

329 O'Farrell St. San Francisco Cal.
March 2^d 1887

Dear Dr Gray

I have heard of
you occasionally through Mr Greene
but not from you directly for a long
time. Our winter has passed
quietly and uneventfully mostly
in town with occasional short trips
into the country. I do a little skirmishing
in the Acady Herb. but it is not
a pleasant place to work, and though
there is much to see and plenty to
do, it is not satisfactory.

One of the best things (by following up
a clue given by Mrs Curran in a
leaf specimen) is the bringing out of
a very distinct n. sp. Arctostaphylos
which is now in print in Greene's
paper "Pitonia" as A. myrtifolia Gray.
I enclose a fair specimen with
growing fruit, which will show you

I see considerable of Greene who keeps
busy at San & SF making some
of which seem well taken. You will
see his "Pitonia" which is his latest
break, and likely to provoke trouble
at the Acady. by drawing off from
the Bulletin. The fact is he does
not like Mrs C. and the new
administration and being now in
an independent position at University
is withdrawing from Acady —

I expect to see Senator Stanford on
his return to Cal. I have ventured
to advise him to consult with you in
reference to Bot Dept when conferring
with Mr Walker. Please address as above
for the present or Cal. Acady

Yours Truly

C. C. Parry

its characters, closely allied to
A. nummularia, but very distinct
not only in its foliage and floral features
but also its geographical range in the
interior away from the Coast. I
shall go again later to the locality to
secure the fruit.

Another matter I have taken up
is Alnus which I have frequently
collected but never carefully examined.
The conclusion to which I have come
is that the Common Alder of the
interior country including South² Cal²
and New Mexico is a single and
not very variable sp. to be included
under A. rhombifolia Nutt. what however
is most surprising, is an obvious
character of the male catkins.
heretofore overlooked, and peculiar to
this species viz. that the perianths

of the usual number 3, with more or
less unequal segments have quite
constantly 2 stamens on long
exsert filaments. These rarely
in 3, or sometimes reduced to 1
so that the generic character
will need to be modified. In
stamens 1-4, filaments short or
exsert.

Another peculiarity is its
unusual early flowering, starting
almost before the leaves fall and
being perfect and effete before
the new buds swell, quite passed
even the present backward season
by 1st Feb. as far north as Chico
while Alnus rubra when last seen
2 weeks ago; had not yet loosed
its scales while the leaf buds
were pushing. I read a short paper
on this at next Acady meeting



Parry, C. C. 1887. "Parry, C. C. Mar. 2, 1887." *Charles Christopher Parry letters to Asa Gray*

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