

Whether poor Mr. Mudge's mantle has fallen
on their shoulder.

I had received the "Manual" (thank you) from
Van Voorst - I live in hope of the other matters
that are coming in a fortnight.

When I have sorted my Phanerogams of Voyage
I shall have some Australian, Friend of Ed,
& Feejeean Duplicates for Dr. Gray - He is so
up in the latter (from Ex. Ex. experience) that
possibly he can give me names for them.

My opportunities at Feejee were very small -
as I rarely was any where more than a few
hours on shore, except at Nandy, in Vanua
Leva, where I staid 10 days - but never got more
than some 6 miles inland. - My South American
plants have not yet arrived - they are not many
as I was out there the end of summer - winter
& first month of spring. I suspect (tell Asa)

that the most interesting thing is a Liliaceous genus
which destroys Gilliesiaceae - proving that the so
called "Corolla" of Lindley is a mere "corona staminis"
- My new genus has the habit & inflorescence of Gilliesia
but the corona is reduced to fleshy scales, exterior
to base of stamens. Only 2 stamens have anthers -
the other 4 are mere rudiments of teeth & the filaments
are connate below, closely investing the ovary. I did
not gather Gilliesia - but I collected Miersia, & find
that its sepals & petals alternate regular in 3's, contrary
to what Lindley asserts.

I don't think there is any home news that would interest
you. Things go on much as usual. The frost has set in rather
sharp for these parts & I lie abed of mornings & rarely
get head fast over & settle to work till 10 o' clock. - I
try to make up by keeping late hours, but there be many things
I cannot do at night. I mean to go to Olney at Xmas, for a
few days. There was much interest felt here for Fremont -
but from the first I thought he had little chance. In a case
such as your late election the South is almost sure to win, for
it contains for its All, while the north only contends for what
to most persons is an abstract principle or a dream. Yours affly W. H. H.

M. T. sends love

Trin. Coll. Dublin

Dec. 4. 1856.

Hydeau Mrs Gray

Your welcome note of Nov. 18th
has just arrived - & I answer it imme-
diately - chiefly to say that I wrote to
you some weeks ago, though you do not
appear to have got the letter - or else our
epistles have crossed each other at sea.
Mine was a few striped lines in a letter
of Mr. T. - I have scarcely yet resumed
any of my correspondence - for though I
am now nearly two months at home, the
kakeletter scribbler has not yet come on me.
Indeed I never felt more inclined towards
writing - & so omit all but mere business
letters which must be done. I hope however
"the black dog" will go off my back by & by -
& that I may fall into my usual interest
in my current occupations. Hitherto, since
my return, everything has been either a burden
or a drudgery to me. I feel that I have lost
ground, instead of gained, during the last year
or two, & that I must work up hard or consent
to fall back into the rear of my contemporaries.
Then I am in a mess (as I think I wrote to you)
about my old Professorship at R.D. Soc., which
has been changed from Botany to Nat. History
so that if I continue to hold it I must
work up zoology - For the present session
I employ a substitute to give the zoological

I have not resolution to take another sheet - off (ditto) I must fill it with notes.

lectures, but it would hardly be reputable to continue to do so. They wanted too to put zoology on my shoulders in college, but after taking it under consideration, I have declined. It would have quite ruined me for Botany without making me a zoologist.

Asa tells me he is 46 - So shall I ~~soon~~ be too - in Feb. next - I wish to show for these lengthy years! Nothing worth speaking of but much prospect of mending. I wish I had Asa's energy & strength of purpose, just to carry me through to the end of my course with credit successfulness - but I often feel as if I were not "worth my salt" - I think it would be better to retire into obscurity & be forgotten. Indeed, if I had an independent income, I believe I should do so - but necessity obliges me to trudge on in the position in which I find myself. Though I have apparently quite recovered from that illness which I had in S. America, I do not feel the same elasticity of spirit on the same interest in any subject that I formerly did, nor am I sure that my powers of mind have quite escaped. - Had I been quite myself I should probably have permeated viz the States, as was fully my intention up to nearly the time of my leaving Valparaiso - but from the time that I fairly set my face homeward, a sort of nervous anxiety seemed to impel me forward & every obstacle that interposed between me & Dublin seemed a mountain of difficulty. Well - it is just as well that I did not so see you - for you

would probably have found me very stiff company - as I am sure my friends here continually do, though they are so polite as not to say so. I don't think I shall be much otherwise until I have got through the arrears of Herb. matters - I have been ridden of the Austr. Alga collections & to those weary subscribers. I am now busy distributing the duplicates into sets. They will not turn out nearly so well as I had anticipated - owing to the very unequal way in which the species have been collected. The number in the fullest set is only 600, & set N^o 50, will scarce be 300 - yet there are 70 or 80 subscribers & sets over 50 will range from 150 to 200 sp. at most.

I have just written to Prof. Henry Bray I hoped to finish 3rd part of Nereis in Spring & to go to press next autumn. - Previously I have to do the VDLand Alga for D. Hooker's Flora. These two works will give me (with my lectures) as much as I can get through this season. I wish I were free of the Alga - but feel that I ought not to drop them without a parting word, in the shape of a "Manual of Marine Botany" - giving the distribution &c, & describing & figuring the Genera. - Whether this book will come to light can't say, but its plan is on the stocks. I would also like to publish, in same form as Phyc. Brit. some 200 to 300 of the more interesting Australian species - if I can get Peck to bear expenses.

Tell Asa to ask the Boston Algalogists to send me in, before April fool day, any supplementary species for Nereis. Procr. Amer. & particularly any green ones. I wonder



Harvey, William H. 1856. "Harvey, William Henry Dec. 4, 1856 [to Jane Loring Gray]." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

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