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Letter from John H[oward] Redfield to John Muir, 1876 Feb 12.

John Howard Redfield

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see your observations on the Sequoia?

This reminds me that Thos. Meehan one of our ablest botanists who has given especial attention to the study & the cultivation of the Coniferæ — is very desirous to obtain a quantity of cones of the various forms of Pinus aristata. Murray described a P. Balfouriana from Mt. Shasta — which Meehan believes to be only a narrow-coned form of P. aristata — & he desires material to decide this question. Will you keep this in mind — the coming season — or if you have any — send them to me by express?

I now wish that you had numbered the plants you sent me — that I might more readily refer to any particular species — in correspondence — & get exact localities.

Yours very truly John H. Reesfield

Phil^a Feb 12 1876

John Muir

1419 Taylor St.

San Francisco

My dear Sir

I have your favor of 27th ult, & thank you for the information — respecting the habitats of the two species of Botrychium which you sent. These facts extend the province of each of these species beyond our previous knowledge. The smaller species — I regard as B. simplex. Parry found it in 1873 near Yellowstone Lake — the farthest west — up to that time. It occurs in Central Europe — & in scattered localities in Canada & northern states — and seems to be one of those species — widely distributed but common nowhere — or if common eludes detection by its small size.

The other large Botrychium, I was

surprised to see. I consider it *B. ternatum* Sw. var. *cutaeplum*. Under *B. ternatum* are now included - those forms heretofore known as *B. obliquum*, *B. lunarioides* & *B. dissectum*. Presl. has a *Botrychium* from Sitcha N.W. coast, which he called *B. silaifolium* - which is now referred to this species - so that this polymorphous species - seems to go nearly round the world - where conditions are favorable.

Among the *Cheilanthes* which you sent - were two kinds - quite different from the rest - which were novel to me. I sent one of them to Prof. Eaton - who says it is his *C. Cooperae* - first sent him a year or two ago - collected by Miss Cooper - in Southern Calif. - if I recollect rightly. It is very desirable to get more of this & I hope you will be on the watch for it. It is characterized by having the pinnales beset - not with scales or wool, but with rigid glandular hairs. Baker

mistook it for the *C. vestita* of the middle States - but it is quite different from that.

You also sent a few specimens of *Polypodium* (*Phegopteris*) *alpestre* - very acceptable - of which I should be glad to get more.

In 1872 I collected quite a quantity of fine specimens of *Polypodium Scouleri* from crevices of rocks at Saucetito, but my stock is quite exhausted - & I should be very glad of more. I found it on ledges cropping out - ~~half~~ on the eastern flanks of the bare hills - half way or more towards the highest summits.

Of your phanerogamous plants, I have gone but a little way through - in close examination - but I already see some puzzling things - & several species new to me.

I am sorry to hear that the Overland Monthly is suspended. I have read so many pleasant articles of yours there in - that I miss it. When shall we