

as for instance *Melittia chinensis* (which has no n^o attached to it & that I take may be a guide). There was I believe a specimen of this of *Laosium Rivula* (1108) which I have somehow mislaid. Have written that that plant is not in Hong Kong. He gathered it in "Davis Island Whampoa". Pray let me know whether Wright really found it wild in Hong Kong - or otherwise I must strike it out of the Flora.

I have made a few corrections in the determinations of Vittis, *Terebranthium* etc which I sent you last year but I have unfortunately left the memorandum at New where I do not go today and if I do not send this letter today it may be long I know not how long - I shall mark Wright's numbers carefully throughout the margin of my paper.

You ask "where is Agardh's paper published" I suppose by this time you have seen and marvelled at the substantial & so beautifully printed in a close small type - He has worked hard at it for years and strewn a great deal but I do not think his book will contribute much to that cleanness of method which is essential to enable us to form any ^{accurate} idea of the vegetable kingdom wholesale and retail you mentioned I believe somewhere

£ 11. 18. 0

90
91 Victoria Street
Westminster
April 7 1854

My dear Gray

I believe I have several of your letters unanswered but on looking them over I do not find anything particularly ~~requiring~~ requiring a reply - only so far as general thanks - for although so bad a correspondent myself I am always particularly glad of letters from you - and only hope that you are carrying into effect what you said you intended to do in one of your last years letters - finishing off your Amer. Explor. Exped. with a view to paying us a visit ^{when you must} ^{as you can't lodge you both here in London,} bring Mr Gray with you. We long to see you both again and our crossing the Atlantic is now quite out of the question. Do not however come this summer as we shall be away ~~the~~ purpose going abroad about the second week in June and shall scarcely be back before November.

I got the *Proanthia Dalbergiae* and *Lophocera* off my hands but about 10 days ago when I sent them off to Morton. They took me up so much more

time than I expected for I had to work
up in detail now Brazilian as well as
Brazilian species in order to settle the
genera. Besides three days in each week
I have had to work with ~~Wolfe~~
(whom I have to spend one more day)
either on the Cambridge Herbarium
or at Spencer's plants. I am now getting
on with the determination of his
Parapote collection which I shall deter-
mine before I leave town.

Since I cut off the Brazilian Papilionaceae
I have resumed the Hong Kong plants
I am revising the whole flora and as
I must reexamine so much and
compare with E. Indian now that
for Hooker's plants are mostly laid in
I give generally short specific monographs
and general distribution which rather
lengthens the time it takes as well
as the paper itself. I doubt if I shall
finish it before I go but will send
you as much as is ready - but pray
tell me how to send the MSS - It is
too much for post - the book post
does not take MSS - Shall I send it
through Treibner? but then it must
not lie pending as Linnaean Journal
n. 9 did. - The Hong Kong flora is much

less Japanese than I expected. It consists
chiefly of 1 widely spread L. Asiatic flora
many of them weeds - 2 North Indian
that is Khasiya Sikkim & Himalayan
3 South Indian that is Ceylon Malacca
the Moluccas and Philippines & those
Eastern which we have only from
the Moluccas or Philippines & Chinese
proper which we have as yet
either only from Hong Kong or only
from the adjacent island and continent
of P. China. We have however very
little from China excepting from
the immediate neighborhood of
Hong Kong or Macao and a few small
Amoy collections where already the
vegetation is different and shows
more of Bruguiera North China (Pekin)
type plants. Some Japanese plants
do certainly extend to Hong Kong but
they seem to bear a less proportion
to the flora than the Khasiya
ones. However I shall work all this
up more accurately when I have done
the number of Phacogonum species
will be I believe near 1000. As far
as I have finished 140 of Reemann's
enumeration have become 100. With
sight I have no memoranda, and
some of his are evidently garden plants

to Europe. I believe however he
is procuring some other employment
and I doubt whether we shall hear
much more from him - I have
now on hand this Tarapoto collection
which is considerable and a small
Ecuadorian one which by his desire
I wait to distribute till I receive
the rest as the sets of many are
only completed in what has still to
come - the foolish war between
Peru and Ecuador although it
appears to have been hitherto bloodless
interferes with the despatch of
specimens collections.

~~through~~ Fendler's Venezuela (Tovos)
plants contain many very good things
I am particularly anxious about
tropical American plants (especially
of course Leguminosae) - the central
American flora is remarkably varied
I have seen a good deal from Portia
Acosta - our surveying expedition
etc and am surprised at the number
of remarkable plants in our collection
and not in others according to the
mountains ascended - many must
be very local there

I hope to print a synopsis of Dalbergiae

in the Linn. Press. - at least of American
ones. Of *Lonicocarpus* I have only
20 Brazilian species out of 46 ~~total~~
~~collection~~ ^{altogether} - and I reject a few of the
old ones into other genera but include
Neuroscopa & *Sphinctolobium* - In
Dalbergia I include *Tryptomeris*
Microlobium and *Americumum*. I
also reunite the actions of *Pterocarpus*
except *Ateleia* which is a *Cesalpinia*
(I saw a specimen in Wright's Cuba
plants of one species and have seen
specimens of ~~other~~ another in other
Cuba collections) - *Millettia* must
be decidedly excluded from *Dalbergiaceae*
the pod always opens when quite
ripe in two valves - I have not
again worked it up ~~found~~ am afraid
it comes very near *Gliricidia* and
other Robinoid genera - and I believe
my former genera *Mundulea* and
Oreuma can scarcely stand - at least
character from the calloties or
from the fold at the base of the
repillum break down generally
except as specific - In all these
Leguminosae the great difficulty is
to match the flowers and fruit
In Aublet they are very much misnamed
and since his time many a species
has been made up (by myself as well
as by others) of the flowers of one with the

front of another - owing to two
 fruits having been sent by collectors
~~also~~ with the wrong flowering
 specimens. Collectors themselves are
 often deceived by the intricate
 manner in which the branches
 of different trees or lianes are
 intertwined - But in most cases
 we get flowers without any fruits
 there are 7 or 8 Central American *Lonchocarpus*
 species of which I have never seen the pod
 and I hope you will surpass upon all
~~also~~ your collectors in tropical countries
 the necessity of gathering fruiting
 specimens with the leaves attached.

With kindest regards to Mr.
 Gray Ever yours sincerely

George Dontham

90-2

what you had seen in the paper about
 the Government grant for an
 Australian Flora. When it came
 however to putting it in the estimate,
~~the~~ Colonial Office found they had
 so many extras that they had to cut
 down, and topped this off in the first
 instance. Since then letters have been
 written to the Colonies themselves to
 take it up. If they do in a satisfactory
 manner that will be my chief
 occupation for some years to come
 but I shall finish up the Hong Kong
 revision first.

You ask about your account
 this I believe is as follows.

1858	Leinsoe Journal Botany copy	
	2 post vols (8/6 each)	12.0
July	Leinsoe Journal vol 3, 2 copies and 5 Botany	2. 0.0
	Spencer's Langinian etc collection	7. 12.0
	393.11	
1858	Leinsoe Journal Supplement	
Feb	2 copies (at 3/6 each)	1. 1.0
		<u>£ 11. 18. 0</u>

Mr. Allen's shop will be concluded in
 another supplemental part which
 will be charged rather less.

Mr. Prouse appears to be now settled
 in the Ecuador and talks of not returning



Bentham, George. 1859. "Bentham, George Apr. 7, 1859." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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