

Hayfield, near Louisville, Ky.

November 16th 1856. }

My dear Sir—

Your kind and obliging favour of the 10th ult. reached me some weeks ago; and more recently I have had the ^{pleasure} favour of receiving from you an indication of the families to which Fendler's Venezuelan plants belong—for both of which you will please accept my thanks, together with my apologies for not having sooner acknowledged them. I could have wished that Fendler's plants could have been more fully named, but I cheerfully wait your leisure in this matter, hoping that at some future day it may be convenient to you to furnish them to me.

You have my most hearty consent to speak or write to Prof. Henry on the subject of my Herbarium, and of the disposition I have thought of making of it. The collection has cost me a great deal of time and labor (although it may have been a labour of love)—I trust not an improbable labor,) and no small amount of money; and I could wish that it might be so disposed of, at my death, as to be of use—some little use—to the cause of Botany. Whether this end could be best subserved in the Smithsonian, or embodied in your own Collection, I own that I am not able to determine.— I have thought also of another bequest with a view of doing something in the good cause, even after my death—perhaps more than I have ever done while living—it is this.— To leave in trust to you and W. Sullivan and Dr. Engd-
mann, say \$10,000, to be vested in some safe and productive way,

me

the interest to be annually appropriated towards the development of American Botany, by the employment of a competent collector in the less known portions of the continent — one complete set of the specimens so collected to be incorporated into my own Herbarium, where even that may be, the others disposed of as the Trustee may deem most expedient — \$10,000 at 10% *et.*, which I suppose might be safely courted or, would yield \$1000 annually to be thus appropriated — what think you of this idea? — Could the same amt. be disposed of more advantageously in any other way? —

Mr. Sullivan has done me the favour of sending me a copy of his very pretty book on the *Mofes*, but I have not yet had the pleasure of seeing the last edition of your *Botany of the Northern and Middle States*, although my Bookseller in Phil.^a has been requested to send it to me.

The note from Dr. Engelm^r, enclosed in your last, gives me the first intimation I had of his intended voyage to Europe. What takes him there, do you know? — I hope we are not to lose him also from the thin ranks of American Botanists. — He has kindly sent me a copy of his monograph on *Cactaceae*, which seems to evince a great deal of patient research. Betman surely, is not our German friend rather too much given to the sin of *species-making*, or rather making *species*? — How it may be with the intractable *Cactus* family I do not pretend to say, because I know but few of them; but his subdivision of the *Cuscutaceae* has turned too much, I fear, on what Huttell terms "desperate microscopical differences".

I would trouble you farther, but the miserable pen I am writing with compels me to stop.

Ever most truly yours W. C. Short



Short, Charles Wilkins. 1856. "Short, Charles W. Nov. 16, 1856." *Charles Wilkins Short letters to Asa Gray*

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