

Botanic Garden Cambridge

January 1<sup>st</sup> 1873

My dear President Eliot

Will you kindly present the enclosed communication to the Corporation at its next meeting. I need not say to you that I could not take so serious a step as this without much consideration, and that I would not do it if I were not confident, that the department which I have served in the University for almost thirty <sup>one</sup> years, need not now suffer by my withdrawal, I am warned also by growing experience, of the fact that the useful work which I could formerly do with ease, can now be done only by effort, followed by exhaustion and other unpleasant effects, which may be expected to increase. And it is clear that I have left to me, at best, barely time enough, when rigorously economized, to complete the books for which I have long been pledged, and without the accomplishment of which my life will have been largely a failure. The Corporation will

desire that I do not intend to be idle, but  
to concentrate that energies remain to me, upon  
the kind of work, for which I am best, and  
indeed peculiarly fitted, both by disposition  
and by more than forty years of preparation.  
As this work precedes the Herbarium  
of the University, always requiring attention  
during its continual increase, will be put into  
the condition in which I should leave it, and  
with its value greatly enhanced, in view of  
this, and of the fact that the Herbarium  
forms an important part of the apparatus  
of instruction here. I trust the Corporation  
will think it reasonable to allow me the  
possession of the house I live in, in recompense  
of my services as curator of the Herbarium.  
I offer my resignation unconditionally  
that the Corporation may have as it should,  
the whole matter in its hands without  
embarrassment. If it be desired to keep  
my name, for the present upon the Catalogue,  
and especially if the Corporation should prefer  
not to place a permanent incumbent just yet  
in the Fisher Professorship, I would in that

case take the liberty to suggest that the  
present very capable and efficient assistant  
Dr Goodale be made adjunct Professor of Vegetable  
Physiology, with salary assigned from the Fisher  
Professorship.

I remain, dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours

Asa Gray

Messrs. the President and Fellows of Har. Coll.  
Hon. & Dear Sirs-

The time has arrived when I may, as I think with-  
out detriment to the University, retire from the  
Professorship to which I was appointed in the Spring  
of 1842, and I hereby tender my resignation of it.  
It takes effect at the close of the present academic  
year, when I shall have completed thirty one  
years of service.

I trust that I may still  
be useful to the University; and if agreeable  
to the Corporation I should like to continue to be  
the Curator of the Herbarium  
With sincere regard

I am your obedient servant  
Botanic Garden,

Asa Gray

Cambridge. January 1<sup>st</sup> 1873-



Gray, Asa. 1873. "Gray, Asa Jan. 1, 1873 [to C.W. Eliot]." *Asa Gray correspondence with scientific societies, Harvard College, and University of Michigan*

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