

The University of Minnesota  
Department of Botany  
Minneapolis

March 19, 1910.

Prof. P. A. Saccardo,

Padua, Italy.

Dear Professor Saccardo:

I have neglected to acknowledge your kind card of some time ago. It is a pleasure to have you say what you do about the booklet. The latter undoubtedly contains some errors, because I had no intention of making a thorough revision, which, as you know, would have been a hopeless task at present. There are a number of debatable points owing to the fact that it seemed desirable to harmonize the lichens with the rest of the fungi and to repair some of the egregious blunders in the making of names.

I expect <sup>now</sup> to have very little sympathy in regard to the changing of atrocious names, but I believe that the botanists of the future are going to feel differently in this respect. It is interesting to find that there is no botanical law against changing other blunders in Botany, but that a blunder in a name is absolutely sacred. Lazy or incompetent name makers will never avoid sesquipedalian or hybrid names as long as we hold them sacred. The only possible reform to my mind is by replacing such names by those properly constructed. Few botanists feel that

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way, doubtless, about my work, but I feel that I am doing science a distinct service by giving notice that I shall respect no names that are not properly made.

After all, this is a minor matter, and if the booklet serves to make more available the marvelous fund of information in your "Sylloge Fungorum" I shall be content. Some day I shall hope to publish a second edition, much fuller and much more worthy of its great prototype.

With sincere regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,

*Frederic E. Clements*