

ANOTHER GATTINGER LETTER

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Since my previous paper (*Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 28:236-239, 1953), was written I have discovered another unpublished Gattinger letter, under rather interesting circumstances. My friend, Harry E. Wheeler, now of the Indian Springs School, in Shelby County, Alabama, has been at various times a clergyman, mineralogist, conchologist, ornithologist, archaeologist, and museum curator. In the 90's he was a student at Vanderbilt University, and trying to learn



The Gattinger residence, corner of Academy Place and Carroll Street, as it appeared December 6, 1953. It is a brick house painted white.

something about botany. He made the acquaintance of Dr. Gattinger, who was very kind to him, and later gave him his own annotated copy of the first edition of the *Tennessee Flora* (1887), which he used in preparing the second edition (1901). On a recent visit to Mr. Wheeler he showed me this book, and also a letter from Dr. Gattinger, which he has permitted me to copy. It reads as follows:

Nashville, Tennessee
April 17th, 1896

Mr. H. E. Wheeler
Dear Sir

I shall take pleasure in serving you with my advise in your endeavours to study botany and to collect the *Flora* of this region. As this can only be done by a personal acquaintance and by a discussion of the object in view

I would be glad to receive you at my house corner Carroll St and Academy Place, S. Nashville at any time you please to appoint.

Yours truly
A. Gattinger

This is of interest as showing the old doctor's friendly attitude toward a young man nearly fifty years younger than himself, whom he did not even know at the time, and in giving the location of his residence, which may not have been mentioned in print until now.

Following this clue, and information from Dr. J. M. Shaver that Dr. Gattinger's old home was still standing, I made it a point to see it during a brief visit to Nashville in December, 1953; and one of three photographs taken at that time is published herewith. According to Dr. Shaver, in Dr. Gattinger's time that was quite a fashionable part of the city, and Peabody College was located near by. But now the college is farther out in another direction and the finest residences likewise.

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