

Prof. Oliver
Richmond

Cambridge, Mass., May 11, 1863

My Dear Prof. Oliver.

Your interesting letter of the 24th ult. reached me last week and I lose no time in replying.

Since I have heard of the Com-
Minents which Mohl (in lectures)
pound upon Port. Text. Book, I have
really begun to think that it ~~may~~
may be good for some thing. I had
the thought of having to re-edit it.
But if I did I should largely re-
write it, and make it easier to teach
from.

Your propositions & suggestions
now bring the matter up for
real consideration. I will
not yet say a word to the publishers.
They would I presume sell a set
of the stereotypes of the word-books, and
for a consideration agree not to put
any copies into English market. But
I see not how they could prevent any
purchaser from obtaining the book
into the British market, if there
was an ~~inducement~~ inducement.

The book is electrotyped here -
and the plates in fair condition.
Left to themselves, the publishers

would not increase the work, per-
haps for a long while. What I
need in all these elementary
works is an annual fixed pay-
ment, pretty small.

My idea is that if your
University publishes could
propose to have the work re-
edited, in view of adaptation to
English as well as American use.
it might be arranged to have two
sets of electrotypes plates of the
work made here, one for the
Amer. one for the English pub-
lisher, and a copyright inter-
est secured in England for your
publisher, - the expense divided.

Suppose you tell me freely, in
your next next, what omissions
you would make, - & generally
what alterations.

Then later, if the thing can
be arranged between the publishers,
you could mark up a copy with
criticisms, suggestions, &c. and on
the data you furnish I could
re-compare the book. I
cannot think that any changes
you would propose as good for use

for English students could be
other than good for American
students.

The changes I should want to
make would be mainly simplifi-
cations. But, if you can
something like a proposition from
a publishing house to send me,
with your own propositions for
changes, and I will at once
enter into your views, and see
what can be done.

If nothing can be done that
way, then you must re-edit
it in England, taking copyright
for your printer, and making it
so good and fit that no copies
of the American issue would be
likely to find a sale in England.

I thank you for your Melentschina
notice just received. I only glanced
it over, and thought it able & good
before I knew who wrote it. I shall
read it again carefully, when I get
time to put my mind to it.

Do not hesitate to slash away
at that Test Book as much as you
like. I shall not be at all sensitive,
and may agree with you. If I do not,
I can say so. Ever yours
Prof. James



Gray, Asa. 1863. "Gray, Asa May 11, 1863 [to Daniel Oliver]." *Asa Gray correspondence : letters from Asa Gray to various individuals*

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