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1900-11-21

**Letter from Mary Elizabeth Parsons to John Muir, [ca. 1900] Nov 21.**

Mary Elizabeth Parsons

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our book, but<sup>[27]</sup> - I have endeavored on the enclosed piece of paper to show as nearly as I can the size and color of our flower from memory.

I have read over the descriptions of *Erigeron caespitosus* and *E. saluginosus* - and am sure ours is the latter. The botanists of the Academy also determine it - as such.

In reading over the description of *caespitosum* which I enclose - it does not seem possible it could

Dear Mr Muir<sup>[17]</sup>

I thank you very much for your kind letter and encouraging words about our book on the wild flowers.

I should have written before but have been trying to secure a specimen of the Arctic daisy (as we supposed it) to send you.

But - I can get only a poor dried up thing which gives no conception of its beauty.

I am not the artist of



have been possessed <sup>of</sup> of the beauty you ascribe to your Arctic Daisy.

It is such a small flower - the rays only 3 or 4 lines long - and white.

The waiters at Deer Park Inn this last August assured us ours was the Arctic Daisy - and one of them has travelled up and down the mountains from Alaska southward, a long range, and says he has found it - all up and down -

Now, dear Mr. Muir, I do not wish to dispute your letter in any way, I only wish to be very sure of my ground before putting the name in print.

This lovely flower of ours grew on a stem (usually only one head on a stem) a foot to twenty inches high - We found it starring those high, plushy, green meadows - 7000 to 8000 ft high - (in altitude) above the sea.

I enclose a slip of paper with characters of <sup>both</sup> of



much to hear <sup>[5]</sup> your  
further opinion upon  
the matter.

Do you still think  
your Arctic Daisy  
*Erigeron caespitosus*?

There ought to be some  
common name for ours  
it is such a charming  
flower - Could you  
not suggest one?

Thanking you for your  
patient attention in this  
matter and hoping to  
hear from you  
I am,

from Gray's <sup>[4]</sup> Synoptical  
flora -

Are you not familiar  
with this daisy of ours  
too?

The beautiful *Erigeron*  
*Coulteri* - of about the  
same size with many  
pure white and narrower  
rays (I enclose one) grows  
in meadows at a lesser  
altitude - say 6000 ft.  
covering the meadows with  
its exquisite flowers.

If not troubling you  
too much I should like



Gratefully and Sincerely <sup>1863</sup>

Mary Elizabeth Parsons.

San Rafael Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

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