

West-Chapter, P.<sup>a</sup>. Feb. 15. 1854. 20

My dear Friend, I had the pleasure, yesterday, to receive the beautiful brochure, containing the Correspondence of Linné and Jussieu, - for which I hasten to make my grateful acknowledgments. It will be a delightful treat, to those who relish such literary antiquities, and have the good fortune to be familiar with the language. Although I never was inside of a Grammar School, and know nothing of Latin, but what few crumbs I have been able to pick up by my own application, - I find, by a glance at the Letters, that the style appears to be easy; and I think I shall have no great difficulty in extracting the meaning of the writers. I shall, at least, take an early opportunity to make the trial; and will go at it con amore.

I feel very curious to learn the progress, and present prospect, of the Flora Vactensis, by our lamented Friend, Dr. Broomfield. Is it really in pross? or only proposed to be published? I should be very glad to learn it was out, - while I am extant, and in a condition to look over and enjoy its contents. I



I have not heard from Mr. Agassiz; and, indeed, I did not wish him to know that I was trying to procure specimens of our Fisher for him, - because I feared it might excite expectations, which I am not at all sanguine in being able to meet. I wanted first to try to enlist two or three idle fellows of my acquaintance who are fond of the sport, before I made known my intention; so that a failure would produce no disappointment. I shall, however, make the attempt; and trust I may obtain some specimens - though probably nothing new. If I were some forty years younger, I would try my luck in person: but my fishing, now, must all be done by proxy.

Our friend Joshua Hoopes, of this place, was so possessed with the idea that he had found a Lycopodium specifically distinct from complanatum, that he could not rest until he sent specimens to Sir W. J. Hooker, for his opinion. He had long been insisting with me that it was distinct; but I thought it was nothing more than a variety; and I think he received the same opinion from you, some time ago. Well, he got a letter, recently, from Sir William,

which confirmed our views, - by stating that the Lycopodium was very subject to such modifications as our friend had relied upon, in establishing his supposed species.

But my chief object in referring to that letter, is, to say that Sir W. requested Joshua to tell me that he (Sir W.) was about to send me a Portrait of Dr. Brownfield; & that it would be forwarded to you. Of course it had not reached you, when you wrote; but when it does come, I will thank you to send it to the care of Mr. James, in Philad<sup>a</sup>, and request him to pay the charge of the Express, for bringing it, - so that I may be permitted to meet the expense, whatever it is. I am unwilling that either you, or he, should have any thing more than the trouble of attending to my affairs. Let the cost be marked on the parcel, and I will attend to the rest.

Excuse this long yarn - I believe me, with affectionate regards to Mrs. G.,  
your oft & greatly obliged friend,  
Prof. A. Gray, } Wm. Darlington  
Cambridge, Mass. }



Darlington, William. 1854. "Darlington, William Feb. 15, 1854." *William Darlington letters to Asa Gray*

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