

Dear Mr. Greene

Your letter of the 1st inst. came this morning, and requires a prompt reply. I cannot make it very detailed, but I mean to make it explicit.

You have brought forth your grievance, which if warranted, should change our relations of correspondence, and which you should have seen to before today.

I knew you did not like my setting at work anew on *Boraginaceae* when I did. But I did not know that you took me to have committed a "grave violation of the very fundamentals of scientific justice and good faith." I think you have forgotten the facts. The essential fact is: that my change of view about the genera in question, and my determination of my duty to act upon it, antedated your communication of a specimen of the typical *Plagiobothrys*, which up to then I had never seen. When your specimens came, I promptly informed you that I had it already from Howell. I am confident that my letter at that time stated that.

As it required a very large overhauling of very special work of mine - mostly in reshaping, - as I knew I had or could have all the means & appliances for the revision, and

You had not, and as I was not put upon the track  
by you - tho' you came in soon after, - it was I think natural  
that I should apprise you that as I had put *Oxajobottings*  
into *Entschium* myself I proposed to take it out - If  
after this reclamation, you think I have violated good  
faith or done you wrong, you could no longer wish - nor  
I allow - our correspondence to be anything more than  
that of strict botanical interchange. If you are convinced  
that you do me a gross wrong, you will say so, and will  
also disabuse Parry's mind, if, as I have some reason to  
think, you have given your impressions to him -

In my last letters I ventured in a frank, friendly way,  
to offer some botanical advice, from the adoption of which  
I could not possibly be at all advantaged - which any one  
would see was dictated purely in reference to your own  
scientific reputation. I thought you would take it in that  
spirit. I think, on reflection - now that there is of course  
an end of any free criticism and advice, - that you will  
feel that I have done you friendly service - I feel that I  
have never done you any other.

As to my published criticisms - of course I had to say  
that I did not think you were quite right nor wise. At  
least one of my correspondents wrote me speaking strongly

of the kind almost deferential way in which I  
expressed my dissent. I know that I took pains  
to avoid every harsh turn of phrase.

I mean to treat you with complete consideration.  
I shall save valuable time & your temper, by avoiding  
for the future all "time-consuming discussions." I am con-  
vinced that I should have done so long ago. In  
wishing that you had informed me in advance of  
publication of your *Kumleinia*, I thought I <sup>might</sup> ~~could~~ have  
saved you from what you could have seen - on a  
survey of the genus - is ill-judged - But why should  
you not have your own way unobscured?

I remain till I hear from you again,

Your friend,

Asa Gray -



Gray, Asa. 1886. "Gray, Asa Feb. 1886 [Gray to Greene]." *Edward Lee Greene letters to Asa Gray*

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