

My dear friend.

Your favour from Cambridge d.d. 30. Nov. 1841 has reached me some weeks ago, and on the 15. of this month I had the pleasure of reading your letter of thanks to the Academy. I am ashamed, that my correspondance with you, with a man, I praise so high not only as a scientific character but also as a friend, as a feeling, noble friend - has been so scarce in the last year. But, my good Gray, you shall excuse me, after having overread this letter!

Now let me at first give to you my hearty and deep felicitation to your matrimonial engagement! May God bless you with all matrimonial and domestic happiness which you merit, and which, - I am sure of, also your lovely bride merits! Familiar security, retirement and mildness is a beneficial source of happiness for a man, who as you, embraces the science also as a bride; and the old word of Bacon: *Mulieris et Liberi magnarum rerum incrementa*, is not always true. But, indeed, very often a studious lucubration character is overcome by such accidents as in marriage come and must come for proofing our character and for steeling it. As a good and devoted friend I wish, that such trial may not want in your life, but that they would not come to soon, and only if your heart has been accustomed to this by funeral obscurities on the heaven of familiar happiness. I was not spared in the first years, and I can say, that sorrows for a beloved woman were the first who made greyish my hairs. May such cruel vexation not come over you! my good, noble and sensible friend! Give my best salutations to you lovely Bride, and assure her, that it may not be hazardous to unite her even to a man in the western hemisphere, who did so well know make himself beloved and esteemed in the eastern.

The first 8 months of 1847 I spent in great activity with the lab-
our, whose task enlarging more as I deepened more and more
in perquisitions of a difficult nature (as you shall see, when
finished) — gave me no tranquillity. But in August another rea-
son of true uneasiness, even sadness arrived. My son in law
Prof. Erdl, having lost his first child, a loss which as well un-
derstood did me afflict also, left Munich with his woman
for making a tour of divertissement to Vicenza and Venice.
He was attacked in the former town by a tremendous he-
moptoe, which brought him near the grave, his wife to
desperation. I hurried to Vicenza with my two other daugh-
ters, for bringing consolation and assistance; — and I must
spend 11 weeks on the bedside, till on the end of October
I brought him home! This was a severe task, and it is
continuing as long as the poor noble youth is not out of
danger, which is not yet the case. There you see, my good
friend, a natural reason for my scarce correspondence! From
Erdlicher I received friendship as only a brother may bestow.
The poor man has also the sadness of seeing his amiable
wife starve! — A great satisfaction to us was the appea-
rance of good old Rob. Brown, who came to Vienna for
Venice.

Now here at Munich there gives me also Juccarini severe ground
of sorrows. He is attacked by a pulmonary disease, which perhaps
may also not end in a good way. May God bless us. But now
basta with so much familiar sadness, and let us speak some
words about our literary communications. I have got for you
the following things, which I shall send to Dr. Hügel of Leipzig,
Consul U. S. under your address, 1. A parcel with pape-
naical plants. 2. A parcel of Mosses. 3. Erdlicher synopsis



Martius, Karl Friedrich Philipp von. 1848. "Martius, Karl F. P. von Jan. 22, 1848."
Asa Gray correspondence. Senders McA-Ma

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