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Hayfield, near Louisville, Ky.  
August 18<sup>th</sup> 1855.

My dear Friend,

If I had supposed that you would have taken on yourself the trouble of copying the names and numbers of the Berlandier plants, I should certainly never have asked it, nor have trespassed so shamefully on your precious time. I pray therefore, you will let me wait, with others, for your printed Memoir, which I hope will be forth-coming in due time. On this head I will only express my regret that Ravenel is to be mounted on a toadstool, instead of being apotheosized by a phanogram.

I thank you kindly—most kindly for the photographs accompanying your favour of the 11<sup>th</sup> inst. but I hope, should I ever have the pleasure of seeing you "in the flesh", to find you more like the first one sent me than either of the two last. The face of that is not only far more "amiable" than either of the others, but altogether more satisfactory. I am therefore pleased to learn that Mr. Gray pronounces it the best likeness. It is, indeed, surprising that three such impressions, so differing in many respects, could be taken by the same process from the same person.

I am sorry to hear what you say about your colleague, but, entre nous, I have heard intimations of the same sort from other sources. Dr. Butler has taken another collection of insects from Texas, which I shall advise him to send to Dr. Le Conte.



I have raised quite a number of curious and, some at least, new things, from seeds gathered in Oregon and California, by a Doctor Dayton of Ohio; who, although he hardly knows a Salop plant from a Jimson weed, yet has some penchant towards collecting. I will send you specimens of all I have grown in a few days, and among them "my new species", as Rafinesque would say on presenting to him the commonest weed. This Clarkia however, if it be such (and I can see no difference in it, generically from the well-known Clarkia elegans, which I have raised from the same parcel of seed) certainly differs from the four you enumerate in your N. A. Flora, and I have no other more recent authorities to refer to. I am sorry that our Climate or Soil do not seem to suit it; for after flowering, the few plants I raised, began to droop and decline, and although I shaded them and applied water freely, they died off without maturing seed. The immature capsules, however, bore every marks of similitude to those of C. elegans.

Are you acquainted, either personally or by correspondence, with Dr. A. Clappe, of New Albany, Indiana? - A most worthy, estimable and reliable man, and an excellent Botanist. For many years past he has been especially devoted to the study of organic remains, yet his "Synopsis or Systematic Catalogue of the medicinal plants of the U. S." presented to the American Medical Association, and published by them in 1852, does him great credit as a Physician and Botanist. I mentioned these things to you that, in the event of a new genus, worthy of him, "turning up" you may know what to do with it; - unless, indeed, my friend Clapp has been already immortalized in some Enciclopedia buried a hundred

feet beneath the surface of the Earth! If so, his fate is even more deplorable than that of your friend Havens.

I am sorry that you give me no encouragement to expect the pleasure of seeing you in these parts during your present visit. Nothing could afford me a greater treat. Possibly I may have the gratification of seeing you in Cambridge next year (I. v.) Can you tell me whether the plates of your Botany of the exploration of expedition have yet been published? -

Ever, my dear Sir, I am yours, faithfully

Ch. C. Short

Prof. A. Gray  
Cambridge



Prof. Gray  
Cambridge



Short, Charles Wilkins. 1855. "Short, Charles W. Aug. 18, 1855." *Charles Wilkins Short letters to Asa Gray*

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