

Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences.



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Davenport, Iowa, April 2^d 1884

Dear Dr Gray

I have just returned from a week at St Louis with George Englemann. He looks over his father's notes & collection re. and consults in regard to their disposal. Everything was just as he left it: and I had to gather up the loose notes & specimens scattered over his table - and put them together as near as I could. marking each parcel to be packed away till the final disposal is decided. It seems that the Dr left no definite directions. and we can only judge of his wishes in a general way. He had intended in case the Acad of Science should have been in a proper condition to receive them to leave a fund of \$8000. = for their maintenance & preservation in an old cancelled will. but since then the fund from which this was to have been taken has been lost by an unsecured failure. George wishes as far as practicable to carry out his father's wishes. (over)

but as far as I can see. There is not even a
remote possibility of doing anything satisfactory in reference
to the St Louis Acad of Science. which has neither a place
of deposit. available means. or even interest in this
matter. So far in regard to the Washington University which
is in a cramped locality. devoted only to advancing college
instruction. with no one to take an interest in preserving or
taking care of the collection - So as far as St Louis
is concerned. Shaw's Garden affords the only available
resource. and on many accounts I am inclined to think
favorably of it. We called on Mr Shaw while there and had
a free conversation on the subject. which Mr Shaw
seemed to think favorably of. He invited me confidentially
into his private room and made a full statement of his
plans (which was in writing.) and allowed me to take
notes. inviting my criticisms. and especially requesting
that I would consult with you on the subject. It is his
intention to leave all his property to maintain the garden
& its accessories. leaving Kew as his model. The available
^{annual} income will be at present about \$40,000. = it is to be
managed by a board of Trustees appointed by him. (15 I think)
who elect from their number an Executive Com^{tee} of 5
to conduct the business. They elect a general curator or
Superintendent. who has the appointment of subordinates - &c &c
The special point of interest to us as botanists is the
Botanical Curator. who is designated in 1st rank to the
Curator. to have charge of herbarium. botanical investigations
naming of plants. &c &c (also to act as secretary) to have
a salary of \$1500. and use of a house. Now my idea
in regard to this official is that. while in a general way
subordinate to the Superintendent he should be in his special
department. independent. and appointed on the recommendation
of some of the leading botanists of the country

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his duties clearly defined, and to be exempt from duties as Secretary as well as to be allowed an assistant to work under his direction, especially in the more mechanical routine. I think some such plan will also meet your views, and as Mr Shaw himself intimated he would be greatly influenced by your advice in the matter. He needs in the first place to be convinced of the importance of having such a permanent official to give character to the establishment and make it scientifically useful or attractive to botanists. he has been heretofore disappointed that the herbarium and botanical library have not been visited & consulted, and he should be convinced that the location of the Engelmann herbarium under proper supervision will have the desired effect of attracting botanical visitors. The present herbarium is not of special interest, but there is already the nucleus of a good botanical library. That by the addition of Dr. E. will be at once valuable & by a few additions unusually so. (over)

Now the funds are ample for all such purposes. and there is already a suitable building on the grounds that could be devoted to this object. or if necessary a distinct building can be erected. and if a liberal policy were adopted the position would be in many respects attractive. Mr Shaw now nearly 84 years old. though in good preservation cannot in the ordinary course of things live long. and I think it would be desirable that such an arrangement should be as far as practicable inaugurated by him. or at least that he should be so influenced as to give definite instructions. that cannot be seriously interfered by subsequent authority. It is of course important that the feul Luft should be a man of enlarged views & executive ability - and I think the salary proposed of \$2000. & use of furnished house is not sufficient to secure the best talent.

Now in regard to personal views which I would like you to regard as confidential, without wishing to appear as a place seeker. I think under proper conditions something as above specified I would be willing for a few years at least to assume the duties of botanical curator. having special reference in the first place to putting the Engel Habarium in good shape for use & reference. It seems that from my long & intimate acquaintance with Dr E. that I am really the proper man to undertake this important work. and I am satisfied that it would coincide with fenger's views. and I think with you. I do not think that under any circumstances fenger should be called on to contribute to the maintenance fund. It is enough that he gives the collections. and I have so advised him. now I should like to know just what you think. and what you can do in the matter of advice to Mr Shaw & fenger & so on.

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be made available for publication.

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3.
Not to prolong this matter at present I would simply state my present intention is to go to Europe this season. to be gone probably a year. In the mean time I have advised George to have the collections notes & sketches safely packed away. So that when the final disposal is determined. they can be moved to their destination with less risk of confusion. It seems to me this is all that can be done at present as there are no conveniences for packing glassy &c &c. I might state that there is now on hand a large supply of glass & herb paper probably sufficient for the general collection by excluding duplicates. It is probable that many of the older specimens are much injured by insects & dust. So that the work of final arrangement & selection will be a much serious one. The notes & sketches are generally in good shape and some of the later paper might

Now the above is my present view of the case as
derived from personal examination and a sincere desire
to do justice to a most useful & worthy character. viz:
1st If the collection is to stay in St Louis. Shaw's garden
is the only available place

2^d If such satisfactory arrangements cannot be made. It
should go to Cambridge, possibly to be divided among
several institutions including Berlin —

I saw of course your letter & fluge and read parts
of them to Mr Shaw especially that referring to the
garden. I would only suggest that whatever recommending
you may make to Mr Shaw, a copy should be retained
If Mayhew best you might strengthen your recommendation
by its endorsement by leading botanists. Hooker & C & c etc
but I have said enough for the present. I
am now expecting to go East. by May & perhaps
to sail for Europe in June. I have been much
troubled by a delay in printing my Chorizanthe paper
which has been in the printers hands half finished
over a month. I could only send you the 1st sheets
which may elicit your criticisms but I feel
quite sure of the ground I have taken
Hope the Campanula is getting along & we
shall soon see it in print

Yours truly C.C. Parry



Parry, C. C. 1884. "Parry, C. C. Apr. 2, 1884." *Charles Christopher Parry letters to Asa Gray*

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