

London Oct 15/69
-62

after the plan of Flora Hongkongiana
for the Australian colonies and here
to send the first vol. to the printer
soon after Xmas. Besides the splendid
collection at Kew I have access to
Brown's own through Bennett, those
Presl's from Hamburg and above
all B. Schumacher send me gradually
on loan the very rich collection he
has gathered together at Melbourne
so that there are few very few published
species I do not see authentic specimens
of. Hooker is finishing up a most
important paper on Melastomaceae
and is working hard at Geneva.

My very kindest remembrances
to Mr Gray. I do so wish something
could occasion you to come over
the Atlantic once more before
Sir William and myself are gone
from this world and of course
bring Mr Gray with you. I think
our establishment at Kew is now well
worth botanists coming some distance
to see.

Ever your most sincerely
George Bentham

My dear Gray

It is long since I have been
intending to write to you but have
always put it off not for want
of taking the greatest interest in your
going on - but merely from ever-
increasing laziness as to correspondence. I feel as
I grow old so great an anxiety to
get on with the two great works I
have in hand - the Australian Flora
and my part of our Genera - which
give me so much writing that I am
very unwilling to sit down to letter
writing - I must however thank
you for all your kind notices of what
we botanists do in this country - and
for your papers from "Proceedings"
which you so kindly ^{send me} - "What fine work
you make of Duckett's Genera and
Species!" - I do hope you will be able

to stick to Botany. I want you not
only to complete in some way a
N. American flora but there are
so many things you would do so
much better than any one else. One
is to give us a general review of
all that is now known of the *feralities*
and reproduction of *Cryptogams*.
Hopmeier's work just published by
the Roy. Society is evidently a most
important one - but it wants a
general sketch for those who have
not time to study all the details
and you are too much up to the
whole thing not to be able to give a
clear idea of all that is effected in
forty or fifty pages - I do most
nincerely hope that your Government
will soon make peace with the
Southern and be able again to do
something for the encouragement of
science.

Many thanks for your offer of
disposing of a couple of dozen of our

Genera which we will send you at
trade price in a box & book
purposes making up for you shortly.

I am shocked at the number of
mistakes - more of copying than of the
press though some of the latter - which
have crept into our Genera notwithstanding
all the pains we took - some owing
to having begun in a different place
and thus having written some passages
over and over again - such as *Chabran*
for instance - amongst others the
practice of 6.9 and 3.8 of *Althoea* and
Lavatera got transposed both in p. 197 and
200 I had found it out just as the copies
were going to the binder, and corrected
with a pen in every copy except the
one which you had had in two
sheets in which I beg you to correct it
Also in your own copy pray make the
corrections mentioned in the Addenda &
Corrigenda. There is also a bad one p. VI
line 30 for adest read abest and even
the comma after *Menispermaceis*.

I am doing *Flora Australiensis*



Bentham, George. 1862. "Bentham, George Oct. 15, 1862." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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