

Philadelphia. Dec 3<sup>d</sup> 1836.

Dear Sir,

I have received your two letters, of the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. & 1<sup>st</sup> inst., and perceive you have taken, it seems to me, rather unfounded alarm at my proceeding, in procuring Zoological works. Mr. M. is mistaken in saying I have nearly all I want - it is true I have raked together with a good deal of pains, from individuals & publick Institutions, a number of works which neither others nor myself had any expectations of finding in this country, and perhaps I have the greater part of those which may be considered most essential; still, as I told the Secretary, the most recent works in general are not among them, and it is necessary to procure these in order to take advantage of the labours of others, instead of uselessly going over the same ground. - I will allude to the subject again in my next letter to the Secretary, which will probably be in a day or two. Some time since I transmitted to him a list of articles wanted for the Fraughtmen, which I had procured from Mr. Audubon, to the tune of some \$1500 or treble that sum if imported here.

It was at the Secretary's request that I applied to Mr. Lehman, he having been named in an interview with Mr. Audubon. So far from interfering with the prospects of young Mr. Mustrie or of your protégé, his going would, it seems to me, be most fortunate for them. You must know that Estlin Audubon & Le Sueur, I look upon Lehman & Grayton as the only Natural History Fraughtmen we have (I hope you consider my letters as confidential as your own) - I consider young Mr. Mustrie as possessing the qualifications for making one, but he needs good instructions and I should fear if separated from the corps & left to his own unaided efforts, the voyage would be of little advantage to him in any point of view. Indeed one chief reason of the impatience of his father for a promise from the Secretary was, that he might take him away from his mercantile occupations & place him at once with Lehman! - I have not forwarded your letter to the Secretary respecting him, agreeing with you in every respect, besides having ascertained that there is no necessity for immediate action - If his father thinks it best, I will write direct to the Secretary and give him my views in detail, which course it seems to me is much preferable.

Grayton is the artist who executes Mr. Lea's shells - I have long

had my eye on him from seeing other specimens of his work, and I should not be surprised if he could render the Expedition more service than even Schuman. — From his business of Engraving, Superimposing in various styles, and superintending the colouring of prints, in which he has been engaged for many years for Cary & Lea, he is better acquainted with all the requisites of getting out a book, and is better qualified to give instructions to young Artists and particularly with regard to colouring, being a good judge of the quality of different colours and knowing from long experience which are to be avoided. — But I should never feel willing to rob the country of both these men. — Mr. Schuman is strongly inclined to go and there is no difficulty on the score of his fortunes; the only obstacle is a domestic one, which I presume will yield in the course of time.

I have obtained possession of the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles* from 1832 to 1836 inclusive, but must depend upon you for the earlier numbers. Mr. Peck once spoke to me of a copy which was once offered to him by some one connected with Peale's Museum in your city; — perhaps you might learn something by inquiring there.

I do not know whether any of your members of the Lyceum are acquainted with Capt. Couesbury of Boston. He is personally unknown to me but I have derived information from various quarters which leaves no doubt in my mind that he is the right sort of man to accompany the Expedition. He's discovered in the vicinity of Boston, in Marine Zoology, I can appreciate, having some knowledge of that district myself. He does not ask for any artificial aid in obtaining rank, but proposes to work out his own standing, if afforded an opportunity. — This again is in the right spirit. — Now, notwithstanding our corps is, as you say, getting somewhat uninvited, I have often cast about as to where I was to get a little assistance myself — all the assistance it seemed to me was likely to go in one direction, especially since my friend Trudeau has been persuaded to give up the idea of going, by an offer on the part of his father. Now this Capt. Couesbury is, I feel satisfied, capable of becoming a real assistant.

I saw Com. Jones last evening, but in company with other gentlemen, and can only say that I was much pleased with his appearance & manners.

Yours, truly  
Charles Pickering



Peace

for



*W*

Asa Gray M.D.

Lycæum of Nat. History

New York.





Dickerson, Mahlon. 1836. "Pickering, Charles Dec. 3, 1836." *Charles Pickering letters* –.

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