could talk with him face to face. On the Saturday excursion we had a chance to converse on the subject; a little more on the Monday excursion for the botanists and still more at Coulter's home at Crawfordsville, whither we both went for a couple of days after the meeting.

The slight hitch in the arrangements was in the matter of money. I could not just see how it was going to be possible for me to live in Cambridge on the salary proposed, which---all this you understand is STRICTLY confidential---was equal to that which Watson now receives. We therefore concluded to make a definite arrangement for the present year only and let the future be decided by the future. I have been granted leave of absence for the third term, <sup>My leave</sup> ~~which~~ commences March 28. I will at once come to Cambridge and remain at least until the following September. I expect that during the summer we shall come to a

final decision as to my acceptance of the place. Last Monday I received an official notice from the Keeper of the Corporation Records ---the title smacks of royalty and compares favorably with "the Keeper of the Robes" or "the Lady of the Bedchamber"---that I had been appointed by the august body that he represents as an Assistant in the Herbarium for the year 1890--91. Good! I am therefore at the present time holding two large positions, and if I could only draw both salaries at the same time I would be reasonably happy. If everything goes well you may look for me in Cambridge on that most appropriate anniversary—All-Fool's Day; for ---was it not the great William who remarked ?---

"The wise man knows himself to be a fool."

I think I wrote you that my wife had been ill most of the summer. She has gotten better now and is at her father's for a change of air and scene in the hopes of still further betterment. Her letters lead us to think that she is improving, and the new doctor whom she has consulted there says that he thinks she will come along all right. I am glad that she got away when she did for since she went we have had nothing but a succession of cloudy and rainy days, too warm for a fire and too cold and damp to be without one, *a bad condition for neuralgia*

Let me hear from you, my dear fellow, whenever you get time. My  
warmest regards to Mrs. Deane.

Ever yours,

John Barnes

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