

continent, the moss  
collection of Sullivan,  
the fungus collection  
of M. A. Curtis, and my  
own algae are probably  
the largest collection  
of that order in the  
United States. The one  
group not well repre-  
sented in Cambridge  
is lichens, and, if we  
could get the Tuckerman  
collection, we  
should then be ahead  
in all departments.

I regret very much  
that the offer came  
at the time it did.

29 Hylpake  
Cambridge.

March 12. 1888.

My dear Doctor,

I take the  
liberty of writing to you  
with regard to a matter  
in which I hope you  
may feel an interest  
although it is a little  
apart from the kind  
of botany which you  
have studied.

The late Prof. Tuckerman  
of Amherst who died  
two years ago left a

large and valuable collection of lichens including the types of the species which he had described during his long life. It was hoped that he would bequeath his collection to Harvard but, in his will, no provision was made for its disposal.

About a year ago, an executor came to see me about the value of the collection and I was placed in the embarrassing position of placing a value on what I might wish

to purchase myself. I stated conscientiously that, although really worth much more, I thought that it might bring \$5000 in the market.

Since then, I have been asked whether Harvard College would care to purchase. We need the collection very much as it is the great lichen collection of North America. We have the Gray collection of *Phaeogamms* which is unequalled on this



would be willing to sell  
for \$3000. Considering  
what I think is the real  
value of the collection, I  
hardly dare to suppose  
that a smaller sum  
would be accepted.

I hope that you  
will excuse my writing  
on this subject. But  
you will easily see  
how desirable it is  
that we should obtain  
this collection which  
supplements our present  
collections in the one  
place where it is now  
deficient. Yours, truly,  
W. G. Harlow.

29 Holyoke  
Cambridge.

Under ordinary circum-  
stances it would not  
have been very difficult  
to get \$5000 for this  
object. But at this  
time the college cannot  
afford to buy with the  
funds on hand as there  
was a deficit last  
year. Prof. Goodale  
has been trying to  
get a fund for a  
new laboratory which

is much needed and  
I cannot now with  
any decency ask  
Mr. Hammett, Mr. Ames  
or most of those who  
have given to Prof. Goodale  
to give me more for  
the Tuckerman collection.

I have applied to  
a number of persons  
but so far I have not  
succeeded in getting  
more than \$2000 of  
which \$1000 comes from  
a single person. I  
do not feel that I  
can very well make an

offer of what I already  
have to the executors  
of the estate. If I  
could get \$3000 I  
would make an  
offer which might  
possibly be accepted.  
What I fear is that  
the British Museum  
may offer \$5000. It  
would be a shame  
to have the collection  
leave the country and  
I hope that, rather than  
have the collection sent  
to England, the family



Farlow, W. G. 1888. "Farlow, William G. 12 Mar 1888." *George Golding Kennedy correspondence*

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