

Phil<sup>ca</sup> April 7<sup>th</sup> 1841

Dear Sir

I am much obliged to you for forwarding Mr. Cass's letter & the draft on Croton form. I would remark, that Mr. Gray assured me one of the species I had collected in California was the plant intended by Decandolle in his prodrum, otherwise (in the absence of a specimen) I should greatly doubt their identity. I had made the remark concerning this plant (of wh. I had been obliged to form a distinct genus) that it appeared wholly to agree in habit & nearly in character with Croton gigas, but that the receptacle was certainly without paleae. May there not still be a species of this genus, with a palmaceous receptacle as described by Decandolle and compared by Endlicher?

The specimen you called Cosmopolitanum I found arranged among the Croton gigas (when Hooker had placed it.) in the Acad. Herb<sup>m</sup> - you did not there mention it as a section of Cosmos.

It is not now worth the while to enter into any explanation about the names I had given, as wh. you have certainly not adopted, or else I might ask you what had become of Unicarpus, wh. I had described on the spot in Oregon, as wh. Hooker has signed as a Heuchera, for this genus you have given another name.

Pickenis and myself assured you that the Umbelliferous plant of N. Cal. that you had taken to be Pseudanemum tenatum was not one plant but a distinct genus. We put down the old name says serpens another, but what did you do with Lipostichum ... from California made without a word the genus Devegia. what was done with my section Trichomenes of Plinthia. (nothing but a section (tho) transferred to Gasophytum with wh. by the bye I don't believe they ~~agree~~ agree. there ~~another~~<sup>a</sup> found genus of this family. Taraxacum (I quote from memory). is left with Plinthia, but I shall quote no more ridiculous examples of wh. there are plenty more, but let the thing remain as he proposed!

I was, I had thought, in consideration of what I had done, not in the closet but in the field, entitled to expect the same privilege of consulting your Dr. Young herb<sup>m</sup>. That you have of consulting the Herb. of the Academy, as it is now determined, I find, that I

shall be obliged to make in the dark, as somebody will then come after a  
list of my unexcusable errors & mistakes as a beacon or at least to establish  
something of a record.

In including many of my manuscript names (given in great haste  
in the rehearsal of the sketching) I certainly have no occasion to thank you  
in regard to the names of things recently introduced into that collection from the west.  
They cannot be taken at all as the names I shall ultimately employ  
& therefore the mistake of them is to me an essential injury, as it tends  
to create confusion & error.

Yours, respectfully

J. Nuttall



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