

Key West. 21 Feb. 1850.

My dear Pray  
I wrote you last from Savannah. I now enclose the best likeness I can make - a very shabby daub it is - of a Mangrove Bush, but as I don't know how to paint either landscape or tree, can't help it. You are to suppose it growing in water - also that both groves (right & left) are of mangroves likewise growing in water - that on the right hand being of young trees - that to the left of young, & old. The old tree is some 30 or 40 feet high but I have not seen any of this <sup>size</sup> ~~age~~ in the water - they are always on land, & then do not exhibit the arched root-stems. When the trees grow on shore (see the stump in the corner of foreground) a great number of slender underground or overground suckers radiate from the root, like the runners of a strawberry & these throw up young upright stems along their whole length - so that round the roots of old & young in shore going mangroves, there are thousands of such shoots - & these must grow into a dense thicket in time. The seeds freely shoot in the absolute sea, & there are 3 species of Algae which infect the submerged stems - (2 *Bostrychia* & 1 *Catenella*). You asked me to send you fresh flowers of mangroves - but alas! the season of flowering is not yet, nor do I see the remains of last year's flowers.

I have been very busy since I came here collecting Algae, of which I have made a very fair collection - including many forms which I had not before - and several new (to America) genera - so that I think my 3 weeks well spent & mean to spend 2 more in going about to some neighboring keys, weather permitting - & to Tortugas, if I can get a passage thither. But I have collected no land plants! Oh shame! I did go out one day & brought in a large bundle, & put them in paper - but I neglected to change their blankets, wet weather came on - & with it bladders, & mould - I found it quite filled up my time changing papers on the seaweeds & laying down fresh ones from each day's picking - & took it for granted that the land plants could not be worth much. Dr. Blodgett, who sent plants to Torrey is here still & says he has 2 or 3 new things to send - but not more - He is an intelligent & good natured person - but in very poor health - so that he will not do much. The weather has been very stormy since I came, which lost me some days, & I have not been very well, which lost me other days - but now both weather & stomach seem to be set to rights & I look forward to a good week's work next week - I have only dredged one day - & but poor luck attended me. I have got 9 species of *Caulerpa* - you know that lovely genus? - but of some of them have no good specimens, not having found them yet growing. They must be got by wading in the water, & this work can only be done when the sea is very still & the water very clear. - Several *Dasya*, mostly new ones - & other fine things. On the whole, this Key West trip will make the Smithsonian book nearly twice as big as it otherwise would have been. - Pray write to me to Charleston to meet me by 11 March - care of Thomas Higham & Co, and send me a good report of your womanhood - I sincerely hope that Madame has had no further drawback & that Miss B. is also improved. Also that you have got your leave of



absence all settled. - I hope you may be so far through your various  
works as to be able to get off in good time. You will not however be  
ready for the first steamer in May - whereon I hope to be. With  
best love, I am ever yours

W. H. Hawley

Professor Asa Gray  
Cambridge

Maple

W. H. Hawley



21 February 1850





Harvey, William H. 1850. "Harvey, William Henry Feb. 21, 1850." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

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