

N.B. I sent, with my parcel to you, care of Wm. Pittman, a copy of the *Advertiser*,
of last week, containing the paper on the late discovery of *Darwinia* by light. 10
Don't call Brown "Doctor"; he does not like it. *Sundays 2023!*

Saturday Evening, 2nd Feb'y. 1837 }
36 Northumberland Street, Strand }

My Dear Doctor

I wrote to you last by the Great Western, and I have since written Mrs. Sorrey by the London Packet of Feb'y. 1. which will probably be received some days later than this. Your two letters, also, of the 1st. & 4th of January were received I believe since I wrote you, but am not sure: they reached me about a week ago. It can do no harm to thank you again for them in case I have ~~not~~ done so already, for I am indeed doubly thankful. I think you must have received letters from me very shortly after yours of the 4th. was written; as the vessel which brought your letters, or at least the London packet of the same day brought out the news of the arrival of the United States, by which I wrote first. The Royal William, which should bring you my third letter, must shortly after have arrived, and we are now daily expecting it from New York, when I hope for other letters.

I suppose you would not have anticipated that I was to have a fortnight more with Hooker, yet so it was! and his kindness to me has been as unvaried as ever. I owe much to his favourable introductions here. The first person I found in London was Booth, who informed me that Hooker was in town, as indeed I expected. I went directly to the British Museum, where I found Hooker & his son, Brown, Richardson, and Bennett. Brown has been very kind to me, in his peculiar way. I have seen him but twice since Hooker & myself breakfasted with him, but I hope soon to be at work at the British Museum and to see more of him. He is very fond of gossip at his own fire side, and amused us extremely with his dry wit, but in company he is silent and reserved. I have found out also that he does not do to ask him directly any question about plants. He is as old Macrives told us, the driest pump imaginable. But although he will ^{not} bear direct squeezing, yet by coaxing and very careful management any one he has confidence in may get a good deal out of him. He tells me that *Petalanthura*, Nutt. is a published genus, and promises to give me all the information about it I desire. I asked him some questions about the manner in which the vessels of *Hermes* uncoil.

books he has written, & has a Botanist in India; all are much interested. They
He at once remarked; they are well like a ribbon, & I
placed Bailey's hands Specimens afterward in his hands,
and also some of the Infructic, which he expressed himself
much pleased with when I saw him at Lambeth. By the
way the Infructic were sent by Bailey himself, I delivered
also the parcel for Lindley, and gave the rest. I had mostly
to Dr. Roger, Mr. Lyell and Francis Bauer, who were all
very glad to get them. I have saved a few for Mrs. Ward's
microscopical Party, which he is to give on Wednesday of next
week after next. I have not yet called on Wiggins & Co. to know
whether they will honor my drafts, but there no doubt
that all is right, I shall with pleasure attend to Mr. Sul-
livan's commissions. I have got some valuable information on
the subject from Brown, and expect more. Mr. Thomas Sulli-
van would like some authentic Cryptogamic collections.
I would have ordered for him a set of Drummond's Flora
of British America, but the original sets are gone, and
the remainder are in bulk and it is very trouble gone to make
them out; yet this will sometime be done, and also those
in the Southern States also arranged. Ask Sullivan if he would
like them when they are to be had. Mean while I have
ordered the Musci Latici - about 220 species in 2 vols.
which Hooker will send directly to you. I have
sent the money by Mr. Hooker (L. 3.) I shall find some much
cheaper ones in Germany, but not quite so valuable. I shall
also order for Sullivan Hooker's Icons Vol. which will
be contained, as Hooker furnishes all the matter for nothing &
gives the plates, finding paper and every thing. Although there
is not so much detail as I could wish yet it is becoming a very val-
uable collection for a student of Natural Orders.

Monday evening, I broke off here Saturday evening, & was continuing my
manuscript. I have been writing the day with Lindley, very pleasantly. I have
finished his Inquiry which Aspinwall described from me, and have put the whole into a pamphlet in
two parts. I fear for some time allow me to continue monthly in the British Monthly
Mag., and with out order. The Royal William has just arrived. I hope for my little pamphlet,
which was expected to meet me this evening at Lambeth, but an attack of inflammation kept
him at home. I have seen none of his late, though the kindness of Mr. Ward, the kind host
of Mr. Lindley, helped me more than you expect both of books &c. to continue
the flora up to long time more than you expect both of books &c. I hope to receive
the part of the Monthly for Paris. Perhaps you had lost all your letters &c. - I hope to receive
your parcel as you think best, only let me know. Write first to me to express your
wishes, & I will use them to advantage. Tell Henry I have paid to
Mr. Clark the money he had paid to Clark; so that is done now.
You will see how the old policy of our flora in the Feb. 1, 1861. In works of Natural History
this is going to suffer having somehow strongly attacked Hooker's article. I shall write
to Mr. Aspinwall to prepare a new one for next month. I have seen the original
James' Encyclopaedia of Horticulture - both leaves & fruit. Knott has not been paid more at
present to it. It is very like Torrey's, and doubtless a copycat, and so Brown
indicates. I will see more about it soon. A new Ed. of Lindley's Introduct. to
Botany is preparing!

Sullivan wants, I suppose, a microscope of eight diam.

a good working instrument; and an Adomatic. This last I think I
shall procure for him in London, where they produce more perfect instruments
than the French. Can you send Bartham the Lindeinis. He
wishes much to examine them; and goes to Berlin.

Brattell seems to think much more of Herbaria than any body else.
It is generally thought he is in his 80s, and a sad very old splitter of
plants. His moral character is I am sorry to say, very bad in some
important particulars, so that he has lost caste very much even in Germany.
Though very old and terribly ugly, he continues to run off from Bonn
with some brother-Professor's wife! I do not much care to see
him.

I had some thoughts of going to Paris via Leyden, to see if I
can coax anything out of Blume, but he seems to have behaved
rather strangely to all the English Botanists whom I have met
with. You ask who I like best in Scotland. Hooker is all in all,
my great favorite. Arnott is a deeper botanist, and I believe a very
good-hearted fellow indeed; so he was to me. But he has continued to make
enemies, and in confidence I may say that I am sorry to see a sort of
half-coldness between him and Hooker. Hooker is often very annoyed by the
doubtful peers Arnott takes to point out any blunders he makes. Grisebelle
is very much, but the other botanists do not appreciate him; and
indeed he does little in Botany; and I may say in all confidence
that there is evidently some unpleasant field, or at least a want of
cordiality between him & Hooker.

A new Arctic expedition is being planned, indeed is settled
upon ready to be commanded by James Ross. But a part of the
administration has difficulties in the way. If it goes Joseph
Hooker is to be the Naturalist.

I hope the lectures at
the Lyceum will turn out well. I hope also you will make no
permanent engagement with Princeton at present, as I do not
think Henry will stay there long. In despatching parcels
to Lehmann, do not forget to send 8 or 9 copies of Flora, I
have written to Lehmann, informing him that parcels would
be sent him, and a copy of Flora, and have received a
very kind answer, saying that he will take care of my
books for me with pleasure.

I could send you Ed.
Liher's Flora Plantarum from England, but shall be delayed
to give it to Mr. Aspinwall, whence it is published at 8/- By the
way, Gode's Memoir on the Preparation of Plants
turns out to be mere humbug, and it seems there is little de-
pendence to be placed upon them. I really wish I
could keep this back another day, as I feel confident that
I shall get letters from you tomorrow by the Royal William.



To Mr John Torrey
No. 30. Mac Donald Street
New York
Via Liverpool and New
Hampshire Steam Ship Liverpool.
2 Sheets only.



Biodiversity Heritage Library

Gray, Asa. 1839. "Gray, Asa Feb. 2, 1839 [to Torrey]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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