

PREFATORY NOTE.

The special object in publishing a catalogue of the "Davenport Herbarium"* is to make its claims upon the consideration of collectors more widely known.

The herbarium now contains specimens of every authentic species of the ferns at present known to inhabit North America, north of Mexico, yet some of the rarer species are imperfectly represented, and lack those essentials of good herbarium specimens, caudex and roots. These I am anxious to improve, and also to complete the collection, as originally planned, by the addition of copious suites of specimens with caudex and roots, from widely different localities so as to exhibit the plants in all stages of their development, as it is only by a careful study and comparison of the specimens in such a collection that a correct knowledge of the different species can be obtained.

Fuller suites of the ferns of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, and also of the rarer species from California and Florida, are particularly desired, and such specimens are earnestly solicited.

I have endeavored as far as possible to bring this Catalogue into conformity with Prof. Eaton's work on the "Ferns of North America" and have only ventured to differ from that distinguished authority when special investigations have led me to adopt opinions which, in justice to myself, I feel obliged to retain.

I fully appreciate Prof. Eaton's great knowledge of ferns and his superior facilities for the determination of specimens, which make it pleasanter always to coincide with his views, and I desire to record here my high regard for his judgment.

I am greatly indebted to him, and to my friend Mr. Robinson for uniformly kind encouragement, without which it is doubtful if I should have ventured so far in the direction in which I have been working, and for which this acknowledgement seems to me a very poor return.

*Torrey Club Bulletin, VI, 51.