

A. We are charmed. It is the sweetest romance of purgatory that I ever read. - I answer many a half formed speculation that at various times has glided across my fancy. Then the Episodes of the 'Do as you like', & the story of Madame Gairifowl, are perfect in their way. Do get it from the library, I wish Madame read it too. - & if you can't get a decently printed copy tell me, & I shall send you one.

You may indeed will be proud of your Fair. Such a result is to us poor islanders astounding. I suppose it would take at least a 100 of our grandest Fairs to match it. I rejoice too that the great prize fell to your brother in law, who so well deserved it - & had I been there I should have cheered too.

I congratulate you too on the prospect of having your Harbinger made permanent & self supporting. It will greatly relieve you of weight & cheer you with the hope that your Calves will not die with you. but be useful to future generations. I should not have half the pleasure in my Herb. if I thought it would be sold & dispersed - as I have it its being on the College Foundation. I shall be glad to get a duplicate. you speak of, when selected by yourself, but I am so rich in ordinary American plants that 9/10 of those Mr. Eaton sent me on your behalf passed at once to my duplicate. bundles, useless to me & useless trouble on the sender's part. I had rather have a dozen things I want than 500 I don't want - as most people would! I hope you will send me your new genus *Thayeria*!

I enclose a Card of my dear Sister, copied from a very poor daguerotype & showing her much sorrowful & wasted expression. Mr. G. may value it for his private book. The other is the present appearance of "Jenny" God. and sent by him self to Mr. S. Yours ever W.H.H.

Dublin. Feb. 5. 1864.

My dear Gray.

Your welcome letter of Jan. 5. reached me in Limerick where we went, the day before Xmas to spend a few holiday days - but where, in 3 days after, Mrs. B. was taken ill with what turned into a low, bilious fever, under which she kept her bed for over a month, & it was with much thankfulness that I was able to bring her home two days ago. She did not seem recovering properly in Limerick, & the D. strongly urged change of air, as the best of medicines - but have found it so - for every mile of the journey home she seemed to revive, & by the time we arrived, was quite a different woman. She is now, thank God, convalescent, and able to enjoy a carriage drive daily. - So that while Mrs. Gray was ill with you, I was taken up nursing her - I was soon & early employed in Limerick. It was my first trial as a nurse - in - chief & I acquitted myself well - as I am told. I hope your nursing, like mine, is now over, & that you are again turning your mind to your proper work, as I am. I have on the whole had about 6 weeks of forced idleness from Boston - I now that I return I find a multitude of parcels from S. Africa

have accumulated, awaiting my inspection. I have many correspondents in the Natal Country & behind it, who send me heaps of new things - some of them very curious. One new correspondent has sent a capital set chiefly of Asclepiads, & orchids - both very numerous families in that country - but also among them is a fine new Anemone, which must stand 2-3 ft. high, with large flowers. In another bundle is a most singular genus of Geranthaceae, with the perianth of 6 anthers & bisexual flowers - but linear, adnate, bifurcously-multilocellate anthers, quite unlike any thing I know - bearing out the adage 'Always something new to bring from Africa'. This I shall shortly figure in Thesaurus, for which I am about drawing a new batch of 50 plates - The new No. Pl. 126 to 150 is just about to appear, having been delayed by Mr. Harrow's illness.

I have thus run on on Bot. matters, & neglected to write of Mr. G's 'jaundice trouble' - but as you tell me when you wrote, a month ago, that it was then beginning to be a matter to be spoken of in the past tense! - I hope that now it has resolved itself into a thing of history - & that with the longer days & brighter weather the dear lady may have again resumed her place at the table. She has had a very

long & sad time of it, this attack, if it began in the Autumn.

During the 6 weeks we were in Limerick I was scarcely out of the house. We left your friends there pretty well - though both my brother & his wife had colds - & at one time the whole household joined the chorus. My nephew had a fever similar to Mr. H. - but the rest escaped. My brother begins to put on the old man, & I thought him looking thin and ragged - but he was pretty cheerful & as busy as a young person in looking after other people's comfort, while neglecting himself.

I am indeed grieved to hear of the sorrowful death of your favourite dog. Such cats, & dogs, are very ruffling to the spirit - to say the least of it - so much so, that I have for long abstained from indulging in petted animal friends. I remember, when at the Cape, feeling ashamed to myself of being so deeply moved when my Ostrich died, that I swore any similar entertainment - & have kept my vow. As to the after life of animals, that you speculate on, I see nothing against it - in analogy - and nothing for it in knowledge - & so it is left to me - like most such questions - an open one, on which I do not speculate. But this reminds you to ask, have you read Kingsley's 'Water babies' - first published in Macmillan, & lately as a separate book. If not, do read it - & I think you will be much amused & on the whole pleased with



Harvey, William H. 1864. "Harvey, William Henry Feb. 5, 1864." *William Henry Harvey letters* –.

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

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/342711>

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>.