

and the 'mending' will probably be my
removal early in 1891 to Gill College,
Somerset, as professor of Exp. & Biological
science. The plan of the Institution (founded
by an old ^{close} corresp. of Sir W. J. Hooker,) will
give at least fair leisure for working,
and throw some Botanical study into the College
time. I trust you, dear Dr. Gray, and
your kind corresp. will not set me
down as all "take" & little "give", until
I get fair play, and am freed from my
present Egyptian bondage.

In return for Mr Hall's ^{best} very fine set of 650 sps.
for wh. he has received only a very small re-
turn I am now packing a set of 450.

Also there goes with them a precisely similar
set (450) for Mr Canby, who ^{beside your kind information} wrote me announcing
his intention to send some plants. For Mr Hall
there are a few seeds, and a few for your own garden.
The mesembryanthemums are mixed! My corresp.
in the Karroo, a good natured Dutchman, could

about garden. The most criticism of
gardeners, I have found, is "anxious"
a choice built with under such circumstances.
Mr. Holland has just advised me of
the receipt of your kind note for "Cath-
arine" and it will find its way further
on long, I have no doubt. Let me
most cordially thank you for your con-
tinuous kindness. I cannot but regret
that the grinding necessities of my
College duties makes me this year a poor
correspondent. I've thought a careful
review of my leaves, early and late, I
see with dismay my other collection meeting
far away and very little coming in to
supply the vacuum. The botanical Sabbath,
my free Saturday, comes now only once
in a month or so, even though I make
15 hours daily work to secure it. However,
when things are as they were, they need-

not be ~~made~~ to understand why each one
should be separate, and brought in his quota
in most admired confusion. You will be
able to pick them out however as they
rise.

If you will let Messrs Hall & Canby have the
backages entire, I shall know better how I
stand with them. Expecting a large parcel of
plants from the Graaf Reinet Karroo, the Voor-
Sneenberg and beyond, I have elected to defer
sending a select parcel for your acceptance till
later in the season, and guarantee that everything
at all valuable shall be well represented therein.
^{in Messrs H. & C's parcels,}
The magnificent *Protea cynaroides* is just flowering, hundreds
together on our mt. slopes. Pray try & get it to grow from
the seeds enclosed. ^{in a box now packing.} The rootlets are not unlike those of
Azalea & the like, — impatient of drenching & ruined
by a single drought. *P. verifolia* here is a dwarf
tree 5-15 ft high, flowers white, pinky, or purplish. Al-
together most elegant. Among the luckless succu-
lent envoi was *Mesemb. coccineum*, wh. I hope may
survive: if not it must be sent again. Today a circu-
lar bed of it, 1 yard diameter, is in full bloom, an in-
describable mass of sun-lit ruby. It is a Capetown
sp. & does not seed here, (fr want of some insect-help?)
or I would save & send seed.



MacOwan, Peter. 1868. "MacOwan, Peter Sept. 12, 1868." *Asa Gray correspondence. Senders McA-Ma*

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