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Notes on Some of the Rarer Plants Found in Blue Earth and Pipestone Counties, Minnesota, During the Summer of 1882

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ical values—namely: 1, agricultural botany; 2, medical botany; and 3, artistical botany; or the history of those plants which are employed, or afford material in the process of the arts of manufacturers. The medical branch has been treated of with something like system; the other two divisions with less frequency and less method. * * * The botany of the arts, whenever undertaken, will afford a highly interesting theme for some future laborer in this elegant department of natural history”.

Preface to the first edition—pp. II. or XI.

[Paper B.]

NOTES ON SOME OF THE RARER PLANTS FOUND IN BLUE EARTH AND PIPESTONE COUNTIES, MINNESOTA, DURING THE SUMMER OF 1882.

—John Leiberg.

Among the many rare and interesting plants found during the summer of '82 in Blue Earth and Pipestone counties, a few deserve especial mention from the fact that no other observer has as yet recorded their occurrence in Minnesota.

The first and possibly the most interesting is the Buffalo grass, *Buchloe dactyloides*, Engelm. This grass was found in abundance upon the rocky ledges that come to the surface near Pipestone City. Associated with this grass were two species of cacti, *Opuntia missouriensis* and *fragilis*. To the occurrence of these two species of cacti is no doubt to be attributed the survival of the buffalo grass at this place, which, but for the protecting power of the long and sharp spines with which these cacti are armed, would long since have been stamped out by cattle. It is very remarkable that this grass should occur so far to the northeast, and it is a question if this station be not the farthest northeast point reached by it. It is hardly possible that it is a native of this place, more probable would be the supposition that to the Indians from the western plains who have come here to quarry the pipestone its introduction is due. Here and there growing in the hollows and fissures of the ledge we find *Beckmannia erucacaeformis*, Host. A curious grass with the general appearance of a *Paspalum*, also a native of the plains. Growing very sparingly on the driest and rockiest spots we find another rather rare grass, *Lepurus paniculatus*. This grass is generally associated with salines

and its occurrence here is rather remarkable. So many plants peculiar to the great plains give this place a remarkable aspect, more so as the vegetation surrounding the ledge on all sides is the ordinary prairie flora. In the shallow stream, called Pipestone creek, large masses of the interesting liverwort *Riccia fluitans*, Z. were found, but none that were fertile.

Among the rare plants from Blue Earth Co., may be mentioned *wolfia columbiana*, Kasten. This plant occurs in a small pond near South Bend. The pond is a part of an old, abandoned channel of the Blue Earth river and is hemmed in on all sides by high bluffs. Here the *wolfia* occurs in great abundance, forming a stratum on the surface of the pond from one to two inches in thickness during the hot summer months. It has not yet been found in flower in this locality, and is doubtless an immigrant from localities further south, though it must have existed in this particular pond for many years, judging from the great masses of decomposed *wolfias* that have accumulated around the borders of the pond.

Blue Earth Co. is very rich in different forms of characeae. Five species were met with though no special search was made for them. They were as follows:

Nitella flexilis.

Chara foetida.

C. fragilis.

C. contraria.

C. ?

This latter has not yet been determined and may prove to be an undescribed species. The attention of our botanical collectors is called to this interesting group of plants. There are doubtless very many species of these plants within the borders of the state and a systematic search cannot but be rewarded with the discovery of many as yet, unknown species.

March 6, 1883.

[*Paper C.*]

Minneapolis, Minn., March 6, 1883.

MR. CHAIRMAN:—

The committee appointed at the last meeting of this Academy, to investigate and report on the subject of the water supply of the City of Minneapolis, now offer their report.