

The leaves are perhaps as long as those of New Zealand flax and yield a fibre from which the Indians make a very strong rope. I saw them use this rope in ways that would severely test its strength and there can be no doubt on that point. If any one will take this matter up and grow the plants it would be worth while to spend some money to secure it. There was no seed and young plants would have to be sent. These would have to be taken up with some earth and carried in sacks on horseback over a terrible trail for some distance, then across a lake and again by cart or on horseback to Castro, from which point they can be shipped. Dr. Christie can attend to this if you want it done. I suspect this plant is entirely unknown outside Chiloe and there are only two men who really know the way south into this region. By the way, I have a plant something like celery with edible stems and leaves. Dr. Christie thinks it the wild form of celery but that is old-world, and I found this where there is no definite knowledge of anyone's having lived for an unknown length of time, though there was once an ancient people for I found bits of pottery within 20 miles. The present Indians do not make pottery, neither have they ever been known to do so, while what I found was in the earth and was being exposed by the wind uncovering it in the hills 200 feet above the sea."

CHINA. Shantung. Tsi-nan-fu. Mr. Frank N. Meyer writes April 5, 1913. "I hope that the shipment which I am sending by post today will reach Chico O.K. and that the stocks there are not too far advanced, for there are among this lot the interesting seedless jujubes and a large fruited variety, the size of the fruit being like small hen's eggs. I have also been getting some interesting varieties of vegetables. A variety of the egg plant with large reddish white fruit, a great rarity apparently. Also some muskmelons and cucumbers. The weather all of a sudden has become very warm here and poplars and willows have already good sized leaves. The lilac, ornamental crab apple, apricot and plum are in full bloom. I am afraid that scions cannot be sent any more over that long distance to America and several things will have to be gotten this coming winter. With my present interpreter and assistant I am getting on the track of several things of which I have heard nothing before and as I probably have another two years before me here in China I suppose I will be able to bag the major part as time advances. A week or so from now I hope to return to Peking, and after having finished accounts and reports, prepare myself for