

Hayfield, near Louisville, Ky.
July 16th 1861.

My dear Sir—

Immediately on the receipt of your favour of the 31st May, I gave orders to my Gardener to save the seeds of the collinsia verna from our Cultivated plants; but unfortunately the greater part of them had already been shed, so that he was able to secure only a small supply. These I now send you, and hope they may be sufficient for your English friend to make another trial, though I doubt his success. There is something peculiarly enigmatical about the germination of these seeds which puzzles my understanding. I never fail to have an abundant supply of plants in the spring from self-sown seed, dropped in the preceding June, but never succeeded in raising the plant from seed which I had sown!

— What think you now of a "speedy termination" of our national troubles?— In my humble opinion we are as far from a settlement as when they began. Nor can I see, with the present temper on both sides, any prospect of the end. — Of one thing, however, I am fully convinced, — that our experiment is a failure — a lamentable

table guideline; and that man, at least the American people, are utterly unfit for self-government. So fully assured am I of this, that if I was thirty years younger, I would in less than thirty days be a subject of Queen Victoria. A limited monarchy, such as that of Great Britain, has abundantly proved itself to be that Government best suited to the happiness of the subject; and if he is not satisfied with this, he should be placed under the iron heel of the Russian Czar. As for the unbounded liberty, equality, licentiousness and immorality of Democracy, the sad experience of France, and the still sadder of our own country should, one would think, be enough to convince and satisfy the world.

But I will not longer trespass on your time by my gloomy forebodings. It is well that you, who have the prospect of much longer life before you, should have better hopes and brighter prospects.

Farewell. affectionately yours

C. C. Short.

Dr. Asa Gray,
Cambridge, Mass.



Short, Charles Wilkins. 1861. "Short, Charles W. July 16, 1861." *Charles Wilkins Short letters to Asa Gray*

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

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/254516>

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>.