

Columbus Nov^r 3^d 1850

My dear Gray

I have several times of late attempted to write to you, but I had so dreadful an announcement to make, I found myself unequal to the task.

That most admirable of women my dear wife is no more. — In August last she and several of our intimate friends were swept off by a sudden visitation of Cholera at Mt Vernon a small town in this state to which we had retired for supposed safety. Thus ends sixteen years by far the happiest portion of my life. — To me she was every thing. What she was as a wife and as a mother I will say nothing; in

those relations few equalled her.

But there is an other subject on which it is fitting that to you of whom she always had the highest admiration I should say a few words. I mean her devotion to botanical studies. In these she was my constant companion & coworker for the last fourteen years; and I can say with strictest truth that more than half of whatever I have done in these pursuits ~~is due to her~~ is due to her.

Such a clear and discriminating judgement such memory, industry, energy and dispatch as were hers is rarely to be met with.

She had acquired of Latin & German a French sufficient to read botanical descriptions with ease. In the mechanical labors of writing she was of vast assistance to me. She wrote ^{with} remarkable rapidity and accuracy

Indeed accuracy was one of the striking qualities of her mind. In the most difficult & delicate dissections and microscopical examinations she was astonishingly successful. Her enthusiasm for our studies really required to be checked.

Her knowledge of Musci & Hepaticae was very extensive. No female I am sure ever equalled her, and few of the other sex excelled her.

Oct 12 1851

My dear Gory — I send you an unfinished letter written for you near a year since. Something of the kind (other this is miserably inadequate) was due to the memory

of my late most dear and excellent
wife of whom I can never think
without the profoundest emotions of
affection & respect.

Her attainments amply enable her to a
short notice among the "Virtuaries" of those
devoted to the Natural Sciences. From
no hand could it come with more
propriety than ^{from} yours. Schimper who
knew well her proficiency in his favorite
study has named two species of *Mypus*
after her. — I am now having erected to
her a suitable monument. On the front the usual
names & dates — on the reverse I wish to have a
lengthy (20-30 lines) inscription. I would rather
have one from you than from anyone else. It
can be put on after the monument is up — I will
send you a drawing of it soon —
Very truly WSS



Sullivant, William S. 1850. "Sullivant, William Nov 3, 1850." *William Starling Sullivant letters* –.

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