

Delphinium nudicaule too is
raised here ^{in Eng^l} from seeds by hun-
dreds, so that it is not worth im-
porting as roots.

I have no doubt that many of
the bulbs sent by Dr. Kellogg will
be interesting & probably valuable,
but we are sadly at a loss to
know what soil & situation they
require & what periods of wet &
dryness, temperature &c. It is
most important to send information
of this kind with everything as far
as possible. Thousands of good
plants have been lost at the
very outstart from collectors
sending no advice of the kind.

Ever thy fr. very res^{pt}

La Backhouse

York 5/10 mo '42

Dear Dr. Gray

I enclose 1st of excheq for
£80. £50. of this please
place to the credit of Dr. Parry,
& the remaining £30 as proposed
(or "wished" for) for Dr. Kellogg.
I trust it will encourage him
(Dr. K.) to work on. I hope he
will be able to obtain a good
lot of the pretty little ferns al-
ready sent by post - *Pellaea Brid-*
gesii, *nucronata*, & *densa*, & the *Chei-*
lanthes. Also all the fine Lilies
he can meet with, & seeds of
fine Conifers? Is he the party
who obtains the fine yellow *Colum-*
bin? I am more sanguine about

that "returning" our outlay than almost anything else.

The plan proposed for Dr. Parr., to send his collections first to your Gardens meets my approval if thou thinks that thy subordinates are thoroughly reliable?

I have no reason to doubt it: but common prudence forbids one to shut one's eyes to the danger! I will suggest a case to explain what I mean. Dr. P. sends a lot of a

new plant which may, on reaching us, take 3 yrs, or perhaps more in some instances, to become fit for sale (as good established plants).

A small portion of the same has been reserved for your Bot. Gardens. Your plants? grow well & multiply or seed. A root or two, or a pinch of seed, or the fertile, ^{seed} ground of a new fern,

sent to some one else in England, would materially injure our sale in all probability. If it were simply known that the same plant was in the hands of another party (even though there was no knowledge whatever of the quantity which such party held), the damage would be unquestionable.

I do not wish for a moment to act selfishly, or interfere at all with the legitimate trading of other Nurserymen or Seedsmen, but in a case like the present it will be seen that the outlay & consequent risk on my part is considerable, & that I have some special claims connected with that risk.

The ordinary (blue) *Aquilegia vulgaris* is now quite an abundant plant in some of our Nurseries. We have bought fine strong ^{plants} of *Darlingiana* at 36/- per dozen.



Backhouse, James. 1872. "Backhouse, James Oct. 5, 1872." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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