

June 27, 1911.

Mr. James F. Dawson,
Portland Hotel,
Portland, Ore.

My dear Dawson,-

Your note of June 24th. just received. I answer to Portland, as if you keep your schedule this letter might just miss you at Spokane, as I have just missed the afternoon train.

Ivy Leaf Geraniums. I enclose herewith copy of the list which you left here, marked as you marked it. This is all I have on the subject, with no correspondence. I received nothing from Hill and no correspondence from Martin or Canning regarding this. I agree with you that the best way for us to get what we want would be to get a few plants of exceptionally good variety and propagate, starting in now. We could get some from Howard & Smith, Los Angeles if you find any exceptionally good ones there on your way down. We have in stock at the Nursery four shades: one very light pink, one dark pink, one pinkish carmine, and the other shade not in bloom yet. These are all pretty good. Donald

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selected them. We can add the lavender shade if you like it. Mrs. Tingley uses it at her Egyptian Gate.

Soil. Will drop the test question then. Donald has tried the soil from different parts of the Nursery and Canyons. He thinks he may get slightly better results from soil taken from the highest point in the Nursery, but his Monterey Cypress seedlings, which were so fine, and his cuttings of *Erica mediterranea*, which were exceptionally good in the sand, have now been for a month at a dead stand still in the flats and are gradually dying here and there. Other things are acting in the same fashion and it is thoroughly discouraging. Donald had a splendid lot of 15000 *Cistus albidus* all rooted and in a short time the entire batch when put in the frames with this soil had died. We have no *Cistus* now at all.

Ferns. Spores are sprouting beautifully in the greenhouse in the pots of sand and leaf mold. Donald will early this week prick off one flat full in order to see what is going to happen to them and be able to report to you when you arrive. It is extremely discouraging to have these things that are in such fine shape die or stagnate as soon as they are transplanted, and I cannot see how it is anything but the soil that causes this.

Planting Plan. Which one do you refer to that Mr. Olmsted wants you to work on this summer; plan for the Exposition? At the present state of affairs you have no ground plan to work on.

Nimmo & Blair of New Zealand wrote in regard to tree ferns. I am holding this to show to you on your arrival, when we can decide what to do.

Mr. Goodhue has sent two beautiful perspectives of the Exposition group: one for the middle site and one for High School site. Except that they are taken from different points of view: that is one looking north and the other looking south, I cannot see that the ground effect is any different the one from the other. I think it is perfectly possible to have as fine an architectural group on one site as on the other, and I tested yesterday on horse back the outlook from the two sites and find that from the middle site as soon as a few buildings of lesser importance are located south of the main group all view of the Harbor and the Sea will be cut off from the main buildings. This, however, will not be so from the High School site as the ground is sloping there and there are more vantage points for fine views that would be unobstructed by minor parts of the Exposition. Considering that the Harbor of San Diego gives it its promise of future growth when the Canal is open the Exposition ought originally to have been placed on the water front. Since, however, there were difficulties in the way of that the next best thing is to give it a position where it will command as extensive a view of the Harbor as possible.

Very truly yours,