

My dear Friend

Clapham Rise 3 1/2 miles S.  
of London - 29 Jan 1849.

I am very much afraid that long ere this -  
you must have given me up - or at any rate imagined that  
I had quite forgotten my old friends. The fact is that since  
I last wrote some changes have taken place in my family arrange-  
ments which have so completely occupied my time & engrossed my  
attention, that I have not paid that attention which I ought to  
my old valued correspondents. - My eldest Son J. T. V. married  
in April last & is now living in the red house in Wellesley Sq  
& I have removed to my present abode - within reach of most  
of my old patients & with the prospect of many new ones - you  
happy man - can throw physics to the dogs. I am obliged for  
the sake of my children - to continue to cultivate its acquaintance,  
but I have thank God - many compensating blessings & amongst  
not the least of these is a small garden with tolerably pure air  
(where roses will flourish) & in which I have built a clove house  
about 30 ft. by 16 - in which I have built up my antediluvian  
plants & which of course - I intend to make one of the wonders of  
the world!! Going however, apart - my capabilities are infinitely  
greater than they were in the old habitat - as in the latter the sun  
never shone in for five of the winter months - whereas now - I



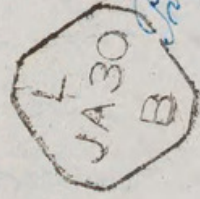
I have an unlimited supply of solar light - which enables me to cultivate amidst my Palms & Ferns - a vast variety of flowering plants - such as Begonia Fexneri - Gloxinia & many species of Euphorbia Drillbergia - Jovinia Caprea - Mimosa Schlegelii - In another case - without artificial heat - I am growing a number of N. Amer. Ferns & other plants - which were sent to me through a friend from D. G. Watson - amongst these are Lycopodium lucidulum - Polypodium obliquum living inicum - Lachnaea Smithii - & Lancasteria Woodwiddia exeloides - Fern. novae - Asplen. angust. & the Splendida - Gooden. pulchra Schlegelii - You could not oblige me more than by sending me any seeds or roots of American plants - that may be easily & cheaply procured - as I have now the means of introducing them into the country - I am very anxious to see them - your personal being my best & best guide - I shall with the greatest pleasure defray all expenses of transportation - I cannot tell you how much you have added to my delights in seeing your valuable works on Sp. Pl. & Botany & more particularly your illustrations of the Ferns - The plates of this work are most exquisite & have made me quite long to have a copy of the plants in a living state about me as heretofore - So I have a tolerable large tank in my greenhouse - I intend to plant by the Nilumb. & Lemnifera on the N. E. corner - & the Nymphaea odorata on the N. W. corner - I am very anxious to see the Asplen. - when you are returning to visit London? - My wife tells me that she has now a wonderful quantity of seeds - I need not add that we both have agreed to allow our power to make you & Mr. Gray & a little living room - & I think you would find me quite so conversational as in London as I am now - I am now continually to all parts of London - from us over L. & D. bridge every ten minutes - The second London is about to be elected I expect long with the town

Hospital which is the first in England for surgical practice - more than 2000 accidents were sent there in the course of last year - I have taken the house & fore of the existing England - so that I may consider him as really settled & independent of me

The Gardens at Kew are progressing most satisfactorily under the auspices of Sir H. - The large Palm house is now nearly finished - I question whether Sir H. will not think that he pays rather too dear for his whistle - Great expense has been incurred in obtaining some fine specimens of plants - & considerable doubts were entertained whether the heating apparatus - which cost upwards of £5000 - would effect the desired purpose - The consumption of fuel is very great - & the more cost of removing the plants to their new resting place - his Grace writes - Sir H. told me that Lord Argyll is in the possession of two only of the Palms - a Victoria & a Nymphaea - one of them when in its tub - weighing 13 & whether it lives - The museum is becoming a very important addition to the Gardens & is daily increasing - A whole continent is slowly becoming the first in Europe - I have many a time well when I last heard from him - He is going on with his Phlogia & his Lectures at Glasgow give general satisfaction - He had an extra course to give last year at Limerick - He is now about a new popular work illustrating some of the most interesting facts found upon our sea-shores - a work which may perhaps dispel some of the sediments so painfully felt by many of the frequenters of watering places - I hope that you will not follow my bad example with the winter that finished my wife & family - of many many years of health & happiness to Mr. Gray & myself

I believe me worth being  
Your affec. friend  
N. P. Ward





Dr. A. A. Gray  
Professor of Natural History  
Harvard University - Cambridge  
Massachusetts - U. S. States





Ward, N. B. 1849. "Ward, Nathaniel B. Jan. 29, 1849." *Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward letters to Asa Gray*

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