

THE SHAW SCHOOL OF BOTANY.

WM. TRELEASE, PROFESSOR IN CHARGE.

St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 12 1885

Dear Dr. Gray:

I suppose the little orchid enclosed is *Epipactis helleborine*, is it not? though I have no very satisfactory description at hand & no figure nor herbarium specimen. The specimen is one of three, found in Madison this summer, and though four will serve for identification, supplemented by the sketches I enclose, which I should like to put with my specimen if you will kindly return them when through with them. From its occurrence in Wisconsin as well as N.Y. (if I am right in my determination) I should expect it to be found anywhere in the Northern States - rare as it is.

Let me thank you for your thoughtfulness in laying aside the fine set of plants you speak of.



I don't know when I can claim  
it, - not now, but within a year,  
I hope. Mr. Shaw was not very  
receptive when I mentioned the  
desirability of case room - thinks  
the stuffed animals would be  
crowded if we invaded the gal-  
lery of the museum - and so I  
let the matter drop, but put  
him in the way of reading De-  
Candolle's opinion on herbaria!  
I foresee that I shall have to  
take things very moderately, but  
by falling back in good order  
when I see I can't carry on  
doing, and renewing the attack  
whenever more favorable op-  
portunities occur I think I shall  
get what I want in the long run.  
Mr. Shaw certainly wants to do  
something unusually good, but  
as you know his idea of botany  
is different from ours, and I  
sometimes think a sprinkling



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of gray in any wig would make my suggestions more convincing. However, I console myself with the thought that I probably have more patience than an older man, and so in the long run may come out more certain.

Dr. Engelmann called on us with his wife a few evenings ago - presumably after hearing from you. They live across the street from us. I see that he is a little resentful toward Mr. Shaw for not esteeming his father's herbarium more highly and making haste to secure it by properly arranging to case it. The Dr. seems to think we should have iron cases, such as those used for zoological cabinets but



shelves & otherwise adapted to  
herbarium purposes. I am a  
little afraid those will not be  
forthcoming, but hope for a  
compromise on suitable wood  
cases in the museum building,  
with the hope that ultimately,  
when we have a <sup>laboratory</sup> ~~museum~~  
building put up he can be  
satisfied in this regard. But  
meantime what am I to do  
for an herbarium?

I hardly know what to say  
about coming East this winter.  
I want very much to help you  
and know, too, that I should get  
my much benefit from being  
with you as much as I should  
be in doing this work, yet a  
decision is not easy. I am  
obliged to be in Madison on horti-  
cultural work the first week in  
February, and have our class  
up to about that time. Then



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comes an intermission of not to exceed 8 weeks. A week of this time would be lost in going and returning. Could I be of sufficient assistance in the 7 weeks we could count on to pay for going on? If so I will gladly try to do it.

What do you think of this plan for this year's work outside of the University? - In a fortnight or so I shall give a short address on the general subject of botanical schools, gardens &c. at an inaugural evening in Memorial Hall. and shall follow it up by one evening lecture a week for the month, free, with the use of the lantern, taking the subject of insects & flowers, as I presented it at Baltimore two



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