

London 5th March, 1839. (Evening)

My Dear Friend

I hastily closed a parcel of letters, if you may so term them, for you, and left them at Mr. Putnam's yesterday evening, to be sent to New York by the Liverpool packet, of the 5th as I supposed, but I find it does not sail until the 7th, so this sheet may possibly go with it. If not it shall follow soon, I am unusually fatigued and can write little to-night. I spent yesterday morning (until 4) at the British Museum, and at Mr. Brown's house, dined at a chop-house in the city with Mr. Putnam, and passed the evening at Mr. Bowerbank's, where I unexpectedly met Mr. Ward and Mr. Valentine. It was pretty late before I got home.

This morning my breakfast was brought and I was called, as I am told at 8 o'clock, but I have no recollection of it, or of anything else before 10, when I was called again, and my tea made anew. I was therefore late before I got at my work in the British Museum. I left at 4, returned to my room, and wrote a long letter to Sir Wm. Hooker; then went to the meeting of the Linnean Society; nothing of any special interest. I hope to finish at the British Museum tomorrow, but there has been much to do that I could only get on with very slowly. A packet ship has lately arrived, but I have received nothing.

Wednesday Evening,

British Museum, all the morning; have finished them, I am glad to say. - Dined with Mr. Putnam in ~~the~~ city; - called at Mr. Booth's, - tea, - went to microscopic party at the Rev. Mr. Yates, - supper; plenty of microscopes and some rather celebrated men, Prof. Owen, Grant, Royle, Dr. Roger, Bostock, &c. Mr. Queckett, Valentine, Bennett, Solly, &c. &c.

How I long to see you all. I think of you continually and would gladly bring this harassing mode of life to a close and be again with you. A few more months, and, thro' God's mercy I may again be at your side. Do not let the girls forget me; my best love to them all. I somehow imagine you are now at Princeton. Can it be so?

Thursday Evening 7th March.

The weather, after having been like May for some time, has been raw and chill all this week, and to-day we are favoured with a regular snow-storm. I was not sufficiently on my guard, and have suffered a little in the sudden change, having taken a rather severe cold in my head and throat, which makes me a little uncomfortable. Still I have worked all day, and pretty hard too at the Linnean Herbarium, and after dining all by myself I went to Bertham's, as I had promised to spend the evening, found him and Mrs. B. & Mrs. Bridges being out of town; stayed till half past ten, on my return I commenced a letter to Dr. Carey, broke off at 12, and am now about to prepare for bed. Adieu chère amie.

Monday Morning, 11th March.

I have been suffering with an extremely severe cold, the first I have had this winter. By keeping shut up as much as possible by my fire-side I have got nearly over it. I managed however to continue my work on Friday & Saturday at the Linnean Society, and to get out to church yesterday morning. I attended at a Scotch Chapel in Oxenden St. near St. Paul, and heard a good, but rather flowid discourse from a young preacher. The text was the last clause of 1st Epistle of John, 1:3. I spent the remainder of the day at home, I hope not unprofitably. I have this morning to get my passport from our Minister, and finish my examination of Linnean's Herbarium. I am invited by Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Spoor, to attend a levee or dinner, I don't know which, to be given this evening. If I feel well enough I think I shall just drop in to see how it is done. I expect to be greatly pleased for the two or three days that remain to me here. I have improved the time as well as I could to write letters to those who expect to hear from me, to Carey, Prof. Bailey, &c. &c. — for in truth, since I left you I have scarcely written at all except to your dear self and husband. But I have a busy day before me so good-bye till evening, when I hope to meet with you again.

Monday Evening, 12th o'clock

My Dear Mother, As I sit down to tell you of what I have been about to-day, my ^{dear} cross the wide wave that separates us, and bring me back to 30. MacDougal Street, and to the time when returning from town I used to present myself before you, give an account of my proceedings, tell you perhaps some news about that ill-fated Expedition of which you were so sick & nervous; how it would extend, last in a month, or something just as likely. When thinking of this long separation, I comforted myself with the idea that it is better than if I had gone to thee. In that case I should now have seen your antipodes. Now there is only some four or five hours of shadow between us. And sluggish as you call me at home I am up in the morning two or three hours before you. Tell that to the girls for a wonder.

