

Concordia Cloud Co. Kansas

April 20th 1873

My Dear Mr Gray

Your letter of 8th inst 2ce forwarded reached me here. I wrote you just before leaving Davenport so that our letters crossed. I expect now to finish my examinations next week and return to Davenport via St Louis by May 6th.

I was not altogether surprised at the information in your letter that I might be called to the curatorship of the Torrey Herb. but my sense of personal loss is too keen to cause any feeling of exultation. — indeed I should shrink from the responsibility of occupying a position that has been so long filled by one whom we all delight to honor. Under these circumstances I could do nothing personally, nor is it needed in view of your exceedingly friendly and almost too strong recommendation. I have no direct knowledge that Mr Torrey had any such intentions towards me but I know that to the last he was full of the kindest

wishes, and some of his allusions seemed to point
in this direction. If under all these circumstances
it should be decided to fill the position by another
occupant, it will be a sufficient indication to
me that it is not best that I should occupy it.
If it is definitely offered under circumstances that
I can conscientiously accept, I shall have every
possible inducement to exert myself to the utmost
to fulfil its responsible duties satisfactorily.
So I am very willing to leave the matter.

When on my way out I spent part of a day
with Dr Engelman. He was just finishing the
proofs of his Yucca paper. He had just received
a letter from you in Washington. He showed me
specimens of Portia, Clematis, Sedotina, which
I recognized at once as C. Bigelovii Torr. of which
Palmer got nice specimens in 1870. I also saw
specimens of Porterella Torr. which seems hardly
sufficiently distinct from Libellula. There is also
an error in giving the specific name as Dr Engelman
ascertained on referring to original description in
Hook & Arn. not carinulosa, but carinosa?
as I distinctly remember. I shall of course find

the plant on the shores of Yellowstone Lake, and will
then see how it seems to differ from Libellula
in its fresh growing state.

Before leaving here I shall try to put you
up a small mail parcel of Knemone decapetala,
and a yellow flowered Humulifera now just coming
out. The latter I hope will reach you fresh enough
to perfect its fruit. It will be nice for early
flowering on rock work.

Last Monday's storm (which I just escaped)
was fearful through this section of country. Snow
still lying in drifts. Some deer lost & many
cattle perished by freezing now it is quite
pleasant and looks like settled Spring weather.
I may stumble on Leucocoryne before I go
home. at least will collect it later on my way
to Salt Lake. Dr Engelman brother lately from
Salt Lake said "the hills were covered with
Lilium pudicicum. The earliest spring flower"
Should not that be got for cultivation? I shall
try to get off on my Yellowstone trip from Denver
by May 25th will walk again soon

Very truly yours

C. C. Parry.



Parry, C. C. 1873. "Parry, C. C. Apr. 20, 1873." *Charles Christopher Parry letters to Asa Gray*

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