J. G. LEMMON,

BOTANIST,

AND SPECIAL AGENT CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY.

Oakland, Cal. Mar. 28 1885

Sereno Watson,

My dear Sir,

Just from very lonesomeness and sorrow I write to get a line from old Harvard again.

Of course we do not now expect quick returns from specimens sent as formerly when good Dr. Gray was at his desk. Also.

The editor of the Pacific Rural sent over to ask me for an obituary notice of the dear Dr. and I furnished it accordingly but in setting up the matter the sub-editor put the engraving of a big mooly bull in the middle of my article. ~~which~~ and of course I could not send a copy of it to dear Mrs Gray.

I write this to assure you that we

are not totally deprived over here, that some of us declared and published the gratitude and sorrow we felt.

I believe the Cal. Acad. published their formal paper — but did not see it.

The new regime is managed it seems solely by Mrs Curran, who is a keen, designing, intriguing woman — so they say. We go in and out but are not on good terms with them.

Lately Dr. Parry was invited to pack up his materials and dissecting tools & vacate, and just now Prof. Greene has had a quarrel and gone out.

Really this last move surprised us most of all. Now they have not a botanist left, — and but few others.

The future of our Acad. is dark, but we hope the old managers of Prof. Davidson and Harford will not be restored.

A new board must be found, with better abilities and methods than either.

I'll take another sheet and continue this informal chat.

28 Mar 1888

As you see by the letter head I have been appointed to assist in our forest studies. Mrs L. is to paint specimens of each species with water colors. We take the Pine for this season.

We are full of enthusiasm over the work but Alas! ill health may destroy all our hopes.

Mrs. L. has been suffering for several weeks with irritation of the entire alimentary canal and now is quite prostrated, with inflamed throat and pains in every part of the tract.

We are employing the best medical skill attainable, and may recover,

My wife's resolution does not fail, in fact her determination is too strong for it keeps her from taking needed rest and recuperation.

Well, the time is ripe now for studying the flowers of June but we cannot leave the herbarium.

When a change occurs I will write you, and I hope I may write of recovery & renewed labor.

I enclose a later republished copy of my article which Mrs Gray may wish to have.

With continued regards from us both,

Yours. J. G. Lemmon.

Lemmon, J. G. 1888. "Lemmon, John G. Mar. 28, 1888 [to S. Watson]." *John Gill Lemmon letters to Asa Gray*

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