

Society Hill, S. Car.

My Dear Sir

Yours of June 8th has been long on hand, but as I had nothing to note, have delayed writing.

I am now, however, disposed to enquire, what has become of Capt. Wilkes' parcel that was to be sent to me so fast? I hear nothing of it. Can you inform me why? — There is no need of any haste in the matter — only if the packet has really been sent & miscarried, it is time to be looking after it. As far as I am concerned, it is of no consequence if it does not reach Charleston before the last of September.

So as you list with *Ptelea mollis* — it may go to graft for what I care. I have got quite above such low subjects. Nevertheless, I should like to hear what you have to say about *Quercus Georgiana*, when you see it, merely as a matter of small curiosity, you know.

That *Epistola Friesiana* has not yet been returned to me. I do not know what is the matter with Bachman. He has been in indifferent health for many years, but I hoped his new wife would give new life to him. Should the thing come to hand again, without solution, perhaps I shall enclose it to you.

When I was in Charleston last winter, I begged the Rev. C. Wallace

to notice the Gen. Illustr. in the Southern Decareterly, which I
perceive he has done in the last number, in three or four pages.
He says a good word for you - & if you can hunt up the number
it will not take you long to read your praise, & as you are
used to this, you need not fear that your modest blushes will
put you in a fever, though you should read it in the dog-days.

I have written to Sarlington about the Schweinitzian Fungi,
& Dr. Bridges replies that he can find no duplicates. I have
written now to Dr. B. to make another search - for it is most certain
that Schweinitz left duplicates. Sullivan says he saw 8 or 10
bushels of Fungi in the Academy cellar in boxes, all done up in
little papers. Surely, that cannot be the Herbarium! It will be
of great advantage to me to ^{get} specimens of these, as it is not easy to
identify many of Schweinitz species from his descriptions.

There is no possible chance for fruit of *Brunus chicensa* this
year. Not a Plum is left by the frost in this region, that I can
find. And your application was made too late for the flowers.
If leaves there are bushels to be had. - I can send you a
tolerable dried specimen in flower. - Will you have it by letter?
That Engelmann has sent me from Missouri as *P. chicensa*,
appears a very different thing. In the Carolinas &c. nobody
ever mistakes this for any other species, as it is wild all over
the country, sometimes cultivated, & most of the varieties have
very fine fruit. I have them on my lot.

I should have liked well to be at Cambridge this
month, but that cannot be. I wish you all sorts of a
pleasant time without me.

What think you of a Bill from John Wiley for More:
get & Kestler's *Stripes Cryptogamae* &c. 12 fascicles, amounting
to \$139.25? - I had written to Berkeley about it be-
forehand, who informed me that it would probably cost me
in Carolina Fifteen Pounds, & seemed to think that a pretty
heavy expense. Now here it is over £30. - more than
double what I had expected. - Can you give me any
hints of the probable cause of this. - I have made ap-
plication to Wiley for items of charges - he says he
will write to London about it. There it stands.

Can you tell me, whether such things ought to pay
duty. - I have thought it not unlikely, that duty was
paid in England, & here also. But any man ought
to know better than to import a heavy article
to order in such a way as that. - Unless I am satisfied
with his explanations, when made, I shall drop J. Wiley.
I find too that he is negligent. I ordered the above in Feb. 1848.
In Feb. 1849, I wrote to know why it was not forthcoming,
& lo, they had never sent for it, but would send right off -
very sorry - didn't know how it happened, & all that.

Can you recommend any Importer, who is prompt & honest?

E. T. has gone to Europe, I suppose. I hope he will return
with leps of his cautious wisdom.

Truly yours
M. A. Curtis.



Prof. A. Gray,
Cambridge
Mass.

11





Curtis, M. A. 1849. "Curtis, Moses A. Aug. 14, [1849]." *Moses Ashley Curtis letters to Asa Gray*

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