

Rancho Chico Cal^e July 19th 1883

Dear Dr Gray

Not a mere "congratulation" but a real ovation showering down upon your silvered head, should commemorate such a life-work accomplished, will may you take a long deep drawn inspiration. It seems but yesterday since as a medical student in N.Y. I first secured a copy of N.A. Flora Vol II, but what an interval of hard work and rich discovery has been crowded within those past years 1842-1883!! and how hopeful for the future.

Well I must now tell you in brief why I am still here. Accepting an invitation of Genl & Mrs Bidwell to accompany them on a short mountain trip the 2^d day out I was stricken down with a malarial fever probably the climax of previous exposures. I managed to keep up long enough to be brought down here by easy stages where I met Mrs Barry. Since then with every attention that the most generous hospitality and good nursing could give. I am now fairly on the mend and hope by next week to be able to return to San Francisco but of course with reduced strength and energy, so that after the hot season I shall arrange to return to Iowa.

July 19 '82

Now in my convalescence comes your cheerful letter of 9th inst to which I must reply in brief.

The little plant I took for Elatine? was collected by me June 19th at Aptos a small watering place 12 miles from Santa Cruz. It was growing plentifully on the damp margins of a pond, associated with Ludwigia &c. a small purplish blotch on the soil, with it was growing the Elatine which I took to be stolon plants of the same! I noticed particularly on examination under the lens the fringed stipules and the 4 stamens in which it seemed to disagree with Elatine. So I marked it E. brachysperma?

Now you are so quick to jump at kind suggestions and associate it with our good friend Anderson, in whose region it grows and whom I had met frequently.

So let it be as you suggest a "feather in his cap" being a microscopic botanist he will not object to be commemorated by such a minute plant. And as the locality is well marked and not likely to be disturbed I will put him on the track to collect for himself. I shall make it a point to go down there as soon as well enough and secure full specimens. I must have 12 or more from 1st collection.

July 19'83

I should indeed be pleased to have my name (at least one) joined with yours in the description, to compliment a mutual friend. So please use your discretion in the matter.

You are still very kindly remembered here, but you can have no realization as I have, of the large hearted generosity that characterizes this Christian home. It is a matter of constant wonder with me how it should be maintained under all circumstances and with not a single draw back - We are here in the height of the fruit season and your nephew is kept very busy, he seems to be very much prized and trusted by the general being, general overseer of the fruit department. Perhaps I may be violating confidence in telling you that there is likely to be soon a matrimonial attraction!

Will not weary you & myself longer at present. Mrs Parry joins in kindest regards to yourself & Mrs Parry very truly ever

C. C. Parry



Parry, C. C. 1883. "Parry, C. C. July 19, 1883." *Charles Christopher Parry letters to Asa Gray*

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