

Mt Vernon. foot of Rocky Mts
July 14th 1862

My Dear Dr Gray

I was much pleased on reaching
Denver to receive your kind letter of 24th ult^e. Since
last writing you I have been over considerable ground
and made the ascent of Pikes Peak. elevation according
to my barometer 13415 ft above the sea. I am proposing
if time allows to draw up a notice of this trip alluding
to the general botanical features &c in a letter addressed
to Dr Dorr. to be published if thought advisable.
Among the plants not found by me last season, is the
enclosed No 1. also the neat Heuchera? (red flowered.)

sent to Dr Engelm. under the name H. glandulosa. I found
sparingly Primula (nivalis?) also Sedum rhodanthum... and
a more dwarfed form of Claytonia. meg.? Probably
confirming your views as to its being a var. of laevis.
What is the enclosed Thlaspi? from the very summit
of the peak growing with Claytonia meg.? Quite a no.
of alpine plants usually met with. I did not find one
Pikes Peak. — There is no doubt now that the pine
collected by me last year and recognized by Engelm as the
P. flexilis. is the regional sp. P. aristata grows there
also but is much more rare & mostly confined to
the higher points of tree growth. Our ascent was made July 11th

I could not see anything of Chamaephila — on Pikes Peak — (over Easy)

took 2 days for it - pretty hard climbing, at that &
we slept the 1st night at the highest limits of tree growth
height of camp 11400 ft above sea.

I fear we shall not be able to do much in collection
of pine seeds except perhaps *A. Douglasii* and *A. Menziesii*
as they ripen so late. The last *A. Menziesii* is also a
very fine tree & much quicker growth than *A. Douglasii*.
We can get plenty of seed of *Pinus contorta* (wrongly referred
by me to *P. Banksiana* last season) from 2nd year cones
which now are closed till 5th year. It is also a much
sightly tree. In autumn letter I will send some fruit
of *Astragalus Purpureus*.

Hall's health is improved, but he is not able to do
much climbing - A serious disagreement has taken
place between us on the policy in making our collections.
Hall has been from the 1st intent upon making a
large bulky collection including the most common
plants collecting as high as 40 to 200 specimens, with
the idea of making survey. Collecting in this wholesale
way, he does not take much pains to make most good sized
specimens, in order to complete the drying as soon as
possible he puts his plants into hot, sun-dried paper
thus making specimens crisp & brittle. I have
objected to him & again to all these things, but it is
no use as he is very self opinionated & conceited.

The consequence has been a very disagreeable feeling
between us so much so that I have been several
times on the point of separating - They object that
I do not do my share of the work in collecting, which
of course I am not willing to do in getting together
a mass of unsalable stuff. Hall quotes your words
to him "to collect every thing in the Mts." to include
the most common plants that grow wherever water runs
& the sun shines - proper enough if he would collect
only a few. 5 or 6 instead of 30 & 40 - Now we are
wasting time on the low ground when we should be
on the higher summits - The consequence of all
is that the collection will fall far below my expectations,
both in value of species and quality of specimens,
of course diminishing their salability, and scientific
value. I mention these facts not wishing to
prejudice your mind but in justice to myself. I
shall continue to do the best I can, but the
matter will probably be referred to your parliament
in settling what plants will do to go into the sets
for sale. I shall be in favor of reducing them
materially as an act of justice to subscribers.
By the way shall we have to make distinct sets for
my old subscribers to include only the plants new
on this seasons collection?

We are now on our way to my old location at
the head of Clear Cr. I hope to be able to get over
some distance ~~into~~ middle Park. There is a surveying
party now exploring passes for a Pacific R.R. route which
I shall very likely join at least in making excursions
to different points. I have a letter to the Surveyor
General in charge, who I have no doubt will be glad of
my cooperation in making botanical observations.
As I suggested to be Tarry. I think it would be
very desirable for me to get some situation out
here in the Genl Land Office where I could accompany
surveying parties to different points - There is a large
scope of most interesting country. South & West of
this which I would like to explore, but in justice to
my family, and slender pecuniary means, I must be in
a position to earn something over and above expenses
for my labor & privations. I have made acquaintance
of most of the Territorial officials including the
Governor, and I think made a good impression. If
some of my Eastern friends would do something for
me in this matter I think a satisfactory position
might be got. - I must close this letter more of a
personal than botanical nature

Yours truly

C. C. Parry



Parry, C. C. 1862. "Parry, C. C. July 14, 1862." *Charles Christopher Parry letters to Asa Gray*

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