

to England. He might find some
good picking among our dupli-
cate Cryptogams, & he should
be as welcome as you were & shall
be still among Ichneumonids.
We really have not a staff need
& help to clear off our duplicates.
The selection & naming & dis-
patching takes so much time
that we must confine that
only to the most worthy. What
ever comes for Wittern shall be
forwarded to him without
delay. He is our Magnus Apollo
among Insects & Reptiles. I be-
lieve he knows them well but
he has not the education & taste
needful to make a satisfactory
author. How Mr. Sullivan
many M. Leclerc & Australian
Mosses? I expect Spruce will
make glorious collections in
the Antisocial Andes where he
is now gone. He has such an
eye for those things that he will
find species where Jameson could
see none.
Fendler's letter I shall reply to.

New Dec 5. 1856.

My dear Dr. Gray. I forwarded your
letter instantly to our friend Harvey.
I wish I were half as active in writing
letters as I am in a little collection of
that kind. I feel awfully in debt
to you & feel that I deserve to be vi-
sited with your displeasure or your
silence which would be a great pe-
nishment. I fancied that after
my holiday in Scotland I should
be to my duties with increased vi-
gor & I do not think I have been
idle. But there is an awful accumu-
lation of business & correspondence
in consequence of my absence not
yet cleared off & that most labo-
rious employment of trying to clear
up synonyms of terms for the
next part of my Species Ed. I vol.
16 of the 2d Part is prepared &
printed. I am disappointed
in not seeing Engelmann this win-
ter. I got his book & have already
noticed it for my Journal, favorably.
I need not say: & I have a most

Kind letter from him dated on
Board Ship in the Channel, en route
for Germany. He could not spare
the time to come just now, but will
in the spring. Thanks for your
extended flora, also honorable to
you & to Sullivan, whom illus-
trations of the *Mosses*. Both are
to description & figures are con-
sulted: & as I say in the Journal.

Ergelmann seems alarmed at
Seemann's having introduced
Cactaceae in his "Botany of the
Hercules". Not a plant or a notice of
a plant of Cactus did he bring
home: - but the Gorse has allow-
ed a still greater Gorse, one Mr.
Scheer to publish his nonsense
about certain Cactuses he has
received, living or dead & putrid,
from a gentleman at Chihuahua!
without name, & new species, &
without any description, by
which the species can possibly be
identified. Of this sort, together
with known ones he makes a

a Catalogue of 40 species.

Kindly give me notice when the
20 Reams of Paper are shipped that
I may apply to the Treasury for its
coming free of duty.

I shall be glad to have small
book-parcels come & go by *Booth's*.
As on any other friendly & useful
perspective conveyance; *Amador's* Com-
pany are much friendly & in ear-
nest: & the more so now that
they find that their people have
been once or twice rather negli-
gent. It is the heavy expense
of small parcels coming from Li-
verpool & through London & on
to New that makes it desirable
to confine Steam-book pack-
ages to rather bulky ones.

I shall notice Sullivan's
new book on *Mosses* with
great pleasure as soon as it
comes: & I have handed to the
man messenger about *Mosses* for
him, which Writters is instanc-
ted to prepare. I wish Mr. Sul-
livan could be induced to come



Hooker, William Jackson. 1856. "Hooker, William J. Apr. 17, 1856 [2nd item]."
William Jackson Hooker letters to Asa Gray

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