

London, 12th. February, 1839.

Dear Doctor

I have been all day among Lambert's plants, and was a little while this evening with Benth. He is correcting the proof of his paper on *Stylosanthes* for the *Linnean Transactions*, and has just been examining *Chapmannia* in connexion. He thinks it a good genus, tho' near *Stylosanthes*, and has added a note about it to his paper, as well as the character of the fruit from your letter to me. But what pleased Benth. most of all was that he found good fertile flowers on the very specimen, which you had searched in vain for them. Now that he has found them they are conspicuous enough, and the wonder is how we happened not to find them, when they are just such things as we were looking for. I will send Benth. his paper as soon as I can get it.

Let me not forget to mention, that as yet, I find nothing of the parcel of plants you mention as having been sent with the books to Mr. Putnam. The clerk is trying to find it, but so far without success. Was it actually sent? I hope it will not be lost.

For fear of any accident I give you some of the most important notes from Pursh, so far. — His

Jussiaea subacaulis = *Knuthera heterantha*, Nutt.

Agrimonia parviflora & *suaveolens* are the same (the plant from Short, with slender leaflets serrate with many teeth). The other one in your lab, with short leaflets with a few coarse teeth or lobes is consequently a new species. My notes upon other Rosaceae are interesting but I will not go into them now.

Helianthemum rosmarinifolium, Pursh (spec. Englin) is not *H. Canad.* as you supposed, but *H. polifolium*!

I have been looking at Tilia's. After I have examined those at the British Museum, I will give you some notes. I have been settling Linnean *Asclepiadeae*, and will presently give you notes on most of the old species. It is slow work, but very necessary.

Pentstemon Bradburii seems to be the *P. Murrayanum* Hook, tho' it not also *P. tubae florem*, Nutt. Arkans. ? Benth. is inclined to study our *Pentstemonis* in a month or two, if you can get Nuttall's of the last collection for him. Pray get your set and send them out. It should be done soon, as Benth. goes to the continent in the summer.

Oxytropis argutata, Pursh. This & the other have been strangely mixed up in Lambert's herb., and it was no easy matter to see through it.

Chapman's new *Micromeria* = *M. Brownei*! Michx. got it in Florida!

The substance is this. *Astragalus pulnacarpus* Nutt. in *Proc. Acad.* is in *Nutts. Lamb.* but is not published by *Lamb.*
Cratogeomys agalata "Clark's River" 44 = *C. munda*, *C. Lamberti*.
- is not *Astr.*, *pulnacarpus*, and is not *Astrag. argenteatus*, *Wid.*
& *Dallas*, for I have compared them.

Psoralea esculenta. Rush speaks only of specimens from Lewis.
Now Lewis' spec. is in mature fruit. His figure is taken from
Nuttall's specimens on next sheet, & his description applies
partly to this subcaulescent form, and partly to the other
(which is the *P. brachiata*, Hook.). But as you suspected the
two are the same, and Rush is quite right in uniting them,
Nuttall surely can't say his *Psoralea* is not Rush's, when
Rush's figure is taken from his own specimen!

Psoralea cuspidata, Rush, n. sp., which we somehow overlooked
until it was too late is not a form of *esculenta*, as you
guessed, but *P. cryptocarpa*, of the *Solera*.

Thursday evening.

Two more days at Lambeth; and not done yet, though I
have worked very hard. But I will go on.
Centomon Bradburii Rush! = *Mesogrammus*? = *tubaeformis* Nutt.?
I have seen *Gabriele punctata* B. & Par. - It has not much the
appearance of Nuttall's species, which may be a new genus. I have a
flower or so.

Synonchopappus tenuifolius! I have reasons for thinking that Hooker's
S. liliifolia is not different.
Senecio paniculatus! = dwarf *S. aureus*. *S. maculis*, Schugb. Hill? or *argutus*.
Asteris caudata, the spec. is *Eupatorium forficuloides*!
Eupatorium americanum! = our *purpureum*.

"*verticillatum*! = *purpureum* var.
"album! no. semil. & a bit of something else
"tenuifolium! = *rotundifolium*
"hyssopifolium! = of Torr. not of D.C. } I have some good notes
"lanceol. 1. 2 species mixed. } on *Scamandrus*

What think you of our *Brasenia* from New Holland?
Cladonia rosacea, Rush! = *C. Drummondii*, notis!
"Catesbyana! = *Plukenetii* Ab. (Vesp. in hb. Banks) = our little
one from *LeConte* - a bit not described from District from
Virginia. Very short stalk, though perhaps they elongate!

