

Essentially as sent to Trelease & Prof.
Lamsey. -

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

May 11th 1891

Dear Prof. Trelease,

Your revision of
Epilobium came a few days
ago and I had intended to acknowl-
edge its receipt more promptly.
Accept my thanks. It appears
to be very thoroughly done, &
the plates are a great assis-
tance. I congratulate you
upon the results of your long
labor.

I think I told you that a
part of the Ball Herbarium
had been received here, and
the ~~method~~ ^{method} of its disposal will

need to be settled before
long. The only formal applicants
for it from this country, so far
as I know, were yourself &
the Smithsonian Institution. When
the trustees under the will (Hooker
& Dyar) came to examine the Herbar-
ium they found that it was a
far more considerable affair than
they had had any idea of. They had
it removed to Kew, and set to work
to go over it and take what they
wanted, and to have the same done
for the Edinburgh Botanic Garden.
Then to simplify (for them) the question
of how to dispose of the remainder
they proposed to send it all to me
"leaving it at my discretion to sat-
isfy the claims of St. Louis, Wash-
ington, &c." This was not at all

came big cases, with the statement that this was about one third of the whole, and that it would be some time before the rest could be sent as they had been obliged to stop work upon it. That is the way the matter stands at present, as I have done nothing beyond overhauling a few of the bundles first sent. Now what shall be done?

~~Longer~~ ^{Several} ~~are too~~ plans ~~that~~ occur as more or less feasible. Yourself to me, ~~either of which may be set~~.

~~is satisfactory~~. & Prof. Trelease may in turn as you may agree send some one here to select each a set - or your representatives may together go over the collections making a fair distribution of the whole - or you may

to my taste, but I could not
well refuse to take the responsi-
bility. I intend however to make
that responsibility as light as
possible, and to leave it for the
Herbarium concerned to decide
upon some mutually satisfactory
way of making an equitable divi-
sion, ^{+ distribution of the large material.} For there is doubtless much
more than any one or two
institutions will want, as there
is for the most part an extensive
range of specimens under each
species.

In December last they sent me
two cases containing the general
stock of duplicates, including
some bundles that Mr. Bell had
especially designed for this Her-
barium. Then in March there

agree upon some one who shall make¹⁸⁹
the distribution into such number of
sets as he may find advisable, the
first two sets going to Washington & St.
Louis, and the rest to other institu-
tions as you may decide, each
paying pro rata towards the expense
of the distribution. This last arrange-
ment seems to me to be on the whole
the best - but some better one may
be devised.

I would like the privilege of sharing to
some extent in the division. This
herbarium is very fairly supplied
with European & Mediterranean plants,
but we would doubtless find some
 desiderata in these collections,
as did Kew. If this is allowed it will

probably be best that all the work
should be done here.

There is no special need of haste
in making a decision, but it will
be well to come to an understand-
ing, and as the work of division
will take considerable time the sooner
it is begun the better. I shall be
glad to hear from you at your
convenience.

Yours truly
Finn Watson



Watson, Sereno. 1891. "Watson, Sereno May 11, 1891 [to W. Trelease]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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