

the whole way to New about three days in
the week - I am also obliged for the present
to give up dining out and have had but a
dull Christmas since of it alone at home
A couple of days frost in the first half of
December seemed to promise a severe winter
though about London (unlike the north)
it was not enough to allow any skating
and about a fortnight ago it suddenly
gave way to warm very wet weather
which has continued ever since

The Hooders have been spending
Xmas at the Hodgsons in Gloucestershire
but return to New tomorrow. I will
mention to him what you say about
Mirabelli and Bygones

I have had some useful correspondence
with Rachel of P. Potten on Gramineon at
which he has been working very carefully

25, WILTON PLACE.
London S.W.

Jan^y 1/83

My dear Gray

I was just taking up the pen
to write to you to express my anxiety to
hear something of you and Mr Gray after
so long a silence when your kind and
most friendly letter of the 17th Dec^r reached
me as a most welcome New Year's greeting

I had heard of your accident but I very
soon also heard that you were getting the
better of it without any serious consequences
and I had the pleasure of seeing your
handwriting in the direction of one or two
brochures - and only a few days ago of
your interesting account of the enormous

increase of the known flora of N. America.

I do hope that we may now see material progress in your great flora.

One thing prevented my writing sooner was my anxiety not to interrupt the preparation of the Genera Plantarum. You will have observed by the sheets sent to you that the printing has been steadily going on since May at the rate of one sheet per week - I cannot persuade the printers to go on more rapidly - and after the first proofs the process of revising and printing off is rather a slow one. The Cyperaceae are now almost all in type and the Gramineae were sent to the printers a fortnight ago so that we begin

to see the end. We add a few of the most important addenda et corrigenda to the volume - We are urged to prepare a Supplement to the whole work but that is more than I can undertake as to my part. I believe that nearly 300 new genera have been proposed as belonging to the first two volumes, and some orders will require much re-working for which I do not feel at all disposed. I have no reason to complain of my health considering that I am in my 83rd year but I have lost much within the last twelve months - a shortness of breath has grown much upon me and since this winter has set in I find the walk over New Bridge from the station too much for me and I only drive down

and has been doing the *condopogon*
for the great *Flora Brasiliensis* which I
trust will be a great improvement on the
other tribes so poorly worked up by Doell.
- but I cannot cater into Haeckel's Germanic
speculations on the successive evolution of
different groups of *Pectinea* species. On the
whole I admit that many good objections
may be made to several approximations
and severances I have made in the
generic arrangement of *Foraminea* - but
I have been unable to improve it without
giving rise to at least equally serious
objections.

With my warmest wishes that
you and Mr Gray may enjoy a happy
New Year in health strength and activity
believe me always
Yours most affectionately
George Bentham



Bentham, George. 1883. "Bentham, George Jan. 1, 1883." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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