

Alma, Page County Va.

March 14. 1855

Prof. Asa Gray,

Dear Sir,

Your esteemed favor of the
2nd inst. has been duly received and I hasten
to reply. In answer to your question as to the
whereabouts of Alma I have to say that it is on
the bank of the Shenandoah river in latitude
 $38^{\circ} 35'$ about 100 miles from the city of Washington
and 125 miles from Richmond the state Capitol.

The Blue Ridge of Mountains is the Eastern boundary
of the County of Page and the Massanutten Mountains
bound it on the West. The adjoining counties are
Madison and Rappahannock on the East, Rockingham
on the South, Shenandoah on the West and Warren on
the North. I would be truly delighted to see a work
published giving the description of the plants of Va. &c.
as your Manual of the Botany of the N. & Middle States
does for the North. I shall immediately procure a
copy of your Manual &c. and though I have never
met with a copy of your "Genera of Plants of the U.S.
Illustrated" I am aware of its existence and have only
been deterred from purchasing it from the fear of its
not yet being complete and of the expense, my
means in a pecuniary point of view being limited.
I should, however, be glad to know when it is

expected to be completed, the number of volumes it will embrace and the probable cost of the whole work. I am a practising physician and take a deep interest in several branches of Natural History, and have facilities for collecting specimens in most parts of the state. This I am enabled to do through the kindness of my former class-mates at the University of Va. and of the members of our State Medical Society.

It will give me, I assure you, very great pleasure to procure for you specimens, fruits, or information concerning the plants of Va. or to be of service to you otherwise in any way that it may be in my power.

With great respect
I remain yr. very truly

James L. Ellerbee

P.S. In writing to me it is not necessary to pay the postage - only have the care to add P.M. after my name and mark the corner of the letter with the word Free



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