

Gray Herbarium



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Dear Mr. Nelson,

It's been a long time since you've
had to struggle with my handwriting. Come to
think of it I'm not sure that you have
ever had anything but a dictated letter from
me. I can pound a typewriter myself when I
have to but I don't feel like it this evening
so will try a little of my famous (seems to me
I've heard it called infamous) script. Which
reminds me that a good business friend
remarked to me the other day, "I never
knew an educated man who wrote a
good hand". Well, I shouldn't put it
quite so strongly but they are rather rare
birds. Certainly I help to bear out the
assertion, - still I don't claim to be an
educated man but I probably come under
some such classification so far as my
friend's conception of the tribe goes. By the
way, we attempt to define "an educated man"
there are some famous definitions, of course, but
it's interesting to get the man-on-the-street
viewpoint on different regions. I especially seem
to make a lot of difference, sometimes!
But I am straying far from

professional topics and I hasten to get
back to my own stamping ground where
I am more at ease. I believe I
know or bluff! It seems good to have
heard again from you and I have en-
joyed your comments re #ye, et al. immensely.
Cost is merely secondary so long as it's
within reason for the ~~size~~ ^{size}-right book.
We want the book and the price we
pay you will be O.K. whatever it is. In-
cidentally we don't care what you pay for
it.

We have all expressed our
appreciation of the ~~very~~ ^{very} note. Weatherly
was here a few days and we exchanged
comment in the clever way in which
you note the matter of fun first to last.
If you get a line from ABC do share
it with me. Badger is a live one
and publishes some ~~things~~ ^{things} altogether
subscribing to our best-transcript-reading
families. Which is of course a highly
complimentary thing to say of him! It
occurs to me you could "put across" a
semi-popular little book in the form of
an essay commenting in satirical
fashion upon the trend of the times in

scientific publications. I mean to
sprinkle ~~there~~ a sort of narrative
told ⁱⁿ entertainingly examples similar to
any story, any play, any battle
any named "splitting" etc. Such a
thing done without being technical should
appeal to the educated person from
the human interest side. Call it "studies
of 20th century scientific (?) literature" a
something of the kind and "rap" all phases
of the matter, from the type of men
engaged in the work to the work itself.
You could probably work in a chapter or
a few paragraphs making sport of the
prevailing American etc. code in this day
of internationalism etc.

Again I wander. Go ahead
on the Adv. Abstract deal without
hesitation. That is a fine thing they
are doing & every one's help is needed.
You can handle foreign without
difficulty; you know comment is not
desired — just a brief resumé
of the salient points of each article.
From this the student of foreign
subject can determine whether the
article is of sufficient importance
for him to secure it.

(over)

Sorry but I know none except
 Weigand & H could take care for you.
 Better keep 'em; W & H have Dean's stuff.
 Possibly the R. Mt. Herb. @ Yarnish N.Y.
 hasn't if not they would be glad
 to get them. Write Asst. Prof. Poole,
 Dept of Bot. & ask him. Better
 tell him year of collection. Next best
 place to put them would be Dr. G. H.
 Bailey of Ithaca, N.Y. if he hasn't them.
M. calymbosa not yet transferred to
Orlando.

Ah, Schneider weis nicht!

But between you & me I can't
 feel "spontaneous" toward him. My
 friends say I am immer schmerzhaft!
 He told me he hopes to return
 to Europe & resume his profession of
 landscape architect after his
 Chicago trip! Poor man - I'm afraid
 there won't be much use for his
 profession over there for some time - some
 as it may be turned to a utilitarian
 purpose! Adios!

Francis MacGill