

incubated to the poor seed box
which you will receive in due course.

The General Plantarium greatly
my undertaking the Australian
flora - at least alone - but may
perhaps do it in conjunction
with Oliver who is a capital worker
and becoming an excellent botanist.

With kindest regards to
Mr Gray

Ever your sincerely

George Bentham

I have done Hong Kong, Newbeane
and have very few corrections to make
to your names. I will send you the
list of Wright's Nov - one unnamed
one sent with the Australian way
a fruiting specimen of Carallia

If you kindly get me off from printing my Hong
Kong Revision in the Smithsonian Contributions
I shall be most happy to send you a dozen copies
of the complete flora to give to them about you the
most interested such as Wright etc.

Am

91 Victoria Street SW
Jan 28 1860

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My dear Gray

Since I last wrote to you
our Colonial Office has liberally
come in to Sir W. Hooker's views with
regard to the publication of Colonial
floras and he has proposed to me
to write that of Hong Kong. There is
a great demand for it here on the
part of young men and others
going out to China but it must
be written in English so that I shall
have to rewrite what I have
hitherto done adding generic
characters & ignominious tables. They
would render yet useful the publi-
cation of the Revision you so kindly
undertook to insert for me in the
Smithsonian Contributions. Would

^{you} Therefore think it very ungrateful in
me if I were to ask you now to cancel
this arrangement and send me back
that portion of the MS I have already
forwarded to you? I suppose you have
not begun printing yet - If you have
puzz tell me what expense has been
incurred and also what expense they
may have put you to in any other
way and I will deduct it in your
account from what you owe for
Linnaea & Spruce's Plants. As to
the trouble you have been at for
me in the matter I am so much
in debt to you already in that
respect that I dare not think of
a debtor & creditor account between
us in that respect. If you consent I
shall be very glad to have the MS back
by the next mail steamer as the
Colonial Office are I believe anxious
that a commencement to the Flora
should be made as soon as possible.

Hodge and I have pretty well settled
the plan of our Genera and we are
seriously at work at it alternating with
our other work. I have sketched out
several families and finished Ranunculaceae
which I shall have set up in
type to settle definitively matters of
form and calculate bulk I think the
work will be half the bulk of Endlicher's.
We shall not however begin printing
till all Malacophora are done. In the
mean time we shall try and settle
and set up in type our sequence
of families as we see more than
ever a need of more uniformity
we will send you a proof before
we print it off.

By the bye *Cystotheca* Whitt
and *Aphanostemma* A. de Rib. are
both good species of Ranunculaceae.
The ovule is erect in both. There is
nothing like looking one's self without
taking things on trust.

My Synopsis *Dalbergiaceae* will
soon be out as a supplement.



Bentham, George. 1860. "Bentham, George Jan. 28, 1860." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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