

Trin. Coll Dublin. Apr. 29. 1858

3 dear frag

I have your letter of 4th (via Hoober) enclosing 2^d Exchange £31.6.5; the first was received & I hope acknowledged some days ago - but I do not remember. It was handed to T.H.T. & sent to your credit, minus the 60 days interest for which it has to run. - I now send you names for 418 of Wright's 600 numbers - the genus, always in most cases, the species also. A few species I have not referred - & some other few are doubtfully given. Most of them however may be depended on, so far as my lights go. There were a few things new to me in the collection & many good specimens acceptable - & some rarities - among them an *Aspalathus* (villosa) which even Bentham was glad to get! So I may very well pay the cost of the box - being overpaid in specimens. The trouble of naming them is very good exercise. If I had plenty of time I should not mind it, but I have many other things just now to do, & so only work at these plants for a couple of hours before breakfast. They get on slowly therefore. My day is now taken up with drawing till 2 PM - then lecture - then Herb. work - & in the evening (as now) I write letters & prepare lectures &c. The Cape Flora at present nearly stands still. I have done all my part of 1st Vol. except *Pelargonium* (!) & Leguminosae. The first is the worst, though smallest - for Bentham has already worked up most of the C.B.S. Legumes. I have not yet finished the preliminary sorting of specimens of *Pelarg.*, & after this is done there will come the condensation of species, or lumping & then the description. If the lumping were once done, the rest would be easy. I know not on what character to place reliance - all are vague - & my work will in great measure be a guessing of probabilities. Even in the field the species vary terribly. If I had full or honestly collected specimens, it would be comparatively easy - but Ecklon & Dreyer's specimens are often mere scraps - put out with the desire of making as many species as possible. Then, all the writers & figures

of Pelargonium are possessed with the same mania
for species making. I fear there will be an awful
outcry, if I cut down, as I (at present) feel dis-
posed to do. I wish I may leave numbers that
ought to be destroyed - or that would be destroyed
by any one working in the field - not in the Herb.
If I get through Pelarg. by midsummer I shall be
very well satisfied. - In July I go to Plassey
for a month or so, intending there to write out
a "Manual of Systematic Botany" (very wise) to be
published for 2/- (so as to beat out all your big
books!). The scheme is not my own, - it is put on me
by my position in T.C.D. - Two of our Fellows (Galbraith
& Haughton) are editing short manuals, strictly for classes,
on various sciences, & I have agreed to do the Botany in
3 or 4 separate parts. I take System first, instead
of structure, because we want a short syst. manual
most, in the class. Structure will follow next year,
or after. Hooker helps me with introductory aphorisms,
which I ^{mean to} ponder on, as I eat gooseberries at Plassey.
I then take Mss. over with me to Kew - where we
have our final talk. We shall try & reduce the
number of Orders - & group them - something in the
way you have done - or Endlicher - giving leading
chars. of Group, - but not absolute diagnoses - which
seem at present impossible.

As you write about Phyc. Austr. - I shall hold
it over. At present I know not on whom else to
bestow the copy. I take 5 - give 2 of them in France,
& 2 in Australia - & had reserved the other for you.
I shall now send you my 2^d manual instead!! -

Jos. Toddhunter is still here - I know not when
he goes back - or if ever - He seems to have plenty
of business, travelling backwards & forwards to &
from England & Scotland, but I won't not what it
is all about. I must now try and write a
few lines to Madame. Yours affly

W.H.H.



Harvey, William H. 1858. "Harvey, William Henry Apr. 29, 1858." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

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