

THE ROYAL SOCIETY,

BURLINGTON HOUSE, LONDON. W.

address 10 Southwell Gardens
South Kensington London
20 March
1876

amicable relations with any
American botanist who has
the means of supplying a
large proportion of the plants
of the Rocky Mountains &
the S.W. territories of the U.S.
I have (chiefly by purchase)
had a considerable proportion
of the plants of the Eastern
& central states, and I had
a pretty good set of Coulter's
duplicates from California
(not his Mexican) but with
these exceptions and Bourgeau's
plants collected with Palliser's
exploring expⁿ in British America

My dear Dr Gray

It is so long since I have
seen you that you must have
nearly forgotten my existence -

I remember being severely
disappointed by missing you
in Italy where I lived for
the greater part of nine years
returning to fix my head quarters
in London only in 1869 -

Although political life
and various other pursuits

have very much interfered
with my doing any efficient
botanical work I have never
~~given~~ lost my interest in that
pursuit & since I accompanied
our mutual friend Dr Hooker
to Morocco I have been (rather
slowly) putting together materials
for a small work now nearly
ready which I suppose may
be entitled *Primitiae Florae
Maroccanae*, and which I
hope to send you before the end
of this year - It has been delayed
by several long absences from
England.

My immediate object in writing
is with reference to the distribution

of the duplicates of our Morocco
journey which I have partly
completed & which I intend to
connect with the distributions
of some portions of the large mass
of duplicates in my possession.

I know that Dr Hooker means
to send you one of the best
sets of our Morocco plants
and I take it for granted

that you have received
not only the published sets
of Bourgeau - Balansa
Aldrich - H. de Pavillon ^{and Kralik}
but also those of other botanists
others who have done so
much ^{of late years} to complete the Flora
of the Mediterranean region.

I should like to establish

I have none of the special
Flora of what may be called
the outlying portions of N. America

If among your friends you
know of any one able & willing
to supply my lacunae I think I
can safely promise to give a full
equivalent - chiefly in plants
of the Mediterranean region,
including a large proportion of
the rarest species of the Alps &
Pyrenees. Every one with a Herbarium
must have received many times
over the characteristic plants
of those ranges but even in
good herbaria there are large
numbers of desiderata owing
to the fact that so many species
are extremely scarce in the
wild state.

I feel sure that I could make up as many as 2000 species without including common & widely spread plants -

I must tell you at the same time that my early experience of exchanges with the U. States was all on one side. I twice sent pretty good parcels including several hundred species but did not receive a single specimen in return - Of course the same thing happens elsewhere now & then, but I should not like to take the trouble of making up a large parcel without getting a fair return -

I have many times thought of making a run across the Atlantic with

the desire of seeing the Rocky Mountain & Sierra Nevada ranges and my desire was stimulated by the pleasant account my friend W. E. Forster gave me of his tour in the autumn of 1874, but there have been obstacles in the way & I don't know that I shall ever manage it - In any case I hope we may have the pleasure of seeing you in England before long.

Believe me very sincerely yours

John Ball

Dