

New York, 14 Decr. 1841.

My Dear Sir,

I was quite aware, from the time you first desired the parcel returned, that Reynolds had made a mistake about those Chilean specimens, and therefore laid it aside at the Lyceum to be returned to you, which would have been done long ago, if it were not then out of my sight and memory.

I have just finished Helianthus, and hope I am now through the worst of Compositae, which have already cost me more than a year's constant labor (indeed it is a year and a half since I commenced them), which is a good deal for a person who works at a constant pecuniary sacrifice as I do. But I mean to do it well, at whatever cost. I hope soon to see the rest of your Compositae loaned to us.

Some friends of mine, fearing, and perhaps with that the Michigan people will not be able to fulfil their engagements with me - wish me to offer myself as a candidate for the Professorship of Botany at Harvard, which they learn is vacant. Although I am not now prepared to do this, yet I would be much obliged to you, if you can give me some information - which I trust you can readily obtain - as to the duties and emoluments of that place - under what terms it was offered to our good friend A. B. Booth - whether lectures on Botany could be introduced as a component part of the instruction in the medical department, as it is in every medical school in Europe. If you can give me some information in regard to these matters as soon as convenient to yourself, I shall esteem it as a great favor. Will you send the annexed note to Mr. Tolson, who as Corr. Secy. of the American Acad. has recently apprized me of my election as Honorary Member of that Society.

If you see Mr. Harris, will you ask him
if he has received some pamphlets for us, from
Mr. Tuckerman - and if so, ask him to send them
by Hamden's Express.

I remain

Yours very truly
A. Gray

PAID

Exp.

Benj. D. Greene

Mt. Vernon St.

Boston





Gray, Asa. 1841. "Gray, Asa Dec. 14, 1841 [to Benjamin D. Greene]." *Asa Gray correspondence : letters from Asa Gray to various individuals*

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