"*cordata*, Rush! = *virginiana* cate!
Orchis striatula, Rush! I am right!
"dilatata! = right also!
"fucoscaud! = *habida*

Friday

I have been to day at the British Museum, studying
from the specimens of *Plukenet*, *Catesby*, *Miller* &c. &c. - the authorities
for old Linnaean species in *Flor.*, *Prilos*, *Eupatorium* &c. It is
slow and tedious work, and I will not have time to do so much
of it as I could wish. Brown told me to-day about *Petalan-
thes*. It is *Corallic*, *Lafasca*, *hol. mediet*, and very
probably his species even *C. sinuata*. It came from New Spain.
You will see Lindley is all astray about the genus and no
one knows its affinities even but Brown, *Lafasca* himself
refers it to *Boraginaceae*. It is true *Loasea*. I was this
evening at *Beathams*, and found he had a specimen of
C. sinuata from Hooker collected by Bridges in Mexico, I
think. When asked Brown to give us some notes on the subject,
a generic character &c. that we may publish a little from
his own pen. I am to spend a day with him next week,
and I will try to get something out of him. He hinted to
me some days ago that he knew something about *Cynilla*
&c. but I could not get it out of him. I'll try again.
He tells me he has a character to distinguish true *Rhoxia*,
which has escaped Don, deCandolle &c. We must find it
out.
Beatham has given me his *Scop. Karstia*
Index, and the three last parts of his *Labiata*: I have
forgot the rest (I 1. 2. 6.) and last evening we looked over his
N. Amer. specimens, and notes in his copy. He gave me
also the other day, the only published part of the "*Planta Angli-
cane*" and a few other pamphlets. He is a liberal soul.

Wednesday 20th Feb. 9.

I bought a copy of *Flora* for Bennett, the other
day, thinking it worth while to offer him something, as I
was taking up much of his time. To-day he gave
me a copy of the published part of the "*Plantae Jamaicae
Rorices*" - I 2. 16 plain, is the publishing price - an
invaluable work, containing very many notes and observations
on various genera &c. both by Brown and himself, which
it is quite necessary we should see. The notes I have
made for the last few days are not now before me,
so that I cannot now give you any remarks. There is
no one thing of very considerable importance, but much
small matter. By the way, let me say that
Bennett thinks that Brown thinks *Ronandrovia* to
be *Hydrophyllaceae*! *Beatham* would give something to

know this, but I shall keep it to myself. I have made out the remainder of Pursh's doubtful *Menispermata* & *Stellaria* from Herb. Banks. The parcel of Solidago's &c. sent to care of Mr. Putnam, I am glad to say, came to hand. It did not arrive until last week however.

Monday Morning, March 4th 1839

I have got so far behind in my botanical news that I despair of bringing up my arrears, and must leave very much for telling you in *proposia pasana*, if we meet again. I fancy I have not very much new to ~~learn~~ learn on the Continent about microscopes and modes of working. I have seen much of all the best people here, last not least Valentine, who lives in the country, from whom I have derived much useful knowledge. He works to some account, which can't be said of most here, who tho' they have the best instruments in the world, don't turn them to any important account. As to Sullivan, tell him to have great patience. I can get him a capital single simple microscope by Ross for six guineas, but I want to get as useful one for him cheaper. So I shall wait till I have been on the continent I think. My plan is to purchase at Paris for him, where the low powers are good as can be, and supply a lens or two here. For an achromatic I shall ~~have~~ have to give Ross, for an instrument that can be perfectly depended on, 30 - 35 pounds at least. I am going to take a test object with me, and after trying Ross' instruments, apply the very same test to those on the Continent. and if I am satisfied buy them both for Sullivan and myself, or I may ~~buy~~ buy portions there, and complete the instruments here. I am working at all this matter with great care, and you may assure Sullivan that he will lose nothing by the delay. I think however I shall send him an instrument with single lenses from Paris. I have bought Mr. Sullivan's Hooker's Flora Bor.-am. 10 parts £7.17.6 to which add 5 pr. cart. = about £40. Also Hooker's Icones Plantarum 2. vols. bound. £2.2.0. Please call for them at Wiley & Putnam's. You will have to pay duty.

Continued

Dr. J.

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Or rather let them charge the duty to me and I will send the whole account together to Mr. Sullivan. I shall send books by the London packet of the 15th inst. Also a small parcel by the Great Western, through Mr. Booth, but of all this I will apprise you in due time.

The Flora is announced in last Annals Nat. History handsomely. Putnam has got off 25 copies, and is going on upon the remainder, but complains that he cannot do as he wishes with it until he gets a volume completed. Bailliere (the partner here) takes 3 copies only, and says the house at Paris will not take over b of a new work, but will order more if they get rid of these. Putnam is to send a half dozen to Bailliere at Paris and order at the same time from a list of books that I give him to the amount. I shall get for there the later parts of LeCandolle for you and Sullivan, and so on. But give me a list of what you require in Chemicals and I will see if I can get them for you. I can surely do it if you particularly desire them.

I am obliged to break off, and get my breakfast. I wish to leave on Saturday and yet have not finished Brit. Museum. - I have 2 days more at Linnaeus. That at least, must have one with R. Br. - and a day at Bronovius' after I have done with Linnaeus.

I am awfully hard-worked. Adieu. Write often as you possibly can. - Your affectionately
Albany

Our *Vesicaria brevistyla* = *V. grandiflora* Hook. and agrees well with the figure in Bot. Mag.

"*V. grandiflora* B. is certainly diff. species: this alone has the long style; in *V. grandiflora* it is short enough. We made some rather bad work with them; otherwise it is all well.

Chapmanian! exists in Bartrass's old collection here which you saw at Brit. Museum. and some other very lately published things



Gray, Asa. 1839. "Gray, Asa Feb. 12, 1839 [to Torrey] [2nd item]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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