

to take any part, the Flower show
was a grand sight the finest &
best displayed show we have ever
had. The Low Rent did not take
off from the size of the plants they all
look so drooped when shown in
the Crystal Palace or in the Conservatory
of the Horticultural Society, the
Committee of the Botanical Congress
were held in my house so I was
able to attend & I had a dinner
Party, the day after De Candolle
arrived at which all the members
of the Botanical Society in London
including Hooker, Bentham, Berkeley,
Bennett, Wright, Meers, ^{T. Thompson, W. W. Saunders,} ~~Dr. Hooker~~
Meers, Martin, Ward, ^{Caspari,} and
others were present to greet
De Candolle the son of my ^{early} teacher

J. G. Gray
Bot. Mus
9 June 1866

My Dear Friend

Thanks for so readable
and very interesting
sending me the two photog. they shall
be placed in good company.

There is few things that would
give me more pleasure than
to come to the Western Hemisphere
but the time is passing very
rapidly and I am 67. & am
wondering that is how I share
an unstable state of bladder
some think I am but the bladder
is too weak to hold of urine
has been so since that makes
riding & walking a matter

of difficulty

We have just had a Botanical
Congress that I think was more
successful than was anticipated
DeCandolle seems much pleased
with it. The number of foreigners
from Europe was much smaller
than we had hoped, but even
half those that had accepted were
kept away by the War. Their
houses were filled with soldiers
killed on their marching &
unsafe for the Master of the house
like away - The Mother party.
set their face against the Botanical
Congress. ^{some of them} ~~but~~ were not
mollified to the end that the

Linnean Society at the more
celebrated winter dinner anniversary
dinner but the Congress was ignored
in the speeches until a German
professor ignorant of the affair
got up & proposed the death of the
Secretary of the Congress or Master
^{who had proposed doing the affair}
Yel. a curious incident is arising
and yet the two Universities of Oxford
& Cambridge have given a honorary
degree of D.D. to DeCandolle & it
was said that it was not right to
give it when in mail it was
given to Dr. Bocher so he & DeCandolle
are like made at same time
Bocher well deserves but it is
common that it should be given
on an occasion on what he refused

of the humane Society that he
 would do all he could to regret
 me. as they did when I was forced
 in 1820 after the publication of the
 Natural arrangement of Antisl. Plants
 when the Lads of special master
 secretly called together & was
 blackballed by some 30 votes against
 500. for daring to put forth another
 on the natural arrangement of
 plants. - one of the reasons assigned was
 a libel on the English Botanists of some
 sort. ^{as} ^{an animal with} ^{President} ^{Smith} & I was
 amused at being, that was almost
 all Botanical quoted as, in fact
 Smith did not point ^{through} until it was
 a success, ^{many as a money affair} then he returns 1. 1. 0
 for every description & I did not send
 back the proof of the description until the
 money was paid him. This I know from
 my own knowledge have seen his notes
 explaining when the proof did not come back

The earlier on when was written by

Salisbury was a most extraordinary man,
 but he was under a cloud
 and was this that made me at
 one decline his offer for him to adopt
 me ^{as a pupil} ^{the} ^{pleasure} ^{metas} ^{property}. Unfortunately
 severe illness & some natural
 at the commencement of this century were
 accused of unnatural practices, some
 of these were guilty as they were either
 committed or run away ^{when accused} & you will
 be surprised when I mention the name
 of Knight. The ^{and} ^{unpleasant} ^{author} ^{of} ^{the} ^{book} ^{of} ^{Mad} ^{dington} ^{Green}, Salisbury
 was accused three times. In each
 case he showed the trial & convinced his
 accusers ^{of false accusation} ^{that} ^{they} ^{had} ^{been} ^{transported}. and
 I believe that many others that were
 accused were accused falsely. but
 still it made me not inclined
 to keep his Society, I never was at
 his house but once with Mrs Bennett

to see his wonderful little garden
contains such an immense number
of growing & flowering plants, & otherwise
only known in the Banksian
Herbarium. & there as DeCandolle
says in his autobiography. Both Brown
& Smith were all at war. In regard
Sulzbury as the best systematic Botanist
& Brown the best Physicist, Smith
was a man who merely traded on
the reputation of the Linnean Herbarium
having no general views, I recollect
Brown giving an anecdote of him
that quite showed his character. He
was asked about a species of Sinapis
he said I don't know I have not come
as far as S. the last genus Sinapis was
Raphanus refers, this article in
Reeve's Encyclopedia as that is how

he studied just the genera as he
wrote them, for that note book
no name refers, & for what he was
paid a most extraordinary price
of one hundred sheets 20 £ per sheet.
on the other hand Brown was a
most jealous man, who was very
fearful of diminishing himself
& did all he could to prevent any
one else from doing any thing
notably with the fear that they might
annul them selves. This death
remains a great incubus off
the Botany of England. I tried
all that, if he was not so jealous
of us, one I might have felt
that it was a compliment that
he was jealous of me, & to the
day of his death all I know
that if I was proposed as a Fellow

Gardens, this a very large
^{of all orders.} collection, as the algae is the
most complete collection I have
ever studied full of new material
& full of authentic ^{or typical} specimens
named by various authors. no
one can describe algae so fully
without the power of consulting
you.

Poor man began it away
intended to live a bachelor
then he married his cousin &
had the little to leave her. but
fortunately she came as she
did before her marriage in the
her relations

Most truly & sincerely with me
kindest regards to Mr Gray &
you both ever your sincerely
J. E. Gray

We had had the misfortune to lose
another Volant. Greville so
we have lost in two algalists
in very short time, Greville
was the most original observer
and Harvey the best student of
Greville, Greville lived to a good
old age you will see a notice
of him by myself in the Athenaeum
of today. Poor Harvey though
suffering for many years for 3 or 4 years
did not believe himself a day
sickly made his will the day
before he died, & gave a notice
then prepared by Dr. Merceval
Wright (who gave her lectures
for him in Trinity College Dublin.)
in the Athenaeum of last week

We are going to Kew today
near the Herbarium for not so
weekly as Mother has promised my
wife so more occupation in
arranging some of the alga and
other Cryptogamia in the work
going at her Microscope for
more than I can for I have
suffered twice lately from Rheumatic
trials which has shut me up in
a dark room for two months
Greville Herbarium was purchased
by the Edinburgh University some
year ago it is now I think at
the Botanic Garden there but
he had some pecuniary losses
which made him dispose of it

set up as a landscape painter
thence he succeeded in selling
some of his pictures the most
valuable as upon the most
Botanic artist whether in large
plants or small, Diatoms, that
I ever knew, Robert Dyer of
Glasgow a dealer of alga
a most polished man in
family a very musical
I am assured to know what
will become of Murray Herbarium
which he gave to the Trinity College
if kept there I fear it will be
neglected & little used, perhaps
it may be more useful if it
was transferred to the Botanic



Gray, John Edward. 1866. "Gray, John E. June 9, 1866." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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