

there who knows the history of the
older collections described and distri-
buted before my time, and very long
before theirs, and the packet should
come back direct to me.

I have lately been waiting, before I
replied to your letter, that I might be
enabled to send you a copy of my
paper on Japanese dresses, but although
Mrs Britton told me she had seen it being
packed up at the Linnean Society's
rooms, I am still without it, it has
been four years in their hands. When
putting this paper together I found
almost insuperable difficulty in trying
to identify the Hypana described from
that region by Sullivan and Deschamps,
I think from Wilkes's Voyage, the descriptions
are short and drawn up when everything
was Hypanum, is there any residue of these
mosses from which I won't have a sight
of sufficient to identify them and restore
them to their proper places? fragments would
do, probably I have most of them, but am
unable to know them. Since writing the
above I have looked at the title of the paper
and I see it is the Expedⁿ under Capt. Rodgers,

continued to be until the last two or three years, so many specimens came to me from Kew, that I have been kept fully occupied; for I have only the intervals between business matters that sometimes consume all my time and then I get too fatigued to do much good. About three years ago having to move my collections from one room to another I determined to overlook all the surplus of things that had accumulated for many years: for I was sure many things had been overlooked for want of knowledge and this I am now about two thirds advanced in, for I get on but slowly.

It was Gray when he was here at Kew who applied to me for the mosses for Sallivant and I sent them to him, several were figured in his Icones and when he died Gray found the packet and in a note promised to return them on the first suitable occasion, my own impression, until your letter

and not Wilkes, it is in the Proceeds
of the American Acady of Arts & Sc. Vol
IV. 1857-1860 p. 275 I have the paper
but copy from a ms list, I was obliged
to give up the three species of *Fissidens*
as hopeless. I think all the *Hypnum*
are in doubt the whole number of species
mentioned is 33.

I have still by me one or two copies
of my Austro American mosses and
some other small papers also some
of Powell's mosses from Sarron, he
being dead I shall dispose them
they are not all fine specimens
Powell himself not studying them
but only admiring them and gathering
them because I asked him I have also
a good many Australian things if
I have anything worth your acceptance
I shall be very glad to make some
return for the work you so kindly
sent me.

We have experienced a cool and
dull summer this year, a whole fine
day about once in three weeks, just
now it seems improving and we



Mitten, William. 1891. "Mitten, William Sept. 10, 1891 [to S. Watson]." *Asa Gray correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/224670>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/252151>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.