

straits. They tell me at the Admiralty he may be able to accompany a party on a sort of botanical commission. He prefers *Alga* beautifully.

Lord Clarendon has requested me to be on the look out for a Botanist to accompany a living stone into Eastern Tropical Africa. Balfour has recommended a very good man: & I hope the appointment may be sanctioned. But the Portuguese Govt. does not appear much to sanction this mission, thinking perhaps not even at all that it has too much of a Protestant & religious character.

Ever most faithfully

Yours,

W. L. Hooker

At any time I should send special thanks to any Society or Books person for books which I may

Thurs. Dec. 25.
Xmas day 1855.

My dear Dr. Gray

A happy Christmas to you & Mrs. Gray. I have to thank you for 2 letters & an enclosure from the excellent Chas. Wright, with whose plants & great disinterestedness I am well pleased. His Ferns are excellent: & other things equally good. I wish he could do the same in some of the British Islands.

The prospect for more of the Islands & my having induced an Col. Office to take a little interest in the matter have made a little stir among the Govt. ser. If they do not send plants they send subscribers names for the Book. Our Govt. send names. Fowdrie is dead & the Govt. has been induced to put a good well educated Botanist Kruger into his place, with a higher salary & has commiseration me to send out as good gardeners for the practical work on £100 a year. The book will

than here i. Horner working ever
amongst a Cape Flora and I trust we
shall induce the Gov^t. there to do some-
thing for that. I have written to
Sir Georg. Grey the present Gov^t. fully
upon this subject.

As to the payment I have made
to Wright, it is no more than I wish
or than he deserves. I shall be
much happy to subscribe to any
things he may in future collect
& grateful for any plants he
can send me one which much
not be paid for. He had better
in travelling confine himself to
drying specimens.

I do not again regret the
publication of the Journal on my
own account. but because I be-
lieve it has been & would have
continued to be a vehicle for con-
veying a good deal of general in-
formation on Botany & Bota-
nical. & such alone as I always
proposed to give. I even proposed
to write reviews in the proper season

of the time simply noticing books.
It has promoted the cause of Botany
I know: & now there is no place to
record all that is going on in regard
to our several Collections abroad;
travellers in new countries and a
few inevitable inconveniences must be a
great disappointment to many.

I have made over the first in-
strument of Bougainville's plants to
an Mr. Black who is to make a se-
lection for our Herbarium and
the same time for you.

Horner was remarkably well
while he was here & never so happy
as when working. One of
the botanically inclined officers
of the Surveying Ship at Vancouver
and Island is come home inve-
stided, but has brought Horner &
me a nice collection of Alga from
the Straits of Magellan. Messrs.
J. & Lyall is appointed to
succeed that Gentleman's (Dr. Forbes)
place & will I expect do a good
deal for the Botany of that
Island & the opposite coast of the



Hooker, William Jackson. 1855. "Hooker, William J. Dec. 25, [1855]." *William Jackson Hooker letters to Asa Gray*

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