

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

June 14th 1890

My Dear Prof. Barnes,

I thank you for
your frank criticism of
the Manual and I believe
that you are entirely right.

I could see in the process
of amplifying Lesquerens' Mss.
for the press that the book
was very faulty, so much
so that I would not allow my
name to appear on the title page,
as he urged me to do.

From my knowledge of the book,
argued in the course of writing

it through the press, my opinion
of it has risen ^{been} very high.
My opinion depended too much
upon Schimper & followed him
too servilely, and it was evident
that he had little capacity for
systematic arrangement or
any clear definition. He was
the best of men, and I have
no doubt an excellent bry-
ologist, but he was not fitted
to write a textbook. This, as
you say, has yet to be done,
but I hoped that in the mean
time this ^{meant} might be made in
some way a more serviceable
make-shift.

I know no one more ca-
pable than yourself to do
what is needed and I hope
that the time will come

you will be able to give
yourself to it.

Yrs. very Truly
Alfred Mahson
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Watson, Sereno. 1890. "Watson, Sereno June 14, 1890 [to C. R. Barnes]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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