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West-Chester, Penn^a - August 17. 1850.

My dear Friend, I had the pleasure, a few days since, to receive your hasty remembrance, dated at London on the 15th ult. with a Post-script from Ghent on the evening of the 16th. It was forwarded to me by our mutual Friend, Dr. Torrey, - who accompanied it with a kind Note (the first I have received from him, for years), and a package of nearly an hundred very interesting Plants, of Col. Fremont's collection. Altogether, it was a most delightful communication: and to heighten the gratification, the same mail brought me a long Letter from Mr. John Jay Smith, of Philad^a, now on a visit to London - giving me an account of his most gratifying reception at Kew Gardens, by Sir Wm J. Hooker, to whom I gave Mr. Smith a Letter of introduction. When I reflect on the incessant labors of Sir William, and the multitudinous interruptions, by visitors, to which he must be subjected, I cannot but marvel at the kind and flattering attentions which he has ever paid to those whom I have introduced to his notice. This consideration makes me (as it ought) more & more cautious how I trouble him with such introductions; But I had great pleasure in introducing Mr. Smith; - who is a lineal descendant of James Logan, - & moreover, a Gentleman of refined & cultivated taste, who is fond of the beauties of Nature and Art, and is just the man to appreciate the honor done him by Sir William's polite, prompt & assiduous attentions.

I feel greatly indebted for your punctuality in calling upon the Secendary of good old Pater Collinson, in Leamington, - as I requested. I really envied you that privilege; and am truly sorry that Mrs Gray could not accompany you, - as I wished to learn all those little particulars, about the Collinson family, which only a Lady would observe, or can communicate in appropriate style. I yet hope Mrs G. may have an opportunity to call upon the Collinsons, and then to favor me with all the details which may be rightfully permitted to gratify the most respectful curiosity. I have an affectionate reverence for that family, which, if known to them, would induce them to pardon an inquisitiveness that otherwise would seem to savor greatly of impertinence. On my return home from Cambridge, I found a long and charming letter from Miss Collinson, announcing the receipt of the copy of the "Memorial", which I had sent, - and also giving me a history of the family (a most melancholy history it is - her three Brothers having died in the Army - one of yellow fever in the West Indies, & the other two killed in battle: What a fate, for the Descendants of the good old Quaker! in compliance with a request which I took the liberty to make. The Males of the family being all deceased, the name must necessarily soon be extinct; but the memory of the good old man, and of his love for Science, can never be forgotten, while Botany shall flourish, or the Collinsonia continue to vegetate.

I was very glad to learn that Mrs Gray's health had been improved by the voyage; and I trust she may be favored to have it quite re-established during her travels - "by land & by water," - as our Literary expresses it, and to which I most cordially respond, every Sunday. I shall expect, when her eyes recover, the fulfilment of her kind promise to answer such poor trifles as I may venture to address to her, while abroad. I wrote her a hasty Epistle, some weeks since, - inclosed in an envelope directed to you, at Geneva - to the care of Mr. Alph. de Candolle. I did not then know how better to dispose of it. I shall now, and hereafter, when I have any thing to send, - direct to the care of Brown, Shipley & Co. at Liverpool - if you have suggested. How continually the occurrences of this life are mixed up, so as to blend together, or impart alternately, pleasure & pain. It grieved me to hear of Lady Hooker's illness - although I never had, and never can have, the happiness of a personal acquaintance: But I have uniformly heard her spoken of in the most exalted terms, that I cannot keep feeling the deepest interest in her welfare. And the illness, which you mention, of my excellent friend Dr. Booth, gives me much concern; though I hope he has, ere this, entirely recovered. His long and

and uniform kindness, as a Botanical Correspondent, -
and especially his recent, persevering efforts in
finding the Collinson family, for me, - have placed
me under great obligations to him, - and forever
secured my affectionate and grateful attachment.

You may recollect, that one of my objects in writing
to you, at Geneva, was to remind you of a Portrait
of my revered Friend, the late Prof. De Candolle - which
you thought you could obtain, there. If there should
be any copies of a Lithograph of his distinguished Son,
Alphonse, I should be glad to have one: And also,
if you should meet with a good likeness of
Sir Wm. J. Hooker, or Dr. Boott, in your travels - either
engraving or lithograph - I should be much
obliged if you would procure me one of each.
Dr. Bromfield sent me an excellent engraving
of Robert Brown: So that if I had those others,
I should be content (with my foreign Portraits - but
I should still want yours, and Dr. Forsy's).

I believe I have no sort of cis-Atlantic news
to communicate, but what will reach you through
other channels; and this will account for the
extreme frivolity and emptiness of this scrawl;
which, in truth, is not sent with any view
to communicate Intelligence, - but merely
to remind you, and Mrs Gray, of the affectionate
regard which is cherished for you both,
by your sincere Friend,
Prof. A. Gray, }
in Europe. }
Dr. Darlington
May 14th 50



Darlington, William. 1850. "Darlington, William Aug. 17, 1850." *William Darlington letters to Asa Gray*

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