I left my room this morning at eleven, walked to Portland Place, called on the American Minister, who being unwell I was furnished by the Secretary of Legation with what I desired, namely a passport. This I left, as the manner is at the office of the French Embassy, that His Majesty's ^{Consul} ~~Consul~~ may have fitting notice of this honour that is to be done him, for the King of the French is it seems rather particular about such matters, and it is a pity not to oblige him, especially as you can't help yourself. This being done I went on to the Linnean Society, and by looking at the full sketch of my powers, continued to get through the Linnean Herbarium (skipping a few genera now and then) about six o'clock. Returned home pretty well fatigued, took some tea and toast, called upon Bertham whom I found writing letters of introduction for me. I have many now before me. They are addressed to (Lange at Lyons) - Regnier, Arignon - Lady Bertham (B. Mother) at Montpelier, with request to make me acquainted with Dunal and Labile, - Morelle at Paris, Vaisani at Geneva, Vassiani at Trieste, ~~Muges~~ Muges at Gratz, Endlicher at Vienna, Martins & Schultes at Munich, Reichardt at Dresden, Pöpping at Leipzig. There, with what I have already from Holker, Brutt, Briddle, Booth &c, with a few ~~that~~ I expect at Paris leave me little to wish for in this respect. About ten o'clock went to

Mrs. Stevenson's party. It was not a very large one, and in no way especially remarkable. I found there of course the Broots (three sizes, viz. Mrs. Broot the grandmother Mrs. Broot the Mother, and Miss Broot the daughter) — and so of course I was upon good footing. Our Minister lives in neat but by no means splendid style: quite enough so for a republican — and Mrs. S. is very lady-like and prepossessing in appearance. Mr. S. did not make his appearance. Of course I did not stay long.

Tuesday Evening, half past nine

This is my last day but one in London, and I have to commence packing up, close my letters &c. The Great-Western has not yet arrived, which makes us a little anxious. I fear we may hear of some sad accident yet from these sea steam-boats. I went into the city this morning; made arrangements for my letter of Credit on the Continent, returned to the British Museum, continued but did not finish my work there. I got into conversation with Brown, which kept me some time. I must go again tomorrow. I got my passport from the French Ambassador's, called on my way on Dr. Lindley at the Horticult. Society, and stopped at Ross, the Optician's. Went down to dine with my good friend Mr. & Mrs. Bentham. We had a very pleasant evening. The last of a pretty good number. Mrs. Bentham (don't be jealous of Mrs. B.!) presented me with her own copy of the Pocket-Conversation Book, made up of all sorts of questions and answers and colloquial discourse upon all ordinary topics in Italian, German & French, in parallel columns. — a very convenient thing for a traveller, and the very copy she used throughout the route I am going. My cold is better, tho' the cough is still annoying, as it usually is for a few days. I hope soon to be rid of it. I dread the journey to Paris, which is like to be quite tedious. I expect to arrive there on Saturday afternoon. Good-night. —
(ma chère amie.)

Poor Mr. Himmelman died yesterday, after a short illness. I have spent much time (evenings) with Mr. Valentine, whom I like extremely. Excepting only Brown, he is the best Microscopical observer in Great Britain. He cares little however for proper systematic botany, for which I am sorry. He has shown me some curious things.

How happened it that no copy of the 2nd part of *Flora* was sent to Lindley? I found it out only recently, and have bought one for him.

I have learned from Brown the character he observed in our species of *Rhexia* - that is the true genus *Rhexia*. - The unilocularity of the anthers.

Do you know Kunth is taken as the natural son of Humboldt?

I spent a part of Monday with Brown. Saw your specimen of *Cerallia* (Petal-anthera, Nutt.), which is wholly the same as Lagasca's plant. I saw the rest of those you left with Brown; I don't believe he has ever looked at them. I saw among them your original specimens of *Asclepias* &c. which I would gladly have taken; but Brown, did not incline to think they were to be returned. I left still with him the *Isosae* (besides those you left him) he promising to give them all to me on my return, or if he leaves England to put all your plants in his possession into Bennett's hands, to hand over to me.

What a pickle the Linnean Asclepias is in! I wish it were soon to tell you.

