

coming to town before Easter
I am exceedingly loth to give
it up because I had looked
forward with so much
pleasure to spending 3 or 4
weeks with you in town but
various considerations interfere
I may come up for a few days
— and certainly shall if Dr
Hooker comes home

Ever yours sincerely

George Bentham

14
Pontreilas 18912

[135]

My dear Gray

Since my return I have
been very busy working up enough
of Brown's plants for a commencement
of my second Report in order to
show I am doing something and
to get published what others
took so much trouble to read
me months ago. I am also
working up pariparme Champion's
Hong Kong plants as I must
show him also a beginning
so that as my specimens are
now it will be difficult for
me to answer your queries
excepting as I come to the
respective families in working

up others - unless you are in
any particular hurry - was
to Leguminosae pray let me
know by what time you want
them as upon that will depend
how much I can do to them

I return your *Pteris*
character - I cannot reconcile
myself to its affinity with
Euphorbiaceae - No trace of
cocci with a persistent axis -
and erect ovules and seeds - In
those families having habitually
pendulous seeds if there occur
plants with some or all the seeds
erect the radicle retains its
usual position with relation to
the fruit in such instances as
occur to me And here you have
the radicle also pointing to the
base of the fruit. It may not

be Alstroemaceae but I think
nearer Alstroemaceae than
Euphorbiaceae - and we cannot
be certain that there is no such
till we have seen the male
flowers because I believe in
^{some} other dic-bearing genera it
disappears in the female
flower. The bifid stigmata
(stigmatic branches of the style)
may occur in any family where
they are usually simple - as for
instance *Cleome* among Labiatae

Your parcel is come but I
have not had time to open it

We go today to spend a week
with the Ludomores but I
shall occasionally come over
here to work

I begin to doubt our



Bentham, George. 1851. "Bentham, George Feb. 12, [1851]." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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