

My dear and incomparable friend!

Since some days I am in possession of a parcel, which you were so kind to send me by intervention of the Smithsonian Institution through the benevolent Mr. Hügel, who takes care of this letter. I am very much pleased by your generous donation of your excellent pamphlets, of the majestic volume of Botany of Wilkes Expedition (the plates were not in the parcel, I presume, they shall come later) and of Tillman's f. 48-51. Indeed I do not know, how prove to you my gratitude for so highly interesting gifts. I shall do my possible if you give me some hints, in what a way I can serve you. Pray, do not spare me.

To day I have no leisure for writing to you an ample letter; therefore I say only the most interesting to you, and that, I dare hope, shall be a new, which belongs to your friend, Martin's private situation. I am "en retraite," as a Professor and as Director of the botanic! The King has graciously granted it to me, and I, I asked for it, because I found my situation not agreeable enough after the creation of the glass-palace in the garden, an establishment, which was strange to me in conception and <sup>by</sup> which the garden incurred in many dangers and a longlasting catastrophe. I reckoned, that I would never be in the situation of reapen the fruit of this improvised creation, and that the few years, which remain to me, would be consumed in



in a ingrateful administrative struggle. Every friend, who can take in mature consideration the present state of things with us, congratulates me. I must add, that H. M. explained Himself graciously. I have been honorably dismissed with all my pecuniary appointments.

My good friend! It seems to me, that in young America as well as in old Europa a mighty social cataclysm is preparing. The reasons for this general change are manifold, moral and material. In general I believe, that the passion for riches and luxurious life, is one of the greatest moving powers for this change, which shall embrace the world. Your last letter has also spoken of the dangers and risk, which now incurs the <sup>learned</sup> man, whose income does not increase in the same <sup>proportion</sup> ~~way~~ as the necessities of life. There is nothing to do, but to constrain himself. I also have given away some particular fondness, as b. i. for musical instruments and old books etc. There is now only my herbarium, to which I bestow my care. I hope that I shall be even in the possibility of looking out good duplicates for you and some other friends, and I wish to know, what do you particularly aspire? Pray, <sup>say</sup> this in your next letter. Also I wish to know, whether you think it convenient, that I send to Mr. Tuckerman other things, then Cryptogama only.

On account of the Smithsonian Institution I shall look out for it some of my books, which I can perhaps dispose of; and if after their reception you will recommend me for a shareman of some of its publication I shall be very thankful to you.

Pray, say, whether perhaps it would be convenient, to send to the Institution some good Lithographics? After you reply, the box shall be put together and sent to Mr. Hugel or, if you prefer, to Mr. Harding.





Martius, Karl Friedrich Philipp von. 1854. "Martius, Karl F. P. von Dec. 23, 1854." *Asa Gray correspondence. Senders McA-Ma*

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