

if I found a new grass, to call it ^{that is a vital point with him.} ~~demmonia~~. The repetition, and the remarks ~~made~~ of one who met him, that he was an "infernal beggar", did not impress me favorably. Still - whatever his motive, he evidently has perseverance, and that should go to his credit. It is well that you are his friend - he evidently needs such, not being in the way of gaining them for himself.

There! I have fallen asleep several times in writing thus far, and as it is after two o'clock in the a.m. will postpone my "personal" letter to another time. Will get through Le's grasses soon.

The holiday greetings and good wishes, are returned with emphasis. More hereafter -

Ever truly

George Thurber

Morning - Had I time, I would re-write and not send such a sleepy note, as it is an imposition upon good nature.

"The Ruins"

Passaic, N.J.

Dec. 18, 83

My Dear Friends Doct Jay.

It is so long since I have heard from you directly that grows, which I found on reaching home this evening, with a double welcome.

You begin with Xmas greetings. I leave personal matters to the last, and take up business - that of a dealer in hay - and "Latin hay" at that. Even in that, I move in course order, or - as our military folks say - approach it "left in front".

Firstly, as to "the great collection of grasses to be distributed" - Finding that no other course was practicable, I have, for some time, had matters so arranged, that I could "put in" one, two or three hours work on them, of an evening, or as occasion allowed.

Progress has been satisfactory; at
one time I hoped to finish before
the end of the year, but for office
(not official) reasons, find that
this will not be possible. Still,
the work is going on. Now as
to Bemmon's grasses. You give me
the first intimation I have had,
that these were part of sets to
be sold, or that the enumeration
was to be forwarded to you.

I had no idea that any special
importance attached to them -
much less, anything so special
as "bread and butter". - Better use
apple-sass, it is better for the health
than butter. I intended to devote
a part ~~off~~ of this evening to the
distribution, but when I found your
letter, I decided to give the time
to the parcel of Bemmon's grasses.

I found, upon going over them,
that I had, a long time ago
arranged them ~~very~~ in general,
and for some reason were then

lost by. It can hardly be that
these are the whole ^{grass} stock for his
distribution? I supposed that the
specimens were for one, in return
for running them. The species run
from one to half a dozen species
each, though in some cases, by
dividing, more might be made.

The collections being made in
California and Arizona. I know
the most of the species "by heart";
still - there are some that will
need study, and it will take a
few "spells" to complete them.
What I propose to do is, to
give the evenings etc. that would
otherwise have been devoted to the
"distribution", to the plants of Bem-
mon, get them out of the way,
and allow L. to get some butter
for his bread. In running over
the specimens, I don't think that
I can (and am happy to say that I
can't) hitch Bemmon's, to any of them.
To judge from his letters, in which
he begged - not to say importuned me,



Thurber, George. 1883. "Thurber, George Dec. 18, 1883." *George Thurber letters to Asa Gray*

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