



Washington, D.C. Sept^r 27th 1871

My Dear Sir Gray

I am obliged for your kindly interest and advice. I do not like to write complaining letters, but my position here is next to intolerable. You would hardly believe the indignities and insults I am subjected to daily by the conceited and impudent Chief Clerk. Yesterday I was denied personal access to the Commissioner after applying no less than 5 times, and stating that I desired to confer with him on urgent business connected with my duties. all my botanical correspondence is critically inspected and in case

you must have received before this, committing the Commissioner himself to its reception on your recommendations. I have no means of knowing ^{whether} my draft of the letter to you was exactly followed, but I tried to make it as strong as possible. Should you have occasion to answer you might intimate briefly your interest in my retaining my position here.

It is very distasteful to me to make such a parade of my private annoyances, but knowing your private interest in my personal welfare I must needs claim your sympathy. In case of my early resignation I am thinking of spending the winter in northern Georgia, to be ready for a clear season next year in the South Allegany. Yours truly C. C. Peck

of my slips in orthography. It is
paraded before the subordinates of
the Department as an evidence of
my incapacity - As a proof of
his ignorance I have in my possession
a copy of a letter sent by him to
the Entomological Socy. as a sample
for conducting his correspondence using
the term "decem, tenlineata". He is
also the responsible editor of a wool
"yarn" of which I enclose you the
slip taken from our monthly Report.
As I have no reason to doubt that
the Commissioner will stand by his
Chief Clerk, I see no other course
for me but to resign my position
and make the reason for so doing
public - but in justice to the

Scientific interests involved I
shall try to stick till I can consult
with Prof Hensy. I think it likely
that all your letters to me under
official frank will now be inspected
by this interfering official. I have
lately received positive orders not
to send any parcels by mail without
the Commissioner or Chief Clerk
has satisfactory evidence that they
contain no private matters!
I have endeavored to guard Mr Wright's
interests in the matter of the Report
by mentioning the matter some time
ago to the Editor of the Report, but
in view of your suggestion I have
been obliged to make the matter more secure
by sending the official letter which



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