

New York, 17 Nov^r 1847.

My dear Gray - Your letter (not your writing paper) of Saturday Even^g. reached me last Afternoon, covering my specimen of *Woodia flabellata* which I supposed, as a matter of course, would have been illuminated - However, it is probable that you now consider me an eleve of the "Rumford" School, & upon principles of chivalry & equity thoroughly recognized within the classical precincts of B. M. Castle of Newgate - "Dog eat Dog is a poor trade" - I did ~~not~~ get your hr., as to our Roch^r friend, & his last Caricog. & I "kept silence because I had nothing to say" as you surmise - What could I say? What could be said, but that I had read the Incubitation, & derived from it all the light which it was capable of transmitting! I do not allow myself to doubt that our friend is a kind-hearted, well disposed man, but for the rest, - - - & certainly in your recent case he has been unusually oblivious - I believe I mentioned to you my conviction that he does actually, at times, forget his own published species, as well as those of others; & I can readily understand that he may also forget the sources of any information which may present itself as a new light to his mind. My last letter but one, (which you never noticed in your subsequent one, by the way) told you all about his published & unpublished statements respecting his *C. mirata*, of which he sent me two (I think different *perispermia*) - well - I wrote him in reply, contrasting his statements

to me, in litt. with those published by himself & Torr. I was
told in reply that all was straight-forward enough, except
that he was deceived as to Sargent being the source of the
plant in question! My own the whole, therefore, I am
determined to give our friend "a wide berth" & not to
cross him or interfere with him, further, as to this his
hobby; which he may ride (for me) up mountains &
over seas to his heart's content - I leave to him, in
terms that when he gets my work, he may "write me down
an ap", without the possibility of offending me, for I will
not be offended by him, let him do, say, or write what
he will - re caricatures - As to getting your specimens of
Urossia flabella from Vasey, as the condition of being "called
a gentleman" by you; why you must even call me a varlet
or what likes you else, for truly I am in no way of getting
them for myself - The poor man has not addressed me for
some 18 mos. I believe, not even to acknowledge a few
plants & a letter I sent him - I suppose he is huffed about
some slight, to some of his discoveries, or what not: for I
have not the slightest idea what can have offended him -
Truly, my dear pray, I am sick to death of these petty
jealousies; & do not desire as a friend or correspondent any
one who has not confidence enough in me to feel assured
of my good will & frank intentions towards him - And more
of pleasant matters - Your talk about *Avena striata* drags
to my mind, what I hope you noticed in your Herb. as I think I
called your attention to it, by a note, when arranging your Grass.
2 yrs. ago - You have a specimen (I think from Schumann) of
what he calls *Avena flavescens*, which I thought corresponded exactly

with a fragment you have "ex herb. Schreb." ("illuminatio?") labelled
by you "flos aenei permixtus him. a Kalus lecti".
I find only this men. in my herb. & a piece of the Schumann plant
but none of Kalus - I had not then learnt the χ^2 system -
You have also a queer *Paricium* from "Macon-Hl. Mead"
which I have labelled *P. autumnale* Bosc. I think one the au-
thority of something you brought from Europe, but my Crithage
does not amount to much, & as I did not note the authority, I have
forgotten about it - You will say you have nothing to do with Hl.
there, but probably the same thing is in Ohio - I have a further
faint remembrance of some quiddity I noticed in connection
with a 1-flowered grass (a sort of a *Muhlenbergia* thing), but
for the life of me I cannot remember what it was, & last night
I turned over my herb. books found nothing to refresh my memory!
A proof that one's education is not complete, without attending
a "Rumford" course - If you should tell me all this is too
late for the Book; I reply, I send it as soon as ever I thought
of it - & for the rest, if you have not consulted your herb.
 whilst "sowing" the grass & you ought to have done so, &
there you would meet with these & dozens other bright hints
from my pen, I doubt not - I never knew what *Trisetum*
really is; & agree with Hook. (I think) that Botanists will be
apt to take their own views as to the species comprised in it.
Deschampsia again, as distinct? from *Arida*, what do you say
about it? Can you not lend me a set of rough sheets
of the grass? I do not want to wait 6 months before I see
them - Sent per mail or ran, in your turn, are no farther
I have got, by private hand, a capital letter from Bratt,
a perfect treatise, which I will send you on to read -
Poor *Carex gracilis*, it seems will not "stay put", & we were
going a-head too fast in (our) doings - I pay our, because
I expected to what you said - gave my important "ditto to
Mr. Burke" - I have written Bratt, acknowledging the papers

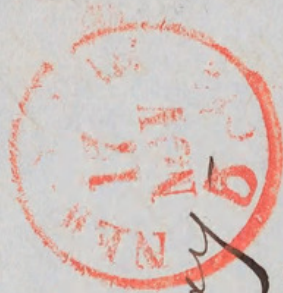
received thro' you, & his last treatise - He is a good & a capital
fellow - I have written to Olney (~~Thos~~ whom I hope to get at Vasey)
also to Kniebourn (from whom I expect an answer in less
than 10 years, perhaps in 6) to send me such Carices as our
Dear good Bast wants, & what they cannot furnish I
shall strip my own collecⁿ to supply, that he may have
all we can do for him, & which he so well deserves - You
may therefore say, if you write very shortly, that I am
doing my possible in the matter, & as he & you & I do
at least understand each other, it matters not from which
of us he gets them - If contrary to my hopes I cannot get
any of the plant with the euphonous name, nor yet of
C. Woodii, you must try (your friend?) Wood, who lives
I believe in poor Dr. Crane's Country - I will let you know
by stage whether you need apply to him - I wrote to him,
at your suggestion, soon after the fire but he vouchsafed
no reply to my letter, whatever - Perhaps he was offended because
I asked how I could send him a copy of yr. "text bk" - I know not.
As to my doings in Carex - If any body questions you on
the subject, refer them to me - & I have an answer
stereotyped - "what I wrote I certainly thought at the time
of writing; whether, if I were now reviewing the ground, I
should alter my opinion in any points, I cannot say;
but in the meantime, what the Book says, in reference
to any & every species, I say, be it right or wrong, till
I give equal publicity to a change of opinion" - If any
philosophers will insist upon sending me specimens & quiddities
to resolve - I shall esteem it a personal insult, & demand
satisfaction, or light my pipe with their nippies - There is the book.
Why should I "eat their dirt" ? I have written myself into "Ecles
viii" but having also written to the end of my sheet, I come down from my

stills & will "roar" like a sucking dove" to send
love to dear Lady I. & affec^d regards to you -

Oakes sent me his prospectus, & I really feel annoyed
that I know no one here to whom I could present it
for subscrip^{ns} - This is one of the annoy^{es} of living
entirely out of the world - Give my regards to him
when you see him - I shall write him shortly -

This is written at the Col. House, by which
you will see that business is not very active -
Indeed, the late news from England, with
the probable continu^{ce} of the war in Mex^o,
have quite suspended business, for a time -

Business men feel very anxious, just now,
as to the prospects for the winter -



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Carey, John. 1847. "Carey, John Nov. 17, 1847." *John Carey letters to Asa Gray*

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