

he is a wonderful man - the work and  
good work - he goes through is astonishing  
while at the same time his business as  
Assistant Director of the Garden - and  
the scientific position and influence he  
has in Britain and the scientific world  
make large inroads on his time. He  
has been very hard at Australian  
Diptera & Cyperaceae for his Flora of  
Tasmania

J. Kirke who is going out with  
Livingstone to the Zambezi seems a  
very good man - and that is a very good  
field - if the fever does not lay him  
prostrate

Kindest remembrances to Mr  
Gray from Mr Bentham & myself  
We go on steadily & quietly and have  
therefore nothing to say about  
ourselves. I wish we had a chance  
of seeing you & Mr Gray in our  
comfortable home here

Ever your sincerely

George Bentham

I wrote this the other day but did not send  
it because I thought I would just look at  
your Am. Appl. Cyper. where I found your  
beautiful plates & descriptions of *Polypetalum* and  
*Crotophaga*.

Amud

79  
91 Victoria Street  
Westminster  
Feb 14/50

My Dear Gray

I have long been going to write  
to you but for one reason or another  
have always put it off. In the first  
place as you kindly interested yourself  
in my British Flora and wished to see it  
as printed off I waited till I could say  
I had sent you some of the sheets - but  
that has misfired. I stipulated for  
two clean proofs that I might send  
you one - then came delays and one  
thing and another - and now that  
it is fairly en train I find I only get  
one clean proof which I am obliged to  
keep for indexing etc. However it is now  
going on rapidly and will I hope be out  
in May. Now that it is known I am  
doing it some of my friends say it is a pity  
I should employ myself upon the Flora of a  
country so well known that there is nothing  
more to be said about it, and others think  
I am incompetent as not having made  
British Botany my special study, which is  
not very encouraging - but I was anxious



to try the experiment of a Flora for beginners  
according to my own views - and if I fail I  
will readily give them up. The title fixed  
upon is "Handbook of the British Flora" - You  
will see I have adopted some of your suggestions.

You ask how I could have stated that  
*Morinda* had pendulous ovules - I have  
been trying to find out how that could  
have been for I have no record of having  
~~made them~~ examined them and so  
many Rubiaceae on occasion of the Niger  
Flora as well as when doing some Brazilian  
ones on different occasions. The Niger Flora  
was got up under great pressure from the  
bookseller. Mr. Hooker when he went to  
India left the MS not half finished - the  
Rubiaceae were untouched and I had none  
of Planchon's notes to help me and had to  
examine them all with but little time to do  
it in - Having ascertained the structure  
of most Guttiferæ and having on other  
accounts fancied that *Morinda* should go  
with them I believe I had put in my  
MS *Morindeae* with a most "to be examined"  
or ex as I generally do and in sending to proof  
had inadvertently overlooked the mark - a  
very careless thing to do - but - Baillieon  
threatened Sir W. Hooker with law if he  
did not provide MS by a certain time or  
reimburse all the outlay already incurred.  
Seeing in Walp. Catal. a *Ptelephantium*  
*conymborum* Benth. of which I felt

perfectly innocent I have been led to  
examine the plant - which is between  
*Cappipouren* and *Gynotroches* (*Dryopteris*)  
and which Miquel has named *Dryopteris*  
*membranaceum* - and am just finishing  
up a short paper on the Leguminosæ tribe  
of *Rhizophoræ* including *Carallia* (Pootia  
Miq.) *Pellacalyp* <sup>*Haydoni*</sup> *Antrothecia* *Gynotroches*  
~~*Dry.*~~ *Ptelephantium* and *Cappipouren*  
and perhaps another new genus <sup>have</sup>  
what plant wrote this? I stupidly thought you had not got so far  
you any of the rest in your Amer. Egypt. type?  
Harvey has brought one from the Pezie  
group of inland (near *Antrothecia*?) but  
scarcely in a state to describe. It is none of  
yours.  
I believe I told you that I had sent  
to Martins the MS of Brazilian Papilionacæ  
all but *Dalbergiæ* & *Lophoræ* - since  
that I have been obliged by press of other  
things to leave Leguminosæ aside for the  
present (except a revision of Chamber's  
notes on Australian *Acacias* just sent to  
the Linn. Soc.) - and now I must give  
all my spare time to make up another  
batch of *Gramineæ* plants as he will  
be wanting money - He is now at  
Baños in Peru having had a very severe  
journey up the Huallaga over the Andes  
but they say his health, which was  
very bad in England, is wonderfully good  
with all his hardships and fatigues.  
Mr. Hooker keeps you no doubt  
an account of all that is going on here



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