

Gray 82

Jun 26

From Emily Keck

My dear Gray.

[I do not know who
"Historian" is.]

I thank you for two pleasant letters; the
former about Reviews in Athenaeum & may
often point to the second shorter with
answers to several of my questions. In the
latter you seem unself overworked. Although
it is one of my pleasures to write to you
& a very great pleasure to receive a
letter from you; I earnestly beg you never
to write to me when so busy; if I did
not hear for six months or twelve
months, I should understand the cause.
Remember what a number of valuable &
most interesting letters, ~~which~~ I have
received from you. So pray do not write
unless you have a little leisure, which
seems rare with you. — I have little

or writing to say, for I see no one & hear
from no one except dear Hooker. But
I must just run through some points
in your letters. How curious the lies
about Ohio marriages! I find it a
dreadful evil in my compiling work,
not knowing what to trust. May
thank you for reference about *Phyllotaxis*;
I have been half-mad over it,
but am losing a little: I have
made no end of diagrams; but all
my attempts have signally failed, as
might have been expected. You will
have seen of my letter letter that I
have received your Review on
Decandolle. I suppose you will have
received Bertham's address, which

has pleased me much, more than I
understand why: it will do a world
of good for our side. — What you
tell me about *Phlox* sends my inquiries;
I have been looking at one in America.
P. grandis & that is not *dimorphic*.
Euroglossus, I see, is *dimorphic* like
Thymel., i.e. hermaphrodite & female plants.
Antirrhinum has not two flower buds
(alas!) but we have just found
out why it is unleafy, viz. we force
the plants too much water. —
The seeds of *Sisyrinchia* did not germinate;
& of one plant has come up of
Echinops etc. I have been looking
at the tendrils & seen with great
interest their vintaging: it is a

by pretty little discovery of gums.
I am desirous to plant in another
experiment, namely to ascertain
rotatory movement of the leading
thrust, which brings the tentacles
into contact with any body
within a circle of a foot or ²⁰~~20~~
inches in diameter. — If I can
make out anything clear about
this movement, & so will find
that it is known, I will perhaps
write a letter to you for to cheer
of it being worth inserting in
Fitzinger or elsewhere. — Farewell. I
have written this note to tell you
not to write, which gives the I
am one of the best of human beings,
Farewell. C. Darwin



Darwin, Charles. 1863. "Darwin, Charles June 26, 1863." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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