

Berkeley, Jan 5, 1886.

Dear Dr. Gray. -

Your letter with the stamps has come. I blame no one but myself about the cost; and that was nothing much more than I might have expected, save that - the box was made of too heavy, perfectly green and wet pine boards; so that the whole weight was fifty pounds. It was only the pitiable scraps instead of desirable specimens which made me feel the cost. I discovered, accidentally, some weeks since, that my impression that you were following B. & H. in that matter of authors of genera, had been very incorrect: so your words to me only

intensify the feeling of humiliation
which I had already been suffering
on account of my too hastily
appended note. But I deserve
it all.

I have a habit of
thinking of you (and so have
others) as the authority that
is speaking always, in both
volumes of the Brit. Pal. I
knew this is unwarranted,
therefore I accuse myself, for
having read the "Myosurus, Linn"
to your credit (or debit).

Rest assured that this blunder
will teach me to be more careful
what I say. I do not, however,
believe anything will teach me
to reverence a certain British
trait which expresses itself so
strongly in the Genere Phidatium,
or to be tolerant of it.
It was bad enough for the

Jan 5, '86

brilliant, sprightly and highly
gifted Swede to go on so
recklessly ignoring, as he often
did (whether he meant it or not)
his predecessors and contemporaries,
some of whom appear to have
been, in some points, his betters;
but I feel confident these men,
in order to save themselves trouble,
have done more deliberate and
unpardonable injustice to great
names, than Linnaeus ever meant
to do.

Surely, my judgment would be
that, ante-Linnaean generic
names ought all to be restored
to their proper authors. But,
altho' I know nothing at all of
what may have been thought or
said upon this point, I can
imagine difficulties almost-
insurmountable in the way of

such a consummation.

I shall hope you will tolerate
my Rumicaria. I am unable
to comprehend how you could
allow in Rumicaria, a plant
whose fruit you admit (if I mis-
take not) to be not an apocarp
but an entriche. I write this
without having your original
account of the plant near me.

Wishing you health and peace
for the New Year, I am

As Ever Yours

L. L. Green.



Greene, Edward Lee. 1886. "Greene, Edward L. Jan. 5, 1886." *Edward Lee Greene letters to Asa Gray*

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