

minute fungi tolerably thoroughly. Of course, to know the subject perfectly is a work of a life time. I have learned De Bary's method and, although a knowledge of forms and species is here discouraged, I have learnt a great many forms and, with the knowledge of their development and growth which I now possess, the determination of species comes tolerably easy.

So far, I feel as though I had followed by far the best course but what to do next is not so easily settled. At any rate, from what I have seen of Munich, I regard it as time thrown away to attempt to study there. This only seems to me at all determined; From February till May I should stay with Thuret at Antibes and in Italy studying the Mediterranean flora. The doubtful question is what to do in the meanwhile and after May. To decide this rightly, I ought to know how much longer I aim to stay in Europe.

an unlimited amount of attention
and I was surprised to find how
much, with his help, I was able to
do in so short a time. I have no means
at present, to repay his kindnesses. Of
course, I thanked him and gave him
a book as a memento, & but it would
give me pleasure, if you should here-
after, if you have occasion to write
to him, mention that I have written
you that I feel under obligations to
him for his attention and instruction.

While in Geneva, I had an opportunity
to make several excursions into the
Jura and mountains near the city,
in which excursions I succeeded
in collecting a large number of lichens
which are not only numerous but val-
uable, as I have studied them tolerably
carefully, and, alas, saved duplicates
with an eye to future exchanges in
America. although, perhaps, having
studied lichens under the most favor-
able and agreeable circumstances possible,

coast of France or England and
a visit to the leading English
cryptogamists. Perhaps, in the summer
months, one might learn something
in the way of systematic fungology
which cannot be so well learnt
in Germany but I am afraid that
the ~~flourish~~^{ability} of English botanists is
best seen among the phænogamists
and that the cryptogamists are
too old bettyish.

I think now I have stated the
whole story. I should like to return
next fall. If it is necessary for
me to remain a year longer, I must
simply spin out longer the list of
studies I have mentioned and,

possibly spend a short time with
Strasburger in Jena, and although
I should at the end of that time
know more botany, I should, perhaps,
be less qualified to teach in America.

Whether, as far as America is concerned,
the opportunity is good for my
returning you know very much better

to stay much longer with DeBarry.
I should only be continuing the same
work I have already begun. It is simply
now a matter of details and, if I am
to stay here, till I know all he can
teach I shan't get back to America
for a very long time. If I should stay
here too long, I should be more likely
to turn out another botanist of the
Groß Solms type rather than like
DeBarry himself. Pringsheim is now
in better health and can take
pupils, I should like to go to him
at once but, unfortunately, the
freshwater algae which I should
have to study with him are not at
all in season and I had much
better go to him in May, if at all.
as it is, I shall stay here till January
and shall study the higher crypto-
gamas, as the time of year is favorable
and the material here good. By January
I shall have heard from you and shall
be guided by your advice.

than I. I think you also know from a former letter of mine that, although I should like to return to Cambridge, I don't feel as though my future success entirely depends on it. as I then wrote, I should like also to go to either New York or California should there be opportunity in either place. at any rate, I feel perfectly safe in trusting to you, knowing that you will recognize what is for my best interest.

Here in the laboratory are Stahl, Gilchrist, and Carmichael who remain, and two new students, Prof. Czerokin of Kazan, Russia, and Dr. Kniest of Berlin who has written on Saprolegnien. after Christmas, Dr. Schmidt goes to Halle as Docent and Rostafinsky, who is now in Petersburg, may take his place. De Bary repeats his course on Anatomy and soon expects to finish his book. Graf Solms also repeats his Cryptogams. In accordance with your request I



Farlow, W. G. 1873. "Farlow, William G. Oct. 27, 1873." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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