

my own works, *St. Hilaire*, and many old very scarce and rare books from 1507—1700. Now what I request from you, my excellent friend, is, to do all in your power for making that this matter would come to a beneficial end for me. If you would write to Mr. Christern, inviting him, to hear your counsel, if you would speak with Prof. Walt. Johnson and other persons of influence I do not doubt, that the matter may be carried on well. Perhaps even Mr. Christern will come to you if you speak with it.

The second thing, and perhaps the most easy was, to procure to me four purchasers of a set of my own work. I have now ready one complete set, very nobly bound, and the atlas coloured (for which I have paid quite 100 fl!). This copy was destined to be sent to America at the New York exhibition. But as this seems now a little doubtful, I delayed to send it. If you find it proper, to send it, that is to say, if there would be real sureness, that it would be placed, I can commit it to you or to any one, as you give me the advice. But I wished by no means give you any trouble, and I shall therefore wait till you reply to this.

You see, my good friend, that I treat with you so openly as I could with a brother. My confidence in your friendship is so great, that it conquers even the due hesitation I must have to be inopportune to such a friend as you are.

If you look on the present state of European politics with so permissive eyes as I must do, you would find it more and more natural, that I call forth all means in my power for coming to an end with this! It is quite impossible, that the things remain in their present condition. A strong and general catastrophe is to be feared sooner or later, and as a man of 58 years and father of family, I feel it my duty, to act as I do. Therefore also I fear not the predicament of indiscreet vis à vis of yours well proved feelings. Let me know as soon as possible on this object, what you judge convenient. I write also to Mr. Christern, directing him forwards your counsel.

With the health of Mad. M. I am pretty content. But my little daughter Anna Erdl, the poor child without a father gives me very allarms. She suffers of an frightful disease, which makes it very necessary, that we bring it in the Bath of Gastein. If so, a long intended journey to go to England would necessarily be delayed to better days.

I finish with the wish, that this letter would find you and Mad. G. in good health. Adieu my noble and excellent friends.

Munich, 18 May 1852.

Yours
unalterable thankful
fr. Martine

curious book: Adr. Spigel's pædogoge 1633. and fleischer on germination 1651.
Schacht's new book on the developement of cellules has not yet reached
me. I know it only from Alex. Brauns review in the Berlin Acad.
Go Prof. Fournrohr I wrote a second time for having the continuat.
of the Flora. If it arrives in due time you shall have it with
the books of the Acad. sent by its Librarian Mr. Wiedemann.
I recommend the library of the Ratisbon. Soc. to your generosity.

And now let me speak once more about the fate of my library
and my own books. My dear friend, I beg you to go out in this
thing from the consideration I explain now to you. Many experience
on my bodily frame make it necessary to me, to release myself from
to much exertions. So I wish for all to put from my shoulders the yoke
of the lesson, I cannot help to consider as in the utmost degree hostile
to my body, because the induce me in an excitement and afterwards
into a weakness, which seems very dangerous. Now you must know, that
in retiring from the cathedra an essential part of my income shall cease,
and for balancing this I wish to sell my Bibliotheca Americana. In
the second consideration stays the possibility of applying then a larger capi-
tal and more time to the flora Prof. For these reasons I wish with
all the strength of my character to get rid of this library. I have offered
it to a moderate price to Mr. F.W. Christern, bookseller now at Phila-
delphia, a noble youth, friend of my house many years, who went
away because he could not bear longer the political sickness in his
country. I wrote some time ago, that I will give away the whole
for 8000 flor. and make allowance of 10 pf. to the Commissioner, taking
also the expences of the boxes. Now I hear, that or the library of
the congress or some other would have bought the Bibl. americana
if it was not previously offered by Mr. Flügel (Generalcons. of U.S.
Leipzig) for 8000 fl. during the same time as Mr. Christern
offered it for 8000 fl. plus the commission he put on the price, acting
in this totally with my consent, because I had at first
written, that he ought to put his commission, risk, profits & on extra.
I diminish therefore the price for 800 flor. and I think, that this
is now so low, that the collection may in America be considered as
bought at a very low rate. There is a complete set of Humboldt's



Martius, Karl Friedrich Philipp von. 1852. "Martius, Karl F. P. von May 18, 1852." *Asa Gray correspondence. Senders McA-Ma*

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