

I am not going to say what happened - oh no! - If Mr. Carey be with you tell him that the "Sabra Bean" of which he sent me a specimen, and bid me send him a name, appears to be Canavalia gladiata, DC. - I am at least sure of the genus, & the specific name is too apt, to be wrong. (Now I have used a sentence of double meaning so, one way or other I must be right). -

Our Christmas has been a dull one. I had intended coming to Plassy for it - but our cousin, the wife of Dr. Harvey of Dublin died the Sunday before Xmas and I remained to the funeral - dining quietly at the Quay - & only came here after all was over. The poor Doctor is much to be felt for in his loneliness - after 30 years companionship. They had had but one child who died at 6 years old, about 10 years ago, for whom poor Mrs. H. never ceased to grieve, and whose death preyed much on her health. She had long been ill - though her last illness was very rapid & the death sudden.

At Plassy we are very quiet - no company - & Joe's absence makes the small household even smaller. I had not been outside the doors save to Church on Sunday, since I came, till today that I walked into the garden & then down by the river bank. The weather is not cold, nor wet, but it is not bright, & every thing looks dreary. A few flowers remain in the garden, chiefly Anemones, and Gerriwinkles, with the ragged remains of Chrysanthemum. The Winter heaths are budding & will soon be gay - I can't find no snow deposit. In the fields I met here & there a daisy - & found several mosses in fruit by the river. These I gathered for the sake of doing something! not that they were of much interest. -

You know more about Dawson Turner than I do - All I know is that there has been a "disgraceful marriage" & family quarrel - which Joe Hooker alluded to in a letter, as a thing so notorious that I must know it, but I had heard nothing previous & nothing since - so I suppose I shall not know till I go over next summer. Have you heard that Sir George Bennett at Kew is dead, & that Sir W. Hooker is to have his house - on the green - backing into the garden. It is one of the houses near the D. of Cambridge. They are to build Herb. rooms behind it, & a new Museum fronting the Green. The Queen has approved, so I hope there may be no going back again, as there was before. Dr. Hooker is still uncertain about his salary, but working hard at the Flora. -

I hope Gray will have got his copy of my Res. Bor. Amer. from Henry by this time. I have 9 plates of 2^d part done, very laborious ones, many of them. On one I figure a new genus, for which I want a name. Will you have it, or shall I call it Mudgea? It is too pretty for such a fate. I propose "Graynelia" or "Le-graynia" as anagrams of "Jane L. Gray" if you choose - I thought "Loringia" would be cheating your brother Charles of his rights. - If you won't have it I shall call it after some one of the gentlemen or ladies thanked for assistance in the preface. There is plenty of time to send me an answer before it goes to press. The plant is known to Gray probably as Delaesseria Americana - but it cannot remain in Delaesseria - the fruit is very different - & indeed it is a strongly characterised "good genus", as thump go. - So, what shall I do? -



Harvey, William H. 1851. "Harvey, William Henry Dec. 31 , 1851 [to Jane Loring Gray]." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/310708>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/342614>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia (Open Collections)

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.