

Dr

Thanks for the pk<sup>t</sup> of  
Fremontia & Fraxinus anomala  
safely rec<sup>d</sup> some days ago.

York 11/9 mo. 1874

Dear Dr Gray

I beg that thou wilt  
not give thyself one moment's further  
concern about the *Mertensia virginica*  
& *Oxyphlox*! Casualties of this  
kind in one way or other so often  
occur that one gets a sort of accus-  
tomed & "case hardened". And  
in this instance it really is not  
of much moment. We got a fair  
lot of the *Mertensia* some time  
ago from a Continental Nursery,  
& I expect that Dr. Parry will  
get more of the *Phlox* in Colorado.  
There was a trace of life in <sup>or two</sup> one  
of the plants just to hand.  
It would grieve me to think that  
any mishap of this kind was causing  
thee more than momentary regret.



If thou wilt kindly let me know  
what their transport &c cost, I  
will remit for it at once.

And please do not take any  
trouble about Lith. hirtum. If  
any good opportunity for obtaining  
it presents, all well; but I cannot  
think of having thy time occupied  
in catering after my concerns.

I will gladly supply examples  
of the things Dr. Parry has sent  
seeds of, when we raise them.  
Judging by the dried specimens  
there will not be many of them  
of much horticultural value;  
but there are, among the annuals  
especially, 5 or 6 that promise  
well, & some of the perennials  
(e.g. the *Dalea* & *phlox*, & *Calochortus*  
*flexuosus*) which look propitious.  
I think it is likely that I shall

send the seeds of some of those  
which <sup>apparently</sup> have a "botanical" value only  
~~mainly~~, to Dr. Hooker. Not but  
that I would also send the  
showy kinds to him afterwards;  
only, in the first instance, a very  
small quantity of some of them  
would suffice for us, & these are  
objects of scientific interest rather  
than of Hort. value. I quite un-  
derstand that Dr. Parry sends the  
set of specimens, quite under-  
standing that some only will  
be of commercial value. I antici-  
pate his gleanings in Colorado  
being of the most value in that  
way. I forget whether he sent  
more of the *Agave Utahensis*, but  
have a vague idea that a reserve  
lot were sent to the Bot. Gardens?

If so, they can come any time.

Very sincerely  
Chas. Backhouse (over)

*Ranunculus adonis* is  
doing well with us.



Backhouse, James. 1874. "Backhouse, James Sept. 11, 1874." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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