

Hayfield, near Louisville, Ky.
June 1st 1856 }

My dear Sir—

Since I wrote to you last, I have had the pleasure of receiving your two favours, of the 9th & 19th of May, together with the accompanying letter by you from Sir W. J. Hooker, which I herewith return, with many thanks for its perusal. I hope it may not fall among thieves as a former one did, together with one also from De Candoles — the rascals must have known the worth of such autographs, or they would have returned them to you.

The Box of Herbol's plants of Venezuela, has also reached me in safety, but I will not conceal my disappointment in not finding the portrait of Sir William therein, as I had expected. The subsequent explanation in your last letter, removes my fear that it too, as well as his former letter, had been pilloined; and much as I should have prized it, I am almost sorry that you have permitted your kind feelings towards myself, to induce you to trouble Sir William with a plea for it in my behalf. Mr. Greene has doubtless far greater claims on Sir William than myself — Indeed I have none whatever; for any such which I might have at one time set up against him have been long since more than abundantly requited by him "in kind". —

As to Herbol's Plants, many of them, and especially the Ferns, are beautiful, and all highly interesting to me, but after the

unqualified eclogia, papered upon his specimens by the *magnus*
Apoll. of Botany, it may seem presumptuous in the extreme for
me to find a fault with them. Nevertheless, with all due differ-
ence, I would humbly suggest that Mr. F. uses paper far bigger than
plants that is quite too small. How many of his beautiful Ferns
might have been displayed to far greater advantage if his paper had
been a few inches larger, instead of being folded, complicated and
~~folded~~^{turned} into a space of 9 by 12 inches! — If I had the direction
of this matter, I would make it a penal offence to crowd and cramp
a large specimen into smaller bounds than 12 by 18. and this I
would make the standard size of all Herbaria. I beg you therefore
bouse your influence with Mr. Fendler in inducing him to come down
a few rounds from the "life top" of the ladder, and take a new start
in this particular. — I concur most fully with Sir William
in the plan which he awards to American collectors generally;
for unless he has been more fortunate than myself, he has got-
ten no specimens from his side of the Atlantic, which can at
all compare with those of Oakes, Lapham, Townsend, Chap-
man, Parkwell, &c. &c.

I am very to learn that the *Callimnia* plants were spoiled.
The seeds are just now ripe, so that I have gathered a few and enclose
them herewith. Let them be sowed immediately and the place marked.
If kept until the Autumn or Spring they will not vegetate.

I thank you kindly for ^{the} your invitation to meet you at
the gathering of the Amer. Association at Albany in August. — As I make
no pretension to being a Man of Science, I fear that I should find myself
out of my element there, although it would afford me vast pleasure
to shake your hand once at least before I go hence. If I am able to
leave

leave home at all, it must be to endeavour to recruit my waning
energies by sea-bathing; and as my wife prefers the "Long Branch" in
consequence of her having many relatives in New Jersey, it is probable
we shall go further north or east than that.

I am truly well pleased to hear that the *Mammals*
has drawn so near its completion, and as I have given out all hope
of seeing your *Hors* completed in my day, I shall hail this new
Edition with peculiar pleasure.

I thank you for your intention to remind Mr.
Fickner of his promise, but as it is probable from his dilatoriness
in executing it, that he would prefer declining it altogether, I would
rather you should not press him on the subject.

Very Respectfully & truly, my dear Sir,

I am yours

A. C. C. Hart.

Dr. Gray
Cambridge.

mm

Dr. A. Gray
Cambridge

From Mary
Mr
From
mmw By
mm in
mm



Short, Charles Wilkins. 1856. "Short, Charles W. June 1, 1856." *Charles Wilkins Short letters to Asa Gray*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225933>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/254472>

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>.