

Cambridge Massachusetts. Lang. 1848

Dear Friend

That I ought to have replied to your letter of the 19th Nov. - to say nothing of that of Sept. 21, & June 18. there is no doubt. The latter I have carried in my pocket a good while, hoping to catch a moment somewhere & sometime to write to you, especially as the time approaches in which I may be sending a parcel to Mr. Means for you - But I have not had an hour leisure not demanded by letters of immediate pressing consequence, or in which I was not too tired to write.

There are many correspondents whom I have neglected almost as much as I have you. I have worked like a dog, but my work laid out to be finished last July is not done yet.

But from about the time of your last letter a providential dispensation has prevented me from doing what I would, namely the sickness, by typhoid fever of a beloved brother (a Junior in College here) who required every leisure moment from the time he became seriously sick up to the 9th inst - a week ago - when it pleased the

oversee disposal of events, to whom I have, to remove
him to a better world: - and I am but recently
returned from the momentary journey to Carrey,
to the paternal home (near Western New York,) his
mortal remains. This has somewhat interrupted
the printing of the last sheets of my Manual of
A. Botany, - which, with all my efforts at condensation,
has extended to almost 800 pages!! (12^{mo} including
the Introduction. It will be difficult to get
the vol. within compass. A year's hard labor is bestowed
upon it. I hope it will be useful & supply a desider-
atum. As a consolation for my poorest faithfulness
in making it tolerably thorough, and so much larger than
I expected it would prove, it is now clear that I shall
get nothing or next to it for my year's labor, - that at
the price to which it must be kept to get it into our schools
&c. there is no little to be made by it that I cannot
induce a publisher to pay the heavy bills, except
upon terms which swallow up all the proceeds - &
at the very last I may get \$200. if it all
sells - a year or two hence.

Meanwhile I have paid the expenses principally
incurred on the 1st vol. of Illustrated America - which
I can't print & finish till the Manual is out. -
- have run heavily into debt - in respect to those works,

which were more a labor of love for the good of
the science & an honorable ambition - and how
I am going to get through I cannot well see.
I am also responsible for heavy bills for my late
brother,

I should despair greatly if I were not of
a cheerful temperament. To crown all, I expect to
marry in the Spring, but then my wife will aid me in
my heavy correspondence; so you may get letters often.

I wish I could write to you as you wish, all about
Botany &c. - I wish I could aid you as I desire,
but I fear it is impossible. I must have rest
& less anxiety. Two more years like the last would
probably destroy me. If I had an assistant or two, ~~to take~~
to take details off my hands I might stand it; as it is
I cannot.

Carrey spent 3 months with me last
season, and was to study & tickle your Texas Coll. in
my hands - take a rest for his trouble, and Mr. Small
& Mr. S. T. Carey would take what they needed & pay
for them, so that I could pay your book-bill at
Hurd's. But at most Carrey found time to do as to
throw the Coll. into arrear - I presume they still lie,
in the corner! These perhaps they had best;
now till the Coll. of the past season reaches me,
when I will try to study them altogether, along with
Linnaeus's Collections - a set of which still wait for
me to study them. Will you wonder that I am
a little disheartened, when, in spite of every effort, I

make so little progress. — And in 6 weeks I begin to
lecture in college again. — and in April the garden will
require more time than I could give it. Such are
nearly some of the things on my ~~hand~~ hand. — some of
my cares. Still I am interested in you, and in your
collections, will do what I can. Collect, so that
(with the specimens now on hand from you) I can make
sets of 2 or 3 of each species — at least for a good
number (besides a good set for myself), and or at least
3 or 4 or 6. — I shall sometime study & arrange them.
I will eventually dispose of them for your benefit. I
shall try to have Carey come on again from New York
and help me in this & such like matters.

Then if you will continue to send seeds (pretty
largely) also bulbs, Cacti, turtles &c. — now in early
spring. (not root cuttings of some vines) — taking pains that
they are sent in a direct way, so as to come alive
in May, &c. — I will get an appropriation allowed from
the Garden for you. Don't try other live places
till we have better communication with Texas.

We have much money in this already & had to
give it up as to Lindheimer. But seeds & shells
do well. For a microscope, you don't
want a Compound microscope (properly so called)
but (what I use) a French Simple microscope
with doublets. I used to import them for about

\$25. - An optician in Boston has ~~one~~ one but
asks \$35. & I think it has not the higher powers
either. I will see what I can do, but perhaps I
shall not be able to get one for you till summer.
I have not the money to pay for it, & cannot get it
from the Garden in advance.

You know I have for you a small parcel from your
sister. By the end of this month (I hope a little sooner) I
shall have copies of my manual bound. I will then send that
parcel, with a copy of Manual - and a simple microscope
if I think I can get one (at least I will give you a new
hand glass) - ~~for~~ to New Orleans (through Mr. Lowell) to
the same office where I sent the Spanish Dictionary.
I forget where, but will write at the time and tell you
where. As soon as I get the General out I will send that,
in same way.

— Pack bulbs, tuber's roots, in nearly dry leaf-moss,
close - so as not to shake about - or in nearly dry moss -
in a tight box - so that rats do not get in and eat
them.

That Berlinia (B. trifoliata, Moricand) was once sent by
Lindheimer, but died on the way. Perhaps you could send
good root-cuttings.

— The box of 'Cryptogams from Sequim' has not come
If you could send really a copious set of Lichens
& of Musci & Hepaticae. There happens to be the very
things that I could cash immediately for you, through
Tuckerman, & Sullivan. A good collection of Mosses,
Lichens &c. will bring the microscope you wish. But
Tuckerman is not a man to make advances for any one; and as

to Sullivan - he is so generous that I have already laid him
under contributions as fully as I have the face to ask.

In yours of Sept. The 'Composite Plant' is my
Linopsis Texana. The "Gratiola" is *Mimulus Lemeri*
Torr. (which I did not know from Texas. The climbing plant
of *Scrophularia* is *Maurandia antirrhiniflora*.

The other plant is *Kallstroemia maxima*.

I find no specimens in your letter of June 17.

forwarded from
Putnamville
March 1848
Mr. Charles Wright
Putnamville
Texas.
Gray 1848
Gray

Forgive my long neglect: accept my apologies. I'll see if
I can do any better hereafter, when I have a wife to
write letters for me. Yours sincerely. A. Gray.



Gray, Asa. 1848. "Gray, Asa Jan. 17, 1848." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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