

Hillsborough, N. B. Dec: 6th '66.

Dear Doctor,

Just got yours of the 30th ult.
In my last I intimated an intention
of writing you again before long. It
was with the purpose of calling your
attention to a scheme of our friend, &
excellent man, Ravenel, for getting up
an authentic *Hortus Siccus* for Botanists
& Institutions. He desires your opinion,
& if favorable, your cooperation in au-
thenticating such species as you have
published. Since my last to you, I
have rec^d another letter from him,
which I enclose; & from which you can
learn his plan, wishes & promises.

My own feeling is, that Botanists
& Institutions are already so well sup-
plied with species from our Atlantic
States, & generally so satisfactorily deter-
mined, that they will hardly care to be
at so much expense for what they already
possess.

I have said as much to Mr. R. At the same time, I told him that Gray & Torrey & Engelmann, & such Botanists, were much better acquainted with the state of the market, & would be his best advisers. - Will you write to him, & give him your views on the matter.

The University of the South, eh? - Well, I was on the ground in October. I had left the corner stone of Tennessee Marble, weighing 6 tons, at my last visit there. I thought away the biggest piece I could find of it, not so large as the end joint of my thumb! The vandal soldiers, were not satisfied with burning all the houses, & stealing the few coins & documents (the Constitution of the U.S. being one of them, & deposited by a Bishop with the words "esto perpetua", the whole crowd responding with a hearty amen) - but they must needs beat the poor block into gravel stones.

We fortunately saved our bonds & title deeds, & decided at the meeting that we would go ahead, if it be possible. I do not know how we shall succeed. We are awfully poor

now in the South. Manufacturers of Cotton & Whiskey seem to be the only persons who have plenty of money.

I hope you got my last, accompanying a packet of Maypop Seeds.

I remember speaking to you about a final disposition of my Herbarium; but I forget if I made any proposition toward selling it. I do not know how to estimate its value. My collection of Fungi, being the largest in America, containing hundreds of authentic species from the best Mycologists in Europe, & thousands accompanied with sketches of fruit & structure which I have made from microscopic examinations, ought to be very valuable. While I live, I shall not probably want to part with it. But I wish it be available to Science after my death; placed where it will be preserved, & can be used. What will you give for it?

Yours truly,
M. A. Curtis.



Curtis, M. A. 1866. "Curtis, Moses A. Dec. 6, 1866." *Moses Ashley Curtis letters to Asa Gray*

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