

Your opinion on my project will have full weight upon the action of our Academy.

in the mean herbarium, and removing from the latter all the equatorial plants that had already been placed in it.

This done, I shall wait for your arrival to determine what will be the next steps. My idea is to rearrange it according to the present classification, that is to say to follow the order you have adopted in your publications. The present arrangement of Short's herbarium is the Linnean Classification — entering in each class all the natural orders that may belong to it. This is the arrangement that has been followed by Dr. Pickering with our general herbarium. It is bad in this respect that it places in juxtaposition families that have no relation whatever to each other.

I have another object in view: It is to condense in one the Short's herbarium and my North American herb. Each separate is incomplete, but united, they will constitute a more complete resort for the botanists. So far, the N. A. herbarium is the richest in number of species, but the other surpasses it in the splendor of his specimens.

Now, my dear Gray, fare you well, you and lady.
E. D.

August 28th 1864.

Dear Gray,

I have received your kind letter, and transmitted to Carly your Nantucket *Ara Cargophyllata*. Poor C. — writes to me that he has been afflicted with dysentery and unable to engage upon his contemplated exploration of Eastern Maryland. It is to be regretted as his activity and perspicacity might have accomplished some new discoveries.

I have not had as yet the occasion to broach the question of subscribing to the last collections of Wright's Cuban plants. I know, before hand, that it will not be favorably received. Our acting treasurer Mr. Vaux is a great economist — He will urge the low state of our finances, and the two hundred Dollars which have been spent upon the Short's herbarium is enough, will he say for one department of the sciences. &c. The fact is, my dear Gray, that we can well do without them, as probably the 9/10th would prove mere duplicates. The collections of equatorial plants in our herbaria are immense. Besides the great addition afforded by Dr. Short's herbarium, consisting of Wright's coll. of 1856 to 1860; of Holton's *Plantae Neo-graevinae* Bogotanae, Canaan & Guianensis, Coulthron's & Jameson's Guianensis Andes, Peadley's *Plantae Venezuelae*, R. C. Alexander's Jamaica Plants, &c. We have Poiteau's rich herb. of St. Domingo;

James Read & Dr. Griffith's Collection in several
of the West-India Islands, &c. — — — — —
And no body to interest himself in the arrangement
of that splendid special flora. I am too old to
undertake it myself; my branch is confined to
the North American species for which even
my poor eyes are becoming perfectly unfit;
I can neither read long the fine type of the pro^{2d}
Ines, or other works, nor use the glass for
analytical studies.

I have received a most graphic and poetical
letter from my friend Tiet, on his recent explo-
ration of the Pocono mountains. He sends me
a list of the plants he has collected, consisting
of above 80 ascertained species and as many &c.
unascertained.

From the Pocono Station of the Lackawanna R.R.,
they started on a primitive Wagon called Buckboard,
upon the most wretched road imaginable and arrived
at night, bruised and half dead with fatigue, at a
village called Hopedale at the foot of the mountain,
at which place they had secured comfortable
rooms. They started next morning, having as
a guide the son of their landlord. The ascension
was through the primitive forest, with all the

usual incumbrances, rocks, fallen trees, torrents, &c.
They met on their road a magnificent water
fall about one hundred feet high and others
above this. The scenery was impressive and
sublime. After four miles of the most arduous
march, they arrived at a splendid lake, the object
of their search. There they found a boat, belonging
to their landlord and they began paddling on
the lake and collecting on its banks an abundance
of beautiful plants. They renewed their visit
the next day. Tiet speaks exultingly of the
splendor of the scenery and says he never met
before such field of botanical wealth; Almost
every plant was new to him. There, and every
where in that region, he saw the pretended
Helosciadium nodiflorum, of which he brings
fine specimens with ripe fruit. He says that
this umbellifer is so common in the creeks,
marshes and ponds, that it is surprising
that we have had to wait for the birth of Dr.
Trail Green to acquire a knowledge of this
plant.

I have now nearly arrived at the end of
my work Vol 1st on Dr. Hooker's herbarium. Their
operation was to empty all the unopened packages



Durand, Elias. 1864. "Durand, Elias M. Aug. 28, 1864." *Elias Durand letters to Asa Gray*

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