

Jan 5th 19th.

Dear Brnly Kent

My dear Gray

When I look over your letter of Decr 29th, & see all the things you tell me & all the trouble which I have caused you, overwhelmed as you are, upon my life I am ashamed of myself. — I will be left unreasonable for the future; but with lots of gold down beneath the surface it is hard not to dig for it. I was glad to hear of Platanthera & the Butterfly, & hearty thanks for the Indian corn; what little grains! I knew nothing about "glucosin partly replacing starch". I have several odds & ends to say: Bates has forwarded copy of his paper to you for H. Deane. I have reviewed

In next letter. That Review, & five papers will
thence, if you care, give it cream of
the case. — Do not trouble yourself
to weigh, — I ask ^{fruit of} your ^{fruit of} Strawberry;
what you say implies for 2 persons.

I was muddled about 1st part of your
Review ^{of orchids} — it is not worth explaining how I
came to be so; but my memory returned
the day after my letter went; I confounded
one Review with another. —

You ask about "Dickson's", term & facts are
given by C. K. Sprengel in his Entomology
Scheuchzer's de Natur, — a curious old
book full of truth with some little
nonsense. — I have been thinking how
intensely it would be to experiment on the

3 kinds of flowers of *Linum Lewisii*, but I fear
it will be unprofitable to get seeds. — I have
been at these confounded milestones again;
throwing good money (i.e. time) after bad.
In your sentence telling me you could see no
recter in your *Rhexia*: well I can find
none in *Monochotum*, & Bates tells me
that the flowers are in the most marked
manner neglected of Bees & Lepidoptera in
Amegonia. Now the curious proposition to the
stems of *Monochotum* are full of fluid, &
the suspicion occurs to me the Diptera
a small hymenoptera may puncture them
like the puncture (produced since by
orchid book was published) the dry sections
of *Thlas Arctis*. — I forget whether *Rhexia*
is common; but I very much wish you
would keep some watch on a warm day

a group of flowers & see whether they are visited
by those insects & what they do. - I sh^d
be a happier man, if I could understand
these Melastomaceae. Oh dear, I wish
you would be Ruth with me & we can
be not trifles as the welfare of his
country & would stick to flowers!
Well, you President has found his first
a faint Slavery - for great it may
have some effects, - I fear it is true
the way England do not know
very well care about Slavery; I heard some old
senior people saying here the same thing;
& they accounted for it (& had a content
it is to what I remember in my By-bond)
& the present generation never being seen
or heard much about Slavery. -

Some men cannot help taking such
gloomy view about your future. I
look to your money depreciating so
much that there will be mutiny
with your soldiers & guards
between the different states which
are to pay. In that anarchy
& then the South & Slavery
will be triumphant. But I
hope by dismal prophecies
will be an utterly wrong
as most of my other prophecies
have been. But everyone's
prophecies have been wrong;
those of your Government as
wrong as any. - It is a

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Comel still to the whole world;

I hope the sun may

from right & good come

out of it. - Do not trouble

or trouble yourself to write

to me, - though I never

receive a letter from you

without real pleasure &

much satisfaction. -

Farewell

Yours most sincerely

C. Darwin



Darwin, Charles. 1863. "Darwin, Charles Jan. 19, 1863." *Charles Darwin letters to Asa Gray*

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