

Botanic Garden Cambridge  
January 1, 1873.

My Dear President Eliot.

Will you kindly present the enclosed communication to the Corporation at its next meeting.

I need not say to you that I could not take so serious a step as this without much consideration, and that I could not do it if I were not confident that the department which I have served in the University for almost 31 years <sup>need not</sup> ~~will not~~ <sup>now</sup> ~~ever~~ suffer by my withdrawal, I am warned also by ~~the~~ increasing growing experience of the fact that the useful work which I could formerly do with ease, can now be done only <sup>by</sup> effort, followed by exhaustion and other unpleasant effects, <sup>which may be expected to increase;</sup> and it is clear that I have left to me, at best, barely time enough, when rigorously economized, to complete the work for which I ~~am~~ <sup>am</sup> pledged have long



been pledged, and with out which the accomplishment of which my life will have been largely a failure. The Corporation will perceive, ~~therefore~~ that I do not intend to be idle, but to concentrate what energies remain to me upon the kind of work for which I am best - and indeed peculiarly - fitted, both by disposition and by more than forty years of preparation.

As this work proceeds the Herbarium of the University <sup>classical museum, collection during its rapid increase,</sup> will be put into the condition in which I should leave <sup>and with its value greatly enhanced.</sup> it, &c.

In view of this, and of the fact that the Herbarium forms an important part of the apparatus of instruction here, I trust the Corporation will think it reasonable to allow me the possession of the house I live in, as in recompense of my services as Curator of the Herbarium.

I offer my resignation unconditionally,

that the Corporation may have, as it should, the whole matter in <sup>its</sup> ~~their~~ hands, <sup>without enlargement.</sup> If it be desired to keep my name for the present upon the Catalogue, and especially if the Corporation should prefer not to place a permanent incumbent just yet in Fisher Professorship, I would in that case take the liberty to suggest that the present very <sup>efficient</sup> capable and efficient assistant, Dr. Griseb., be made Adjunct Professor of Vegetable Physiology, with salary assigned from the Fisher Professorship.

I remain, dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely Yours

Aschmann



Gray, Asa. 1873. "Gray, Asa Jan. 1, 1873 [to C.W. Eliot] [draft]." *Asa Gray correspondence with scientific societies, Harvard College, and University of Michigan*

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