

Prof. Asa Gray, Cambridge.

Forgive my importunity, I beseech you, Dear Doctor, and do this again for me, in spite of all your numerous occupations. Thanks to Michaux's last letter, which I have found in the Archives of the Philosophical Society, I have been able, I believe, fully if not rightly, to wind up my task, without waiting for the answer of M^r De Vilmosin, to whom I have actually written for further information.

Will you oblige me, my Dear Sir, to peruse this scribbling, and tell me frankly (as I know you will) whether it is in a fit condition to read before the Philosophical Society. Will you also correct, amend and amend, if I am to be read, or if anything more to say (than I have said)? Will you, in particular, pay some attention to the character physical and mental which I give to M^r Michaux? When I think of him and see him in my mind, his image soon vanishes, and who sits before me invariably? Lesueur, another Frenchman whom I have known much better than Michaux, and who had with ^{the latter} ~~him~~ a great resemblance of manners. Anything you may suggest, please write it on a separate piece of paper, with proper indications ^{or} marks, and return the ~~best~~

Manuscript to me in time to have it for Friday 7th November
meeting day of the Society, if it deserves reading?

I have communicated it to Mr. Frego, our secretary,
who has been good enough to correct my genuine broken
English.

I have not seen yet Dr. Layleman. I suspect you
have kept him so long in Cambridge that he has had no
time to spare ^{for} us.

Very respectfully yours

E. Durand

Thurs. Oct. 31 1856

I have communicated my paper to Mr.
J. Lea who has known personally Mr. Michaux
in 1832 & 52. He has not seen Mr. W. with a glass
eye; but one eye blind - I am however pretty certain
then I saw him at Bay.

Mr. Lea is and furnishing me with sundry
anecdotes about Michaux's acquaintance with Feltma
and his great ~~amazing~~ enthusiasm for America and
American people & institutions.



Durand, Elias. 1856. "Durand, Elias M. Oct. 31, 1856." *Elias Durand letters to Asa Gray*

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