



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 - 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. sal-*
euginosus - and am sure
ours is the latter. The
botanists of the Academy
also determine it - as such.

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

Dear Mr Muir

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

I should have written
sooner 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 ^{of} 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 ^{both} of

much to hear ^[5] 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 ^[4] 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 ¹⁸⁶³

Mary Elizabeth Parsons.

San Rafael Nov 21st.

02757