

To President Sparks.

Dear Sir

Will you kindly receive and ~~lay~~
present to the Corporation of Harvard College, at
their approaching meeting, the application
which I now make, soliciting leave to be
absent ~~from~~ from Cambridge during the Academic
Year commencing in August next, or for the larger
part of that time. If ~~granted~~ leave is granted, it
is my intention to spend that time (with the preceding
vacation) in England and on the Continent of Europe, chiefly
at London ~~and~~ Paris, and Geneva, ^{in laborious} ~~and~~ Scientific investigations,
partly in reference to a work now in hand on the Trees of
America; but chiefly in elaborating the materials
for the Botany of the U. S. Exploring Expedition. This
work I find it absolutely impossible to do, ^{in a manner at all satisfactory} without the
aid of the ^{complete} libraries and great collections of the Old World,
in which the materials collected ^{by} former voyagers, from
those of Cook at Bryanville downward, are preserved.
It will be a great saving of valuable time if I can
fix myself at London and Paris for a period long enough
to carry through the ~~studies~~ investigations and comparisons
I have to make, with the advantages I may there expect
to enjoy. It is on this account that I am induced
to ask for a leave absence to extend through at least

into the Spring of 1857. My collegiate duties for the ensuing year, would comprise, beside the receipt of the Botanic Garden; a course of ~~lectures~~ instruction ~~for~~ in the elements of natural history ~~from~~ to the Sophomore class, extending through both terms; and a course of ~~lectures~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~British~~ ~~lectures~~ to the Junior class during the second term. I would respectfully ~~propose~~ ~~propose~~ and consent to the the following arrangement in respect to those duties.

1. I would commit the receipt of the garden to Mr. Mayne, my artist, who has worked with me so long that he is quite competent to the duty, under the direction I may communicate from time to time. I propose to ~~pay~~ ~~for~~ ~~such~~ ~~remuneration~~ ~~from~~ ~~my~~ ~~own~~ ~~salary~~.

2. I propose to ~~engage~~ ~~and~~ ~~remunerate~~ ~~Prof.~~ ~~Wyman~~ from my salary, Prof. Wyman to give the instruction ~~to the~~ ~~in~~ ~~Natural~~ ~~History~~ (animal & vegetable ~~physiology~~) ~~to the Sophomore class~~ during the 1st term. ~~I -~~

3. To ~~port~~ ~~from~~ the lectures on Mayne for the 2^d term, giving that Junior the class the opportunity of attending this course the following year, in company with the other Junior class. In the arrangement of the studies ~~the coming Spring~~ in April next, ^{I propose} there will be no difficulty in assigning a proper additional amount of ~~studies~~ ~~duties~~ studies to the Sophomore & Junior classes for the 2^d term of the ensuing year, to make up for the deficiency and port ~~from~~ next.

~~An additional re~~
~~The voyage and the~~
~~Another person for the voyage and that residence~~
~~abroad is found~~
I should not omit to mention that the voyage and change of climate I wish to make is deemed very important as a means of reestablishing the health of my wife, so long infirm; and ~~there seems~~ ~~is~~ ~~good~~ reason to hope that it may ensure the most beneficial results in this respect. I am,

With the highest respect and regard
Yours faithfully
Asa Gray



Gray, Asa. 1838. "Gray, Asa undated draft [to J. Sparks]." *Asa Gray correspondence with scientific societies, Harvard College, and University of Michigan*

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