

Ans^d Febr 8th.

Eleon^a Esq^r Jan 24th 1846.

To Mrs May

Cambridge.

Dear Sir!

After many delays and after having experienced various troubles with my work I am now able to forward to you the Impressions desired, and fifty plates besides. One sample, inclosed with the Originals, I intended for you. You will find so plates and paper glued, and 150 on paper unglued. The work is not done to my satisfaction and I hope things will be done better in future. Will you therefore have some forbearance and not charge the bad work intirely to me. Mr. Hall and Mooney have undoubtedly done to the best in their power, yet, they have not Experience enough in this kind of printing, and their printer does not take pains enough in his laying on the paint; Which is the cause of having so many Impressions come off so pale. I have been myself in Buffalo and tried to assist them, but since I only understand that kind of work in Theory, and not in practice I could not alter things to my Views. I hope however for the better, and think after a little more exercise in such work, all will turn out nice and good. — With the Gaylardia I experienced much trouble. Mr. Endicott did send me none but white Stones which are badly calculated for such work. After receiving back the impression, I tried to correct the Engraving, and as usually in mending such work, the Lines became too deep, which obliged me to go over ~~again~~ the whole ^{again} and to whet out intirely all the corrected leaves, and to make them new. Now after having done so, I expected all was well, but the impressions came off bad after all. Now I knew no better way than to whet out the whole plant, and to engrave it again. So I did, and thought all was well now, but I was mistaken a second time, ~~for the~~ Impressions did not appear as I thought they would. This brought confusion over me and in the haste of doing my work I misplaced the names of Mollis & Caroliniana, and now I had to alter these, what you very probably will notice. In Short, Dear Sir, I suffered a great deal on

account of seeing that I was unable to do Things Well for you. —

Another bad circumstance is, that the Stones are a little too small which occasions the misplacing of the numbers too near the Edge of those Sheets which are $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch too small. This is also the reason of having the two black tablets for the coloured Collection of the *Sullivantia* and *Scioinitia* printed on paper glued.

And now in concluding my letter I would ask of you the kindness, to send me a description of the colours of the *Sullivantia*, because I should like to paint One or Two Tablets of it for you and Mr. Sullivant. I received already 3 Tablets and expect to receive four more by the end of this month, all of which must be done by March next. If the colouring of the Tablets should not be altogether correct I wish you would let me know it specifically in order to avoid incorrectness in future.

I hope that you will forbear where Things are for this Time not as they ought to be, I remain

Dear Sir!

Your Most Obedt Servt
Jos. Prestely

To Asa Gray Esq. & Cambridge



Prestele, Joseph. 1846. "Prestele, Joseph Jan. 24, 1846." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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