

New Haven - July. 6 - 1846 -
Saturday

Dear Gray -

I give the books to the Express
this morning - some sheets, ^{of the Zoophytes} including the preface, a
new title page, some of the last forms, & others that
have been reprinted are yet behind: but I send on
a copy of the Chapters on Structure (one of my extra
Introductions) which is complete for that part
of the work. I will send others of these Introductions
next week; and if you will return the one sent,
I will have it done up like the rest in boards.
Keep it however, if you prefer ~~it~~ to bind it
for yourself more substantially. I regret that
the Preface is behind as it would give you
a few facts with regard to the number of species
or so. I will send it on, should it come, with
the Introductions. The work is a complete
treatise on Zoophytes - and appears to the

Commit to a very large extent of non-expectation
matter. But in fact, with few exceptions,
the whole ~~work~~ is based on Expectation
information. Errors in description of species
& in the laying down of genera, were numerous
in the books, many species were confounded under
a single name & the same name had been
differently used by different authors. I ~~could~~
not describe my own species, ^{in the principal suborder} which were
nearly half as many as all known, without
giving the characters, more definitely, of those
known. I could not correct the errors
in any more concise way than by describing
anew. Patching on new species to an
old system, which the facts could not
sustain, seemed ^{not} to be my duty. The
observations made were as important, for
correcting errors as for instituting species, and
I have consequently undertaken to reconstruct
the science, review, correct, and systematize
the whole. —

I allude particularly to this, as it
has been said that some of the Congressmen

will or may object to the book on the ground
of the matter; not being (apparently) of
Exposition collection. — Too complete! —

I have made out something on Oceanic
migrations for the Journal of Science, which
will appear in the ^{May} ~~June~~ number. —

We can refer you to no memoir of
Nicotlet —

As ever truly yours

James D. Dana

Prof. A. Gray —

I was about to pay for my
package now — but Sullivan has dissuaded
me from it, saying that the N. American
Review will bear the Expense — Tell me
if it is so, as I do not wish you to
bear the Expense of it. D. D. D.

Prof. An. Gray
Cambridge
Mass.



Dana, James Dwight. 1846. "Dana, James Dwight Feb. 11, 1846." *James Dwight Dana letters* –.

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