

Charlotte, Vermont.

23. Feb., 1887.

Dear Dr. Gray,

Your favors of the 18th and 20th are before me.

May I visit you on Friday or Saturday of next week, March 4th or 5th?

Then I will be better able than now to say how much money I shall need for a start.

What can I do for the Am. Mus. of Nat. Hist. toward an Acclimatization? The question interests me deeply; and I shall want to discuss it with you, when I see you. Let me open the matter briefly now.— You know I have already worked two years for the Museum, helping to gather

the Jesup collection of N. A. trees. By reason of the interest in the Museum thus begetten, and of my admiration for it as a magnificent enterprise, I would rather, I believe, serve this institution with the best of all I have or can do than any other in the country.

Now, I have a good beginning for an herbarium, gathered during the past dozen years, by exchange with many American botanists, by purchasing nearly all the N. A. collections offered during that time, and by reserving the best specimen of every plant ever collected by myself. The specimens are mounted on heavy paper (standard size) in the neatest possible manner; and represent (often by several examples) about three fourths of the species of N. A. I have found a motive for this work, aside from the pleasure I take in handling and studying plants, in the hope that the collection might, when of more importance, help me to a home in some

college or other institution. I was going to ask you whether it were best to cherish such a hope and to continue enlarging my collection. Dr. Parry has encouraged me to do so.

I begin to feel the need of more room than a country house affords, and to wish that the collection were permanently placed, where I might add to it with better heart and a more certain purpose.

Could I not do considerable for an Am. Mus. herbarium? An engagement with the Museum (my personal needs are few and simple,) might be helpful to both parties. As a collector I might not, with such a backer, be found myself embarrassed as now by a bad season. Enjoying better facilities for travel, which the Museum can command, I might cover more ground and gather much greater collections than heretofore. I would be glad to continue collecting during several years, visiting various

districts within and beyond our borders, the most inviting to an explorer, and selecting and preparing the best-possible representation of the plants met with. I would like to make as now numerous sets; if the Museum desires to include in its herbarium the plants of other countries, such sets would command in exchange almost any return, I suppose. If they should not be wanted for this purpose their sale would go far towards defraying the expense of collecting.

But I have written more than I intended.

I have on hand no complete sets of former years but many duplicates of each year. Am to make up as large a lot as possible for Columbia College, and similar lots to go to Europe -

Yours faithfully.

C. G. Pringle -



Pringle, Cyrus G. 1887. "Pringle, Cyrus Guernsey Feb. 23, 1887 [Pringle to A. Gray]." *Cyrus Guernsey Pringle letters to Asa Gray*

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