

West Chester, Penn^a

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July 2. 1852.

My dear Friend, Yours of the 29th ult. came today. If the specimens of Polygala Senega met your views & wishes, I am very glad we persevered until we found it. But now I am going to trouble you again, if you will permit me.

A friend of mine, Dr. Henry Gibbons, who is at San Francisco, in California, has sent me about 80 specimens of Plants, collected in that vicinity, - of which he wishes to know the names. He has numbered the specimens, & wants me to send the names in connection with the numbers. They are nearly all strangers to me (though I recognize several of the Genera); & I thought I would venture to send the whole parcel to you, & ask you to run your eye over the specimens, & name such as you recognize. I have put a piece of paper with each specimen, ready for you, to save as much trouble as I could. As you are quite familiar with ^{the} plants of that region, I hope you will not be too much annoyed by this application. I know of no other mode

mode in which I could expect to get so much information, so easily to myself, & so speedily. If there should be any of the specimens which you do not readily recognize, lay them aside until your leisure (if you ever expect to have any) will enable you to examine them. Any such can be sent back at a future day. Doctor Gibbons (who formerly paid some attention to Botany - but has of late years neglected it) apologizes for his specimens; and it is true they might be better; But he promises to make further collections if I wish it. If I can send him (with your good help) the names of this parcel, I shall request him to make a general collection of the indigenous plants of that district of Country; and furnish more complete specimens; which I think he will do. It is hardly probable he will find any thing really new, in such an old settlement; but whatever he may send shall be at your service, if desired. Perhaps he might be useful to you, in the way of remitting seeds of Californian plants. I shall suggest something of the kind to him, - as he expects to remain in that Country.

Should you have time to look over the parcel (now sent by Adams's Express) while Mr. James is with you (for I learnt yesterday from his Boys, that he expects to make some stay) you will have a good opportunity to return the parcel by him. But, if he comes before you are ready to return it, please send it by Adams's Express to his care, in Philad^a - & I will get him to pay the freight, on delivery.

"Have you really resumed the work on the "Flora of North America?"" I had not heard of it; but am very glad to think that is what you meant, in speaking of working at the Ashes, for the Flora. I wish you great luck, & all possible despatch; though I scarcely hope to be spared long enough to see it finished.

With affectionate regards to Mrs. Gray, I am most truly your obliged friend,
Wm. Darlington!
Prof. A. Gray,
Cambridge.



Darlington, William. 1852. "Darlington, William July 2, 1852." *William Darlington letters to Asa Gray*

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