

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Department of Botany

Thos. Meehan,

Botanist.

Board of Agriculture.

Germantown, Pa. June 8 1882

Francis Darwin Esq

Dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to accede to your request as far as I am able. It has been my practice for many years, when I have a letter giving any information about any plant, to put these letters in envelopes, and endorse them with name of the plants referred to, and these are alphabetically arranged for ready reference in my literary work. Hence a large number of letters I would not refer to unless I should happen to remember the subject of the reference. My other correspondence is simply "saved" in several bundles without any order or system, as I have simply put them by in case any sickness should incapacitate ^{me} from more active work. As much of these are without envelopes, and my correspondence ~~is~~ happens to have been very varied and extensive, and my health has fortunately

permitted me over thirty years of my active life, I am not able to do full justice to your desires. There are some letters I am sorry not to find, one especially in which he very kindly tells me that among the satisfactions his work gave him, was the pleasure he experienced in reading one of my papers which had evidently been suggested by his writings. This would have been a fair 'set off' to one I enclose in which he seems disappointed. It is at least a great pleasure to me to read now again, that he was pleased with one of my reviews of his books. Should any explanations of any of the letters be needed, I shall have much pleasure in offering them to you. The letter of May 13 1878 refers to a paper of mine on Simulium perenne in which I showed that here its pollen was better than 'morganic dust', - but I distinctly stated in the same paper, and which I found your father had overlooked, that the observation tended to show that plants would not behave the same under all circumstances. The

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It never entered my thoughts to discredit any one's observations, much less his!

I ~~am~~ mail to you with this a sketch of some verbal remarks I made recently before the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, in which I have marked a paragraph again bearing on the same subject. The Academy limits the number of ^{copies} ~~copies~~ it gives to the authors, and I have many correspondents who desire them, - but if you continue the admirable researches, ~~of which~~ which your father delighted in, and would care to receive these papers, I know of no one to whom they would be more ~~sent~~ sent with greater pleasure, -

and please accept, my dear Sir,
my cordial sympathy in the effective talk
which you have set for yourself, and
believe me to be always
Your truly
Thomas Meehan