

Dr. Kennedy is here and his father seems to
be already passing away.
U.S. Geological Survey
Washington, D.C.

March 15, 1889.

Mr. Walter Deane, 5 Brewster
Place, Cambridge, Mass.

My Dear Mr. Deane.

I
have received your definitions
and am delighted with them.
You have got hold of the exact
idea, and your botanical in-
stincts will guide you safely.

Not to criticize in the least,
but as there will be plenty of time
for their return before I shall reach
them, I enclose them with a few
suggestions and queries which
may give you a better idea
of my plan. These I will

explain. 1. In a dictionary
where every kind of thing is de-
fined I think it best to give the
reader at the outset the idea that
he is dealing with plants. So I
generally say a tribe of plants, a
genus of plants. We must remember
how few know what "Compositae"
~~for~~ means! 2. I try to
give the date at which a genus,
order, or tribe was founded. This
is often difficult. I do not ex-
pect you to have the books at
hand to settle such points and
will not ask you to go to the
library for the purpose, but where-
ever you do know it you may give
it. I may ask you to make a
specialty of settling some of the
most difficult of such questions
where I cannot, because I presume
the library there contains all the
editions of Linnaeus and every

many botanical works not to be found in Washington. 3. When I arrived at the number of genera of the Helianthoideae in Benth. & Hook. and found it to be 138 I hoped you had been using Durand's Index Generum (1888), which makes it 149, you making it 150. but when I came to Helichrysum I see you take the figure from B & H (260) instead of Durand (270). I always look in Durand and frequently find the nomenclature and classification somewhat changed. I assume Durand to be reliable and considerably later, but if you do not have it, you can take everything from B & H & I will consult Durand. 4. I infer from your definition that you may ~~take~~ rely more on the general description than I do. I go to the synoptical part first because I cannot trust myself

to pick out from the description the absolutely characteristic features. But for the last and more general part we have to go to the description. But, as you, of course, have seen, there is generally far too much even in the synoptical part, and what requires the most judgment is to find out what to take and what not to. I generally leave out all such things as seeds 1-∞, leaves entire or dentate, opposite or alternate, &c. because they mean so little that is definite.

This is absolutely all I could say about your work which is nice and critical, exactly as I knew it would be. You may please return your definitions just as they are.

I cannot tell you how grateful I am for this earnest of your good will. Please do not overwork yourself. Most sincerely yours
Lester F. Ward



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