

April 6 - '52

will be taken on the terms. I do not know what he means to do with it then - Do you know these many many deaths among our Botanical friends of late years - the breaking up of their Herbaria, sale of their Libraries, so soon as they are buried - & the rapidity with which their names pass from us - have latterly struck me forcibly - so much so that were I working for myself, I should not be at the trouble of collecting & arranging &c. Here at V.C.D. I sit like a turnspit roasting the meat, and when I am gone I suppose another dog will be put in the place - the Herb. will not be broken up, & I have arranged that the books will not be sold. So I am content - for I seem working for some little purpose. I should just like to leave the Herb. in a little better order, and to get through an arrears, and return borrowed specimens - but I do not think "things in general" are worth the pains they cost. My views of personal fame are very different from what they were - what are the best but bubbles of the stream of time. I was reading a letter today in the New Paper at breakfast, from W. Hord, telling of the discovery of another new planet, and regretting that some cloudy weather had prevented his seeing & finding it "and many more". Truly there be clouds that hide many things from our knowledge. Do you ever think on starlight nights of what is going on up among the stars? & that you probably will be an actor, one of these days, in these far off regions. And then, what is every thing that is merely connected with the present life but a toy & a pastime. It seems so, & yet I am not sure that it is so - for I suppose that what appears to us in the works of Nature as only ornamental has also its use - & therefore these seemingly trivial matters of this life may be intimately woven into our destiny in the life to come. A man turned of 41 can hardly avoid the fear of these things sometimes.

Love to Ann, I am aff. yours W.H.H.

Trin. Coll. Dublin
Apr. 6. 1852

Dear Mr. Gray

In this & another cover I forward the latter work orders in your letter of Feb. 16 - viz: -

1 Cap with a peak	10.0
1 Do without	9.0
2 Collars	10.0
4 Do	15.0

To your debt. — £ 2 11 0

Let Ann give me credit for that sum but don't remit as I may want to buy some plants or books. I have also I have another order from you which I have sent to the dealer. I fear the 10 Cap will not be admired, but it is my fault - for you said to let the maker choose the pattern, & I, not understanding the matter, sent word that the lady for whom it was intended was partial to Ireland & I thought it would prefer the shamrock pattern (as that is called) to the "Coach wheel" (the name of the other). A woful man am I to see that it is not half so pretty & will not I fear, do for a cap. Possibly it might be converted into a chemiselette? Which I believe are worn.

And now I have further misfortune to tell about Ocho! Ocho! Ocho! (Do you know the Irish cry?) A new fancy has struck me about the Graynela - don't you know now what's coming? - I hope you disapprove

of all anagram names - they are really
so very stupid - & puzzling for posterity?
de de de. And this one no particular?
Ochone! Ochone! - Well, in reading the At-
tenaeum this evening (for Saturday April 3^d) I found
a very pretty letter from W. Grinnell of N. Y.
respecting the Franklin Expedition - declining the
proposed testimonial de. And the Attenaeum
proposed some other mark of respect - So the
fancy strikes me to call the unfortunate
Graynelia - Grinnellia instead, particularly
as the specific name must be Americana -
and because they be words of a similar
sounding, so that when you hear of Grin-
nellia you may think of Graynelia and
won't that do as well? and much better?
What does Ada say? - I think it will
tickle his ear as much as it does mine -
and for the rest, I should be very glad to
pay a graceful compliment to Mr. G. &
this is the very flower of the American
Alga and a sea plant is a fitting mem-
ber of a naval service de de de. And so,
Ochone! - Now you observe I began
with three ochones, & have gradually worked
down to one. Q.E.D. - [P.S. Callithamnion
Grayia is figured on the 36th plate of the
nereis, & I hope to send you a proof in a few
days.] -

I have begun my lectures - This year I am giving
a course on Veg. Human Food, & lectured today
on the Potatoe. I work at Nereis every day from
10 till 2 - which gets me on slowly. The evenings I
write lectures 3 days, & idle 3 (as now scribbled
that) & before breakfast I lay out plants for studying.
I go to Classary on Good Friday evening &
stay over Sunday - It will be a hurried visit
which I only make because they won't be dis-appoint-
ed if I did not go eat an Easter egg with them. I must
be back again on Monday. Joe & wife are still
at Pau. The latter has given quite a stout & am told
I don't mean fat the English sense but "well" (thick)
They are to be home in May I believe. I have not seen
many of their letters - being too lazy to read the delicate
writing - but am told they like the place & the
scenery much.
I have been paid 200 dollars for naming the Alga
(this green Bailey) & have placed the money
with Abner Bell to stand to my credit towards pay-
ing the expenses of our campaign in the Rocky Mts. as soon
as the railway is open - or to be spent in some
other American way. Don't say I have been drawing
money out of the country -
Hannah got upon pleasant letters for Rachel, and
I suppose will answer it in good time. She is
her back aching a little growly (she writes), at times
but on the whole pretty well. So many of her new out-
grown all his clothes & new folds of cloth are gone
to him today. Rachel thought she was house-
work so did not go to school but arranged the
things in the playroom instead, and offered to
assist in weeding the garden, a service which
as declared, in the fear that it might lead to
a continued house-ness.
I shall be very glad to get Plants Wright's.
Most of my set of new specimens have gone into the
herb. - Gray will have heard with regret
that poor Char. Demarest is lying in a hopeless
state. He has offered his Herb. (as I am told) through
Woott to W. Lowell - but does not think it



Harvey, William H. 1852. "Harvey, William Henry Apr. 6, 1852 [to Jane Loring Gray]." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/310708>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/342626>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia (Open Collections)

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.