

New Haven - March 23. 1845

Dear Gray -

As stated in my last to you, I left for Washington a week ago Monday evening; and Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock was at Brown's Hotel. I was not three minutes in the house, before I started for Judge Tappan's room, determined to bring matters to a point at once. I soon made known my will about remaining in Washington, stating my reasons. He then took up another topic, suggested by one of the reasons given, and went on to enforce the doctrine that Exped. Discoveries were Exped. Discoveries. And names given in Europe to any of the ^{new-}discovered species were not to be regarded by us. I first argued the point; but he stated it as his order that it should so be. I gave him my downright refusal to go on with my duties under such an order. He said he should get a substitute there. I told him that I should bring it before the Library Committee; and before a higher authority, ^{still} if they would not sustain me. - Whereupon after silent consideration for a moment or two, he began to explain away his order & finally left it for me to do as I thought best. - On reverting to the question of my living in Washington, he yielded that point also; and in less than 24 hours after my arrival I was out of the hated city again. I saw Wilkes and found him gracious enough. But the same subject, naming Exped. species, came up, with the same arguments - and sustained against the British Assoc. & all Science of all countries, as I told him. - He was impenetrable and as there was no occasion for a quarrel I ~~talked on~~ ^{talked on} other topics. - I found your letter then still unopened, and, although the necessity of it was done away with, I concluded to hand it to Tappan. I assure you of my warmest gratitude for

your kindness — I now stand ^{again} clear of all embarrassments and need expect no further trouble or interference from that quarter. — Wilkes has the better of the law to shield himself in this trouble; and Tappan ~~has~~ told me that he yielded the point about the book as soon as he had my assertion with regard to the its identity with the Mrs. Appenzel. As a subject for an attack, you will have to give it up. There was an evil spirit at the bottom of it; but with the defense which both Wilkes & Tappan have, there is no occasion for a good substantial quarrel; and I think you had better pass it by. I shall give Tappan yet some trouble for his last order to Washington, as I shall have ⁱⁿ my bill for travelling expenses after a while. It — was sheer spite & vexation that he had to yield in the case of the book, that led him to give the order. I hope we may get rid of him & Wilkes also. Such men as they are are too absurdly ridiculous for men in charge of the scientific publications of Government. —

I intended to have called on Mrs. Hale on my return, but passed through Philadelphia without stopping, in order to reach home Saturday night. I have ~~now~~ ^{written} Dr. Appenzel her a letter, asking her whether she would object to the reclamations for Mr. Hale, stating the plan, and requesting her, if possible, to send to you his Journals and give what information she had on the subject. — You will probably hear in a day or two. — Do not speak in your review of the claims of the rest of the Corps, for it would be horrible to make us responsible for ^{Wilkes's} ~~his~~ science. — His citations from us are few & often, indeed generally, full of errors. — But it is different with Hale. — The first important citation, is that respecting the negroes of Rio Janeiro. — You will see that Wilkes states that the information was obtained from Mr. Hale. — Hale was much provoked, that Wilkes should have used the matter in his

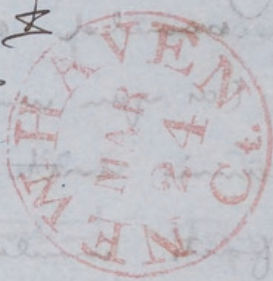
Examination, ^{as} it thus retorted his request of the information, intended for it. — It was making capital out of other men's labors and at their expense, even allowing that credit was given as here: for Hale had a Department to carry out and report upon & was not in the condition of the naval officers whose journals were properly placed at Wilkes's disposal. Then there is much, ^{very much,} concerning the Sam oon, Hejae, and Kingmill Islands, the last two groups especially, taken from ~~Hale's~~ Journal — I requested Mrs. Hale not to mention my name in connection with this matter; and you can intimate that the information was obtained from her direct — although her name be not mentioned. — I would not assign Wilkes for dishonesty, but speak of his work as well known to be a compilation from the Journals of the officers; and then go through, claiming Hale's part for him — Do it in this careful way, without bringing special charges on Wilkes & he will put it more, than he would any thing more abusive. He is proof against abuse. (as you would see if you knew him) for he believes that it carries with it its own refutation; but a calm statement of facts would trouble him amazingly. I have requested Mrs. Hale also to write me, her views on the subject and I may have a letter before she addresses you — in which case I will inform you ^{at} once. — But I must hasten to a close, on the hour for the mail to depart coming —

Very sincerely your friend
James S. Dana

Prof. Asa Gray 3

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Dana, James Dwight. 1845. "Dana, James Dwight Mar. 23, 1845." *James Dwight Dana letters* –.

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