

Wald
July 1777

Pierrepont House
Brooklyn 10 July 1777

Dear Dr. Dawson,

I have hunted over
New York today in numerous
shops for a copy of Moore's
British ferns but quite
unsuccessfully & I have
not been able to learn of
any good book on American
ferns - not too scientific
but also not too popular in
style. It has occurred to
me to ask you if you can
name any shop in New York
where such books may be
found as you may have
had occasion to buy such

works here. Will you also
kindly say what you consider
a good work on American
forms, which I presume
are to a large extent different
from the English varieties. Are
they not? It does not
say much for the scientific
research in America that
most of the shopkeepers say it
"does not pay" to keep scientific
books. I trust you will excuse
my thus troubling you but
I feel sure I may take the
liberty & as I wish the books
sooner than I could get
them from England ventured
to decide to write you.

I suppose you are out
of town but I will address
this to you at headquarters.

Remember me kindly
to Mr. Brown family &
believe me

Yours sincerely
James Boyd