

publishing the necessarily modified
generic character so that a number
of Lindsley's amalgamated genera contain
species which have not the generic character,
and as to Reichenbach when he widely
separates two such nearly allied genera
as *Cattleya* and *Isotria* & puts the one
into *Epidendrum* and the other into
Orletia I am at a loss to conceive what
his idea of the genera is. Hooker is
taking to the Palms which he will
do well but has little time to
devote to them. Most other Monocotyledons
have been well enough worked up to give
little trouble - I know a good deal about
Cyperaceae - and I sincerely hope that
General Greene will have worked up
a large portion or least of Gramineae
before we come to them - but I feel that
I must let them ever look forward to you.

Yours very sincerely
George Bentham

25, WILTON PLACE.
London S.W.

Dec 14/79

My dear Gray

The printing of the *Genera
Plantarum* is now so far advanced
that I feel confident that the new part
(Vol. III Part I. Monocotyledons and Gymnosperms)
will be out in the first fortnight of
January. The part will be not quite so
thick as Vol. II. part I but there is so
much of heavy printing in small type
that the price will be the same
selling price 26^s/ ready money price
20^s/ and if you take more than 12
copies I shall only charge you the
trade price 10^s/ but with the addition

of the charges to and at Liverpool
which will bring them I suppose
pretty nearly to the ready money price
I shall be glad therefore now to
know how many copies you will
take. The work has at last
slightly overpaid the outlay and
the stock of the 1st part of vol 1 is
reduced very low but as is the case
with all works published in successive
parts or volumes the later parts
have not sold near so much as the
first - purchasers of the first die
or disappear and their copies get
into the hands of persons who do not
care to go on - and new purchasers

buy the first as well as the last
so that we shall have a heavy stock
of the latter on hand - We shall have
however as much of the whole as
the public is likely to require.
The Monocotyledons if I live to see them
through the press will close the 3^d
vol and the whole work - but there
is very heavy work both for Hooker
and for myself. I am quite bewildered
with the Orchidea and had no idea
that the genera were in such confusion.
Both Lindley and Reichenbach began
by establishing an enormous number
of monotypic genera and ended by
lumping a number together without



Bentham, George. 1879. "Bentham, George Dec. 14, 1879." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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