

West. Chester, Pa., Octo. 13. 1852,

My dear Friend, By the kindness of a friend in Reading, I have procured an Autograph Letter of good old Dr. Muhlenberg, for Prof. Adrien de Jussieu; which I was unable to obtain, at the time I sent you the little parcel for M. de Jussieu, about a year ago. It is herewith inclosed; and you will please forward it to M. de Jussieu, with my compliments, by the first safe and convenient opportunity. He has acknowledged, to me, the receipt of the former parcel; and as he seemed desirous of an Autograph of Dr. Muhlenberg, I am very glad to be able to furnish one. Such interesting memorials will no doubt become very precious, as time recedes from the epoch in which the writers lived. I suggested to Prof. Baird, that the Smithsonian Institution ought forthwith to commence a collection of Autographs, and Portraits, of Naturalists, and others; to gratify the curiosity of Posterity. Don't you think such a project worthy of encouragement?



They might be classified, and arranged in Portfolios or volumes, so as to occupy but little space, & yet be conveniently referred to, when desired. I think such a collection might be made a very interesting department of the Institution, without much cost: and if it did not diffuse much "knowledge among men", it would probably diffuse a very pleasant gratification among "much People", in time to come.

It seems a great while since I have heard from you. I should be glad to learn what you are particularly engaged upon, at this time. I somehow got the idea that you were going to finish the Flora of N. America. Is it so? I have been occupied, this summer, with a new Edition of Flora Cestrica - and have now got as far, with the printing, as the Salicaceae, which Mr. Correy revised for me. I have implicitly followed your Manual, in the arrangement and Nomenclature; and have thrown in such familiar remarks as I thought would tend to popularize the work, with our uneducated Youth.

I was in much doubt whether it was worth <sup>while</sup> to reprint a Local Flora, of a district embraced by your Manual; but I finally concluded to print a small edition, for the use of the young Botanists of the County, and adjoining districts.

If nothing happens to prevent, I expect to have the volume out early in the coming year, - when I will send a copy to amuse Mrs Gray, if it can. It will certainly contain nothing to interest you. Thinking of Mrs. G. how is the dear Lady? I am desirous to learn that her health continues to improve. If you will not bring her to see me, I fear I shall never look upon her pleasant face again; for I am growing so old, & rail roads & steamboats are becoming so murderous - even to youthful travellers - that persons of my age had better stay about home. Nevertheless, I beg you to remember me most affectionately to Mrs Gray, - & to believe me most truly  
your old friend,  
Prof. A. Gray, }  
Cambridge } Wm. Darlington



Darlington, William. 1852. "Darlington, William Oct. 13, 1852." *William Darlington letters to Asa Gray*

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