

New York - 5 Nov. 1849.

My dear Gray - I have had the great pleasure to receive Mrs. G's delightful letter from which I gather your news - except as to Botany - I wonder what you are doing, at the moment, precisely, since it seems that you are waiting for plants of the &c. &c. from Washington. I have also rec'd. Hapham's Wisconsin Cat. & a sheet of "Bibliog." from Silb. Journ. Since I last wrote you - for both of which many thanks - I wrote as to this last. It seems that Wrag. - Tard. has reunited his Amburina to Chenopod. but having confined the Char. of the last gen. strictly to the horizontal fruit - how does he include Amb. Batrys with vertical? See his Chenopod. in which it stands as a G. of Amburina - on that very account! I should like to see how he manages this in the Prod? That species, at least, would be a Ranuncula, subject only to the not completely annular embryo. Again, you say that he puts Scnida into Amaranthaceae & that A. rustocarpa appears to be mixed up in a manner that requires much investigation to unravel with amaranthus tamariscinus Nutt. &c. &c. Now, in a letter written to you in June /48 commenting on the Chenopod. in the "Manual" I had the temerity to express myself, as follows, - "I am not satisfied with Scnida - it belongs to Amaranthaceae - has the seed & char. I think. Indeed I think it is a mere amaranthus, but certainly it must go wherever A. tamarisc. is placed - As to the bracts &c. &c. Thus much from my letter book - the remainder you can refer to if my letter still exists - Your answer was merely & courteously (more two) thus -

"As to your talk about *Scoridac* it is all humbug - for any thing I know to the contrary!"
As I have not the means of knowing what Prof. Fard. has written on the subject, I must now volunteer one other "humbug" for your future investigation - If I know the Staminate plants of *St. rusocarpa* & *Amar. tamarisc.* they are indistinguishable - in other words, absolutely identical - no justice. Perhaps, however, I may not have them both, as I have supposed.

I return your benevolence, by Adams Express, having gone carefully thro' them again - I find, however, that my spec. are, upon the whole, purer than Fard's & I have no new light upon the subject. You will observe my pencil over an our sheets - In 2 or 3 cases, you have misplaced the Vernacular (Barbaram) names which is only of consequence should our friend Spalding hereafter send the fruiting umbels under the name - by which the certainty of bringing the specimens together might be more secure - The Carices on Spalding's plants were only 4 - *C. C. Goodii* Hook. *Douglasii*, (Woot.) (young) *straminea*, W. & *angustata* *C. verticil.* Woot. in Hook. & W. (now *C. verticillata*, Woot. diff.!) the last two of which most of the being fallen - This is all you require as to the Spalding plants - I return you your list, & hope to receive the remaining part from you when completed - Especially, bear in mind the Scraps. with reference to my numbered flowers, in your papers - I shall not otherwise understand your determinations, in the absence of Character - I send you another piece of the Graphophorum!

which I had laid out for Brother Fard. & can't have sent you more yet, but that I filed down what you gave me, (quite a clump) out of Brother Fard's plants - And you not select my specimens yourself I suppose you would now say that I cribbed the whole understandingly - on the subject of grapes I have asked you very many things, what is the true *Poa hirsuta*, Michx. which from one remark in the "Mammal" you appear to know? I have lately been putting the Oregon & Calif. *Corydalis* of the L. Exp. in order for Torrey, & find there a *Chrysopsis* wh. you label "*C. echinoides* Benth." - This seems to me exactly No. 7 of Gay's *Bot. Pl.* (the "*C. villosa* B. minor &c. Hook.") which you & I both referred in the Spalding plants to *C. hispidus* - See your remark *Pl. Fend. p. 77* - Let me know what you think - I have no other knowledge of Benthams plants - I am alarmed about the *Triglochin* with decidedly yellow rays - We shall have to stir between *Chrysopsis* - *Hemeroc.* & *Aphorhappus*! A very uncomfortable piece of investigation it will be if more such *Triglochin* turn up - you may depend upon it.

Thus much of Botany - & I may now let me have your safe remarks on what I have written - some day! My best love to dear Mrs. J. with thanks for her kind & interesting letter - I have been too much of a busy man this year to permit myself a visit to Boston tho' I should like to be with you & friend Harvey whom I greatly hope to know, as his *Farwell* & *Friendly* Correspondence have predisposed me strongly in his favour - I should like to have met Richardson once again, & at your table - Torrey is now lecturing - Mrs. F. was in town for 2 days last week, & Jane & Eliza are still at Belmont. This is all I have of interest to Mrs. J. I shall write her when I have any thing left dry than Botany to talk about -

My best respects to Mr. Harney & love to all the family
with much to yourself. From Gr. aff. H.



Prof. A. Fay
Cambridge
Massachusetts



You will notice amongst the few things
sent you a survey for the "Massachusetts"
1 or 2 papers as to which I want your ideas.



Carey, John. 1849. "Carey, John Nov. 5, 1849." *John Carey letters to Asa Gray*

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