For Greenia, Nutt. Cf. Strophachne H. B. K.
(non R. Br.)

I find the Linnaean Herb. well worth an attentive examination, tomorrow will be my third day there. I bought a copy of Gronovius yesterday, and have commenced to run over the Herb. Blayt, writing my determinations in margin. I know you have already done this in part; but in the plan I now adopt it is quite necessary to make this examination, comparing with Linna. Sp. Pl. Ed. 4. and Herb.

Polyzala sanguinea herb. Linna. is P. purpurea of Nutt. P. viridescens is the same thing young. One of Linnaeus' specimens of Astragalus Canadensis is our Phaca neglecta (the others (the proper types of the species) are right). Rudbeckia Radula, Dursh! = R. apetalata Nutt. & Helenanthus, Torr.

Tuesday evening, March, 12th

After a hard days work I finished on Monday evening with the Linnaean Herbarium, which I found more interesting than I expected and more satisfactory, as it is in really good state, - carefully taken care of &c. I had some very good notes to make, I assure you I feel much gratified to have studied this collection, which, with the Gronovius enables us to start fair as to Linnaean species. Do you know that Acer saccharinum Linna. is A. eriocarpum! (Spec. & Kaln.) Look at Linna.

Sp. Pl. (which you have not seen fortunately, tho' it is the most necessary of books. You will receive it at the same time as this letter or nearly) and you will find that the description is all drawn from eriocarpum.

I took what time I could to-day for the Gronovian plants & a few of Plukenet's &c, but was unable to finish: will go on to-morrow. For I shall work to the last moment.

I have been tempted to buy a collection of Hartwig's very fine Mexican plants, which being collected far in the interior of North Mexico are very North American, and quite necessary, I think for us. They will reach you with the other parcels. Be careful about the little labels with numbers stuck about them. Bentham will publish them presently.

Bentham will publish them presently.
" 51. is Tomquistia or Corathea (same genus as Bentham)
" 81. Garrya new! (laurifolia Hook. Soc. Gard.)
" 107. Cercocarpus thunbergii H. B. K., seal, but not the North American.
" 108. The new genus Crowania, or Covania, Don. - very fine, an ally of Cercocarpus. These with Durshia will form a peculiar tribe in Rosacea I think.

188	} <u>Lamprocarpa</u>	195. <u>Stemodia batroides</u> , Nutt.
187		232. <u>Besseyia elegans</u> , Nutt.
189		233. <u>Milla biflora</u> .

Prof. Royle, as the agent of India people I believe, offers me seeds from Himalayan Mountains, received and still to be received, from the Government collectors, in exchange for those of useful and interesting Indian plants, which they are desirous of introducing into India. But as I can't attend to it until another season,

he kindly offers to send to you a portion of the seed just received, and to ask you to distribute them in such way as will be most useful and ask those you give them to (say Downing, Hogg, Dr. May, Dr. Boykin &c. and some one in the valley of the Mississippi or Arkansas) to collect seed of trees &c. - you can suggest what would be most desirable - and send them to London - whence they will be sent in the mails overland to India. As I fear I shall not see Royle again I shall write him a note, telling him, as I promised, how to send to you.

I saw Dr. Sims' Herbarium at King's College, I want to look at it to certify a few early Bot. Mag. plants.

Brown came to the Museum this morning with a copy of a curious late paper of Schleiden (which I had seen before) on the development of the embryo, with a parcel of his own notes on the same subject made in 1810 - 1812, - 15 &c. - on the same subject, which did not altogether correspond; Brown thanks much of Schleiden as an observer. He read me many of his old notes, and the subject took him to speak of his discoveries with regard to the embryos of Ferns. To explain to me as he went on he drew the diagrams on the enclosed slip of paper, - and pointed out to me how to observe in our species of Ferns. This will refresh my memory as to all he told me. So pray keep it safely. There is much very curious matter now afloat about the process of impregnation & the early development of embryo, which I am accumulating as much as I can, for future use. I pray tell Dr. Perrine that the gardeners & botanists here insist by acclamation almost that there is no such thing as acclimation in the veg. Kingdom.



Gray, Asa. 1839. "Gray, Asa Mar. 5, 1839 [to Torrey]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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