

Phil. Aug. 4th 1867



My dear Gray,

When will you announce to me that M^{rs} Gray has entirely recovered, not only from her last attack of dysentery, but also from all the ailments under which she has been so long suffering? This news will be as agreeable to you to convey, as it will be to me to receive, and I expect it very soon.

I thank you for the names of my doubtful plants, that you have been good enough as to give me. Unless wanted by you, I shall be glad to have back Silene laciniata, Nyctaginia & Portulaca which are but thinly represented in my herbarium. Can I not buy a set of Bolander or Brewer California specimens?

I send you herewith one of the four specimens of Marrisia macropoda, Engelm! that I have received from Texas. Two have been given to Engelmann, for Prof. Braun and himself, the 4th I keep and regret not to have another for Dr Torrey.

I have remained quietly at home this summer and I shall work hard, during the fall and winter, to prepare myself for a long trip to Europe, next Spring, provided the exchange on gold be not exorbitant.

I am now overhauling my herbarium, with your excellent manual in hand, with the view of ascertaining which of its species are not represented therein, and apply to the proper sources. I did the same with Chapman's Southern Flora, and sent him a list of desiderata, in exchange for his, which I nearly completed from my own herbarium, and among the rest an unique spec. of Chapmania, and one of Elliotia.

Now I have a pretty full ^{set} of Texas plants, and a good number of Mexican Boundary, California, Oregon, Rocky mts, far western states, Arctic, &c. Thus, I shall be able to take with me as complete an Amer. herbarium as I have been able to pile up during the fifty years of my residence in this country.

I was very much bothered this morning with a plant which you must have in your herbarium. It came from Dr. J. W. Hale of Alexandria, Louisiana, and is labelled by him Helianthus hirsutus, Raf. fl. diversifolius, Ell. — It is neither, but is a remarkable var. of H. atrorubens. Its leaves are very thick and rough-bristly, round-oval, subcordate, opposite and petioled, except those at the foot of the floral branches; the scales are quite obtuse and slightly ciliate. It has the aspect of

a Silphium, which I thought it was from a beautiful specimen in Dr. Short's herbarium, the striated ligules of which appeared to have been purple.

I received, a few days ago, a letter from Dr. Robbins, announcing to me that he was not dead!

Le brave homme vit encore, grace à Dieu!

I am very glad of it. In a short personal acquaintance I had with him, at my house, 4 or 5 years ago, on his return from Texas, I was very much pleased with him.

I have also received a letter from Buckley? He appears to be somewhat tranquilized about the charges that were made against him. He attributes them to Dr. Shugart who, he says, is very unpopular in Austin and the whole of Texas.

Now farewell, my dear Gray, and my regards and best wishes to your good lady.

Cordially yours

E. Durand

When you send me anything, would you be so good as to let me have a specimen of Helianthus hirsutus, Raf. I have but a very poor one of an anomalous form with all the leaves sessile? dm



Durand, Elias. 1867. "Durand, Elias M. Aug. 4, 1867." *Elias Durand letters to Asa Gray*

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