

N.B. I sent, with my parcel to you, Case of Wilkes & Putnam, a copy of the 10th edition, of last week, containing the papers on the late discovery of drawing by light. Don't call Brown "Doctor"; he does not like it. Sunday Dec 3! 10
Saturday Evening 2nd Feb 7. 1837

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36 Northumberland Street, Strand }

My Dear Doctor

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I wrote to you last by the Great Western, and I have since written Mrs. Loring by the London Packet of Feb 9. 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 supposed 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 ~~once~~ ^{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 it does not do to ask him directly any question about plants. He is as old Mexico 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 question about the manner in which the vessels of Ferns uncoil.

He has been examining them, & has a Manuscript in India; all are much interested by them. He at once remarked, they unroll like a ribbon. I placed Bailey's marked specimens afterward in his hands and also some of the Indigonia, which he expressed himself much pleased with when I saw him at Lambert's. By this way the Indigonia were sent by Bailey himself, I delivered also the parcel for Lindley, and gave the rest. I had mostly to Dr. Poirer, Mr. Syllé and Francis Bauer, who were all very glad to get them. I have saved a few for Mr. 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 I have no doubt that all is right, I shall with pleasure attend to Mr. Sulivants Commissions. I have got some valuable information on the subject from Brown, and expect more. Don thought Sulcivants would like some authentic Cryptogamic collections.

I would have ordered for him a set of Grammars (those of British America, but the original sets are gone) and the remainder are in bulk and it is very troublesome to make them out: yet this will some time be done, and also those of the Southern States also arranged. Ask Silliman if he would like them when they are to be had. Mean while I have ordered the Musci Latitici - about 220 species in 2 vols. which Hooker will send directly to you. I have sent the money by Lie Hooker (£3). I shall find some much cheaper ones in Germany, but not quite so valuable. I shall also order for Silliman Hooker's Icones Pl. which will be continued, 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 valuable collection for a student of Natural Orders.

[illegible]

a good working instrument; and an Abolomitic, this last I think I shall procure for him in London, where they produce many perfect instruments than the French. Can you send Bartham the Lindormias, he wishes much to examine them: send good collas.

Arnot seems to think much more of Ness at Eschschol than any body else. It is generally thought he is in his dotage, and a sad way sad. Splutter of words. 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 France. Though very old and terribly ugly, he continued to run off from Bonn in with some better-looking wife! I do not much care to see him. I had some thought of going to Paris via Leyden, to see if I

him, I had some thoughts of going to Paris via Leyden, to see if I
can coax anything out of DeCane, but he seems to have behaved
rather strangely to all the English Botanists I have yet met
with. You ask who I like best in Holland. Hooker is, all in all,
my great favourite. Arnott is a deeper botanist, and I believe a very
good hearted fellow indeed; so he was to me, but he has contrived to make
enemies, and on confidence I may say that I am sorry to be a sort of
half-cordless between him and Hooker. Hooker is often well enough of the
domitable penus Arnott takes to print at any blunder he makes. Grenville
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 feeling, or at least a want of
cordiality between him & Hooker.

[illegible]

P.S. I have just had the offer of a chance to
 examine Yellow Hill, as much as I like, to take it into
 my hands for a week or 2 like I and that after
 I had nearly given up all hopes of it
 so turn for particulars - Adieu. Your affectionate
 Wm.

To ~~Dr. John Torrey~~
 No. 30. MacDougal Street
 New York
 Via Liverpool and the
 Steam Ship Liverpool.
 2 sheets only.

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 5 FEB 5
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if he would



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

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