

*Aquilegia formosa* (Fischer) Sitcha & Kualaschka  
*Delphinium bicolor* (Nutt.) Dry hills at Flat  
- Head River, towards southern sources  
of the Oregon. &

*D. paucifolium* (Nutt.) Rocky Mts & Blue Mts  
of the Oregon. &

*Chryseis caespitosa* (Lindl.) California

*Dendromecon rigidum* (Nutt.) Summits of Mts  
at St. Barbara; Monterey, California.

*Cheiranthus capitatus* (Nutt.) California & Oregon.

" *Pallasii* (Pursh) & N. W. Coast.

? " *hesperidoides* & Pennsylv. Kent. Ill. & Ark.

*Cardamine rotundifolia* (Nutt.) (Arabis Douglasii Torr.)  
Hudson Bay, Rocky Mts, W. New York & Canada.

" *purpurea* Is<sup>2</sup> of St. Lawrence & Kotschew's Sound.

" *angulata*. Banks of the Oregon.

" *digitata* (Rich.) Arctic America

*Deutaria integrifolia* (Nutt.)

*Parrya macrocalpa* (R. Brown) Arctic & N. W. America

" *arctica* (R. B.) — — — — —

*Phenacanthus cheiranthoides* (Nutt.) High hills E of  
Walla Wallah River, & on rocks on upper  
Oregon.

*Hesperis mitchiana*

" *Menziesii* (Hook) California

*Erysimum arkanzense* (Nutt.) Plains of Arkansas.

" *pusillum* (Nutt.) Dry elev. Plains of Rocky Mts.

" *grandiflorum* (Nutt.) & Sand Hills of

Pied Plains at Monterey, Upper California

*Stanleya pinnatifida* (Nutt.) Rocks, upper Missouri

& at head of Lewis's River

*Warea amplexifolia* (Nutt.)

*Selenia aurea* (Nutt.) Wet prairies of Arkansas & Texas

*Vesicaria arctica* (Richard)

York 29/7 mo. 1872.

Dear Dr. Gray Red. Aug. 29.

I am in rect of thy favour  
of June 17<sup>th</sup>, enclosing dried flowers of  
the yellow Aquilegia, which I consider  
most beautiful, & a plant highly desirable  
to obtain roots & seeds of in quantity, if  
possible. It is remarkable as a "var"  
of *A.erulea*. Probably all the plants  
mentioned in Dr. Parry's letter, sent to  
me, would be valuable. I see he  
mentions a "Mertensia sibirica". This  
genus, & the allied Lithospermum, are  
favourites of mine, so that anything  
new & showy belonging to them would  
be very welcome. Polemonium confertum  
& Claytonia megarhiza also would both  
be valuable no doubt. Where possible,  
roots should be sent, & seeds also. The  
chance by seed is generally much more  
certain than by roots; but if roots do suc-  
ceed, there is a gain in time which is of  
great importance: for even if we get a  
crop of seedlings, yet if we cannot sell



till we have seen them flower, the loss of time & remuneration is great. On the other hand a few roots blooming "proves" the plant, & renders the stock of unflowered seedlings saleable immediately.

Generally speaking, we have found that roots travel best when packed in Boxes in fresh (rather dry) moss. The moss should not be extremely dry, I get on no account wet: but just as you would gather it in woods when <sup>not moistened with rain.</sup> ~~from rain or warm weather~~. We find an advantage in alternating layers of paper, & laying the roots closely side by side upon it; covering them with another layer of paper, & then a layer of an inch or two of moss, & so on. All packages should be sent by the quickest line of conveyance, & by Steamer. I think that Austin, Baldwin & Co have often forwarded packages for us promptly. Casks are not so good as square <sup>or of figs</sup> boxes: for when casks are rolled, the contents are liable to form

a hard compact mass in the middle! A few Birch twigs (without leaves) interspersed among the moss &c tend advantageously to keep the bulk "open" - i - e, non-compressed.

Having been absent from home during most of last month, I have not had opportunity to examine further into the Flora of North America, but I will again enumerate the names of some plants of which I have read the descriptions & think well worth obtaining if possible. (See last page).

All perennial Gentians should be sent. We think we can cultivate almost everything if we know its native soil, situation &c! Please present my kind regards to Dr. Parry from whom I shall no doubt hear in due season. Trusting you will both be successful & enjoy your rambles in the wild regions you propose to visit. I remain thy friend very respy  
(see over) S<sup>t</sup>. Backhouse



Backhouse, James. 1872. "Backhouse, James July 29, 1872." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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