

Phil^a - Apr, 28th / 56

Dear Dr Gray - Your letter post mark 24th was
rec^d. this morning - I am almost worried ^{now} to death -
the terrible destruction of the Artisan building by
fire about two weeks ago, has destroyed twenty three
copies in sheets with the exception of the Narrative
& Vols 6. & 7. - from Vol 7, I had orders not to bind
more than was necessary for present distribution, we
had this balance of the work stored at Gaskill's great binding
as all others had who sent work there, the building
had a Watchman to take care of it at night & tanks
on the top story containing 300 hogsheads of water &
yet all is gone; I sent to Putnam & Co 10 copies of
Felicis, the whole number of plates were printed; the
Gout, will no doubt reprint & these can of course be
reproduced for Mr B. as well as the balance of your
book (Gout,) this time we have lost only printed work
& but a small amt. of binding, fine proof Sapes seemed
to be of little use, one of Gaskill's had every thing in it
reduced to black ashes, hence the difficulty I have had to
get at all ~~the~~ our losses, I mean what he has really a
claim for - The loss of poor Dural the most extensive
Lithographic establishment in the country is one hundred
(100,000) Thousand Dollars, insured for \$30,000, Gas Bill \$90,000
insured for \$20,000, less than a fourth of his loss -
15 or more printers binders, galleys, watch case makers, & all gone

Mr. Drake came

I am going to Wash^t in a day or two to complete,
and make our report - Your plates have been
attended to, I have forced on the lettering as fast
I could, & Lewis (altho thrown back by the fire) in this
day taking proofs of a number of your plates, some
letters, & ^{the} will be sent to you as soon as dry -

I was in Wash^t when the fire took place & took
back with me the originals to compare & arrange to be
sent to you, but when I got a telegraph about
the fire I started at once for Phil^a with only two
clean sheets - I mention this to explain why the
original drawing did not come on with the proofs,
the moment I can do so when I get to Wash^t you
shall have them -

Very truly yours
J. D. Drayton
Capt



Drayton, Joseph. 1856. "Drayton, Joseph Apr. 28, 1856." *Joseph Drayton letters related to the United States Exploring Expedition* –.

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