

My dear friend!

I have before me two of your kind letters d.d. 7. Apr. and 20. May. 1841. If I did not the honour and the pleasure to me of answering to them, you may believe, that it were only reasons of an very disgraceful and unhappy nature, which prevented me from doing so. The elapsed year was frown full for me with sorrows and bitterness of every kind. The dangerous sickness of Mad. de Martius, which failed nearly of taking her from my heart, was not the single blow I had to endure: there was every kind of familiar hardship, and my frame has suffered very much by it, so that I could not work well, and did very little in the *Palmae*. I published n.º 3. of *Hesbar. Koraë brasili*, my dissertation on *Erythroxylon*, some memoirs in the *Rechtschreiben*, which I had brought to new life as President of the Bot. Soc. etc. You shall receive these things and plants as much as I can presently lay together, equally some old botanical books, which I presume, you will appreciate well in Northamerica viz: *Hortus Eystettensis*, *Vaillant Bot. parisiense*, some writings of *Linnaeus*. etc.

I hope to receive in exchange from your kindness some american publications, amongst which Pickering's general view on the vegetat. will be very acceptable. I have addressed myself to the Academy and to the Botanical Society of Paris for your Lyceum and I hope, that we shall have a fine box to send for you.

Pray give my best thanks to the members of the Lyceum for the honour, which they kindly bestowed upon me by electing my humble person to a honorary member of this highly honourable corporation. I shall do all my possible for deserving such a suffrage, and perhaps my forces shall not be under my good will. But it is necessary to observe, that the marching of science is at present so violent, that an individual yet worn out by bodily fatigue and overwhelmed by the idea of the difficulties surrounding every kind of profound research in nature, must confide more on the benevolence of others than on his own faculties, if he dares continue in the road of an observer, and leaves not totally his pursuits to others and more qualified individuals. The *Flora Brasil.* of which 5 numbers are finished has impressed deeply in my soul the conviction how great are even at Cottas (Bookfeller) they say, the most convenient way for your expeditions shall be; to direct all your parcels with my address to Mrs. Perthes & Beyer at Hambourg, inviting them to send them at Munich by way of Bookfellers. It is furer to unite small parcels together in a box.

in such a departement of descriptive Botany the difficulties. I hope, that the manner, in which I worked up the Anonaceae, will have your consent. In the same time we experienced, Endlicher and I, great obstacles and difficulties in the edition, and I do know not yet, how far we shall bring the whole, but in every case the volumes, which were begun shall be finished and in such a style, that they may form a series of interesting Monographs. If you can do something for making known the work and for augmenting the number of subscribers, you will oblige me. At present I experienced a loss of 50 £ with every number. This is too great for being carried on without consideration. Unhappily the political position of your country and England is hostile enough for threatening a war, and inter arma silent musae, silent Botanica. For the present it is a common wish amongst all botanists in this country, who appreciate Your and Dr. Torrey's noble efforts, that you may without delay bring your excellent book to an end.

Pray, say me in the next letter, whether the *Lycium* has received with my travels (3. vol.) also the Atlas and maps. These things I can yet send to you for it, but on account of the other parts of my work I see with sorrows, that the sums applied to it and not yet returned are so great, that I cannot give away the copies which rested to me. Dear friend, it is a disgraceful thing, to have applied with an enthusiasm without restraining in younger years that, what one considered as an accidental thing, and which at least proves very essential! The direction of the Spirit towards material interests pervades all classes of people even in Germany - the country of ideologues and theoreticians. Every one thinks on actions for railways and other undertakings of similar nature, and the Science, as a divine gift is very often brought down to very ind & unworthy predicaments. We must hope, that such a manner of thinking will not last for long time, but in present state of things it changes totally the faces of Sciences, which having been before the richest queen, must presently make the service of a domestic. *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.*

But, I am afraid, that I have given way to such a general diatribe. You may rather expect from me speciality on our science. Therefore I shall say to you, that I have been elected for the next 3 years Secretary of the



Martius, Karl Friedrich Philipp von. 1842. "Martius, Karl F. P. von Jan. 28, 1842."
Asa Gray correspondence. Senders McA-Ma

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