

Oct. 18th (81)

Dear Bowley Kent

My dear Gray
I have not indulged myself for some little time
in writing to you, though I have to thank you
for two very pleasant notes, & for some
pages of *Silliman* with several notices
which I was glad to see. *Sylthrum*
salicaria is coming out so clear (though the
seed not counted) the I do not care
much for the species; but I shall be
very glad of seed of *Nesaea*. My geese
are always at first swans; but I cannot
help going on marvelling at *Sylthrum*.
It is a consolation to me for I am
utterly misled, beaten, "shipped" of these
odious *Melastomata*; yet I feel sure there
is something very curious to be made
out about them. On getting your

last note, I looked at Rothrock's observations
on Humantia; they are copied in the
structure; but when I began to think
how I could put the case for
further them, I failed; for the observation
are not sufficient about ^{fertilization} ~~reciprocity~~,
it would be a pity to spoil a good
case; I will do a few experiments, if
my seed will grow, I will make
a paper & give all his facts.

Now that we are at home again, I
have begun doing steady work on
"Variation under Domestication"; but alas
& alas following over plants is much
better sport. - By the way at Bonnycastle,
for the want of something else to
do, I worked a bit at my old

friend Insect: I took to testing all sorts of
fluids, which are not cornice & so on
I believe, act on ordinary organic
compounds, but do act on the nervous
system of animals; & I declare I
am coming to the conclusion that plants
are coming to the conclusion that plants
or at least Insect, must have something
close analogous to nervous matter. It
was pretty to see effect of acetate of
strychnine, how it stopped all movement
has acetate of morphine greatly excited
& started movement. I think I shall
pursue this subject.

Some day perhaps this subject will
interest me, but little fruit has interested me,
in finding such a number of natural
hybrids between two species of *Verbascum*;
& linking *V. theophrasti* & *lychnitis*
close together. They are all sitting there.

This fact has given Harker, I think

told it, a fit of the horrors.

So we are all come to you

next summer! Alas my days for

moving anywhere are come to an

end. May thanks for sending the

article in Daily News, which we

read aloud in family conference.

Our verdict was, that the N. was fully

justified in going to war with the S. & that

the war as it was plain the Union

was no majority in the S. for Re-Union,

you ought, after your victories in Kentucky &

therefore, to have made peace &

agreed to a divorce. How curious it

is that you all seem to believe

that you can annex the South; whilst

on the side of the Abolition, it is the

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almost

universal opinion that this is
utterly impossible. If I could believe
that your President's proclamation would
have any effect, it would make a
great attention in my wishes; I would
then run the risk of your seizing
on Canada (I wish with all my
heart it was an independent country)
& declaring war against us. But
slavery seems to me to grow a more
hopeless curse. How detestable the
official correspondent of the Times
writes on the subject! The man has
not a shade of feeling against slavery.
This war of yours, however it may end,
is a fearful evil to the whole world;

did not expect with, I must think,
be felt for years. - I can see
already it has produced wide
spread feeling in form of
agitancy & insurrection: no one
in England with speak for years
in form of the people governing
themselves. Well good night. -
Do not be indignant with me
& do not let Mr. Gray be
more indignant than he can

help. - good night & farewell

Do you chance know
anything of Mr. Fitz of
N. York who sent in
1846 a bundle of ears
of wild Maize & says
he cultivated it & saw

Yours cordially
Hort. Soc. June 1847
Darwin

Brach. decussata. Deland. Ind. Ind. Is he true with it Mr. Fitz?



Darwin, Charles. 1862. "Darwin, Charles Oct. 16, 1862." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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