

Davenport, Iowa Oct 17th/83

Dear Dr Gray you have naturally
got a wrong impression in regard
to the status of my herbarium.

It was Mr Putnam who helped on
the matter by representing that it
was unconditionally donated to the
Academy, here, whereas in fact
it was only temporarily deposited
and has since my return from
Mexico in 1878, been withdrawn
and wholly in my possession.

I found it was not possible to
get working conveniences, and so
put up a building on purpose for
it on my own ground, Since then
there has been no inducement
to go back & no one interested in
botanical work, and no prospect
of any permanent development of
botanical interest.

In this state of the case, I have
given up any idea of a permanent
location here, and had some idea
that something might have been
done to locate it in California at
the State University, but did not
see any way to bring this about.
Latterly I have been in some
negotiations with the Iowa State
University & Agr College, to transfer
to them the entire collection & books
This is still formally entertained
but no definite proposition on either
side - but under the circumstances,
I do not want to load up my
collection with more material, that
will involve extra work and trouble
which I must take single handed.
This is the present state of the case
or you will understand why I do not
fall in with your kind suggestions.

Of course I shall be glad to
send to Kew whatever I have
that may be desirable, without
any return. The only hindrance
being the necessary work in selecting
and determining.

In any event there is at least
a years solid work necessary to
put things in order, either to
transfer or keep as it is.

So there is no call for haste
going now regularly through the
collection. before taking up specialities
many points are constantly coming
up so that I am likely to trouble
you occasionally.

Just now I have been going
over Manandella, of which I have
very full material. I enclose
a specimen from C.R. Orcutt, of
San Diego which seems to space
your M. tenuifolia having the foliage
& habit of M. nana & fl. of the former.

I am also doubtful of M. Ponigles
which comes from the district
where M. undulata is common, and
which Parula & I have often collected
under the latter name.

Last June in Tehachipe I made
large collection of M. lanceolata for
being induced to do so by observing
an unmarked character. viz.
the lobes of the corolla being constantly
tipped with a knob also occasionally
pretily spotted. otherwise it agrees with
your character.

The only species I do not know
is M. Breweri.

But this is enough for once!
I hope to hear from Engelmann
at home, and will probably see
him during the winter - You should
go to San Diego & Lower California
yourself this winter!

Yours truly C. C. Parry



Parry, C. C. 1883. "Parry, C. C. Oct. 17, 1883." *Charles Christopher Parry letters to Asa Gray*

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