

Sierra Valley, Cal, Oct 10, '86,

My dear Dr,

Learning from Prof. Watson that you have returned much recruited, I hasten to congratulate you. I hope you have regained entire health and the free use of that good right arm, again. I expect you with the others of your party have been studying trees as usual, so I expect another long series of "I ? ?" from Dr. Engelmann. I have been so seriously affected by the drought ^(having become acclimated to the southern coast) of this region, that I have sore lungs & catarrh with severe pain of the liver & violent pulsations of the heart; all compelling me to den up at home and omit all the collecting of the autumnal plants & seeds.

In your absence I sent a few plants with notes to Prof. Watson. I wish particularly to be placed right in the record as the original collector of Astragalus Lemmonii. The family is one in which I take great interest and as you graciously assisted me to bring my four best friends into it, I have reason to prize greatly my own title deeds. Be pleased to look at the notes sent Prof. W. concerning this matter. Sent a fine root of Phlox Douglasii to Prof. Sargent, which I had transplanted to my alpine garden. These Darlingtonia & Corydalis Caseana growing freely, just enough

of each to prove susceptibility of growth, *Bryanthus Breuni*
& nearly all other shrubs died out. I will try again and more
extensively, encouraged by the article of Prof. Lester & Ward in a
late *Science Monthly*, proving that "all plants have an in-
herent tendency to exchange their natural condition for a
better one." Into some finely prepared soil I mean to
plant seeds & bulbs from any locality, next spring.

Have lately enjoyed a 3 days visit from Mrs.
Ames & husband. She is just as good and zealous as
ever. Like me she has not the "Bot. Cal." yet, though

we know it was your generous design to supply us long ago.

Baron Cester Lachew writes me that his Cal. *Diptera* prove
a fine coll, which he could better describe at Cambridge than
in Eu. I hope you will detain him here. Can't you
of Harvard capture him as you did Agassiz?

Dr. Palmer is now with you I suppose. Dr. Perry busy
at Davenport or at the Centennial. I sent him a large
box of plants some time since, securely tying them.

I hope you will get a good share of the Sedges &
Grasses I sent Dr. Hasey. I fear I cannot get another
such a variety. It pains me to hear of the exploring
excursions of Lieut. Wheeler's parties in the vicinity, and no botanist
with them, and the weather for 3 months past has been splendid!

Am preparing to hibernate & work at Webster Lake again. I
deeply prize all your printed articles sent me. Please continue sending.
Sincerely Yours, &c., J. D. Davenport



Lemmon, J. G. 1876. "Lemmon, John G. Oct. 10, 1876." *John Gill Lemmon letters to Asa Gray*

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