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London 24th January, 1839.

No 13, took out for a box of plants &c. by the ship "Severn" from Glasgow.

I was very glad, my dear friend, to receive the renewed assurance that though out of sight I am not out of mind, by your letter written on Christmas Day, which I received the evening before last. It was handed me at Dr Poget's where I was dining, by Dr Booth. Your calculation as to my movements between Liverpool and London (that of my arrival at the former place was exact) is very nearly correct, except that you did not sufficiently think of the difficulty of getting away from Hooker's. Instead of a fortnight I spent 20 days at Glasgow, and only wish I could have remained still longer. I left there on the evening of the day on which your letter was written, when you suppose me to have been in Edinburgh. I reached London on the evening of the 16th inst. My first business the next morning was to call on Booth, who received me very kindly, and informed me that Hooker was in town (~~of which Hooker~~ which I expected from Hooker's letter to me at Edinburgh) - thence I went immediately to the British Museum, where I had the good fortune to meet all at once with Hooker & Sol Hooker, Richardson, Bennett, & Brown! I have been under Hooker's wing almost ever since, who has been as attentive and kind to me, as if I were his own son, and has enabled me to form many valuable acquaintance under the most advantageous circumstances. We went at once to the Linn. Socy, saw D. Don, to Lambert to Hortic. Socy, where we saw Lindley, to Lambert's &c. - I have been with him to Royal Socy, - to breakfast with Brown, Bentham (twice), Richard Taylor, - to dinner at Bentham's (his) Dr. Poget's, Christy's (from which I have this moment returned); and we are engaged tomorrow at Lambert's, and Saturday at Sir Francis Palgrave's, the celebrated antiquarian, Hooker's brother-in-law. I have so far been seeing men & things chiefly, but have had one or two botanical sittings with Bentham, who is a thorough kind & good fellow. He immediately had all the remaining parcels of Douglas's Calif. & Oregon plants sent down to his house, and has supplied me as well as he could; and a valuable parcel I shall have of them. But I defer all further particulars of my movements in London, as you will have them all in my journal, and I am here restricted to a single sheet, which I wish to send you tomorrow, by the Great Western, via Bristol. I would send the sheets of Journal I have written since the last sending (from Durham by a private hand, a Mr. Fox) as well as a letter to Carey & some other

but I can't think of paying postage to Bristol at the rate of 2½ sterling per plate. I will send by one of the first London packets. I shall soon see Wiley & Putnam and learn about the Flora. I have often been asked where and how it should be obtained, and had occasion to regret that I could not reply satisfactorily. Hooker's notice of the work was sent in time for appearance in the Dec. No. of *Annals of Nat. History*, but Payson neglected it. It will appear soon, and I will attend to its being noticed and advertised elsewhere. You ask me to send you *Butcher's*, of which 5 or 6 parts are published, but I wish you could wait until I get to Paris, where I shall procure it so much cheaper, and it will not be long. I am glad Mr. Sullivan begins so well. I will attend to his commissions and make as careful a selection of books &c. as I am able. I have already in my mind some excellent things for him. Do inform Prof. Huxley that I called on Clark this morning, and learned that he had already drawn on C. Rich for the sum due him. I shall write a note to C. Rich this evening to prevent his drawing on Huxley if he has not already done so and pay him from the money put in my hand for that purpose. But in case I am too late, please ask Huxley whether I shall send back to him the odd £15. or deposit it in London to his credit, or how? I had heard of his lecture, and have had the pleasure of an introduction. I have met Lindley two or three times, but always with Hooker. He is polite, and yesterday sent me a paper of his in *Hot. Trans.* (just out) on the effects of last winter on plants. I neither ask nor avoid him, but leave him to take what stand he pleases. Brown hates him, and I fear with too much reason. I have seen considerable of Brown, and like him much better than I thought, although he is certainly peculiar. The day we breakfasted with him we remained until 4 P.M. and he offered to show me any thing I wished, as the British Museum. He showed us all Baines' drawings in his possession (I have since seen Francis Baines) &c. He has much more general information than Whiffen; is full of gossip, and has a great deal of my own. He is growing old fast, and I suspect works very little now, and I fear there is just very much more work than to be expected of him. "He knows any thing!" I asked some question about the vessels of *Spores*; he at once remarked "they unroll like a ribbon." By the way he

tells me that the plant you left with him (Muthall's *Pitalanthes*) belongs to a published genus; he promised to tell me all about it. I have not delivered your letter to D. Don, because in it you ask him to show me Lambert's *Reberium*, and I do not want to put him to the necessity of giving me the reason why he can not. But Lambert is the queerest mortal I ever knew. Baines' description of him was so accurate that I should have known him anywhere. He is mad after Cacti, which he stuffs in a peculiar manner with Plaster of Paris, and dries, and he has some very queer ones. He has a woman now for a Curator in place of Don (a much better one I believe) who stuffs the Cacti, &c. &c. Hooker and myself expect here from tomorrow evening. You have sent to Bertham & Donnell, each one part of Flora Michx paper, and one then one. Bertham has Part 1. thin, Part 2. thick; and Donnell vice versa. I spent a good part of yesterday with Bertham, and was to have met Hooker at the Geological Society in the evening, but botany prevailed and I stayed with Bertham, and was a little sorry afterwards, as I should have seen at the Society, Whewell, Daubeny! Murdochson, Chaetog the Sculptor &c. I have bought a colored copy of Walllich's *Planta Asiaticae Rariorae* 3 vols. fol. very fine. for £15. - the published price was £36. - the present by Henry Osborn, who has bought up not only this but almost every other expensive British work on Natural history, is £28. It is not yet come round from Edinburgh. I will soon send it to you. It was a presentation copy to Dr. Brodrie. I suspect I shall leave this for Paris about a month from this time, and so arrange as to spend two or three weeks there on my return from the continent. I have seen the *Flakta Botanica* of Ad. Lichner where there is a plate of *Unguadia* (not *Unguodia* as spelled in Comp. to B.M. mag.) but no letter-press as yet. Remember me kindly to Baines' and say that I will soon write. I am greatly obliged for his note of introduction to Christy whom I had met this evening. Hooker & myself dined there and had a very pleasant evening. He is to send a parcel of Californian plants cultivated in gardens by the Liverpool to Carey. I have not yet delivered Carey's other letters, but shall as fast as I can. I thank him very much for them.



Gray, Asa. 1839. "Gray, Asa Jan. 24, 1839 [to Torrey]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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