

His eyes are fairly open to the state
of the case.

As to what he writes, Mr. Watson
says he will put down his name
as joint author - it is to be
Mr. James & Lesquerain's,
monument. - And he will
have not a cent of poor
Lesquerain's money.

What a pity you were absent,
- also, we must grieve you the
good time you & your daughters are
having. I had you remained at
home, you might - after a short ^{have} done
a good part of the editing &
proof-reading, and helped the
thing along immensely.

As to your being a bookseller
or publisher in London - I think
you should first write to Cassin or show
it - the publication and sale being
entirely in his hands, I do not
think he very glad if you could open the
way to an English sale. -

Well, only mine for happy New Year to
you & Mrs. - Sincerely A. Gray

HERBARIUM OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Dec. 31, 1883

11. P. M.

My dear Mr. James,

In this world we are allowed
space for repentance and amend-
ment of life "while the lamp holds
out to burn"; and Mrs. Gray
and I propose to avail ourselves
of it - as respects our sins of mis-
sin against you, in those last
hours of the year 1883.

We are both penitented at finding
that our acknowledgment has been
sent for the really beautiful
photograph - which came safely
(except as to the glass, which has been
replaced), and which is much admired.

The blame must be divided be-
tween Mrs. Gray & me. But, we
are getting old, and we are keeping
our hands too full for old people

Well, Mr. Gray will pick up
as well as she can. She is ~~not~~
as strong as she was. - and poor
strong women, numbers of large
families and rejoicing in many
& widely scattered friends, actually
survive the toils and perils of
the year, and New Year season,
is more than I can tell. -
I think that, in the long
run, the women will die out -
a few miserable men will
linger a while - and then an
~~end~~ end, -

But you will say - cut
short your moralizing - or
demoralizing, and tell me
about the Moss-book

Well, Mr. Watson tells
me it is now going on rather
smoothly & rather fast. -

Thanks to him. We have
felt that Mr. Jones & Lesquereux
long labors must not be lost -
must not come before the scientific
~~world~~ world as they would if left
to poor Lesquereux. - who we
found was printing his book before
it was written - - and in fact
who did not know how to prepare
his book for the press. - when we,
~~besides~~ - as to the literature of our
Moss leaving out, dropping
stitches here and there, Mr.
Watson directed the work &
we better guided the time. But
when he takes up a thing, he
must do it well. I suppose
full half his time - or near
it - for these months has been
given to this Moss-book - and
as Lesquereux sees - it is quite
to be some thing a deal different
from what it would have been
otherwise.

I think I had best send
you Lesquereux's letter to me.
I lately received - written from that



Gray, Asa. 1883. "Gray, Asa Dec. 31, 1883 [to Isabella B. James]." *Asa Gray correspondence : letters from Asa Gray to various individuals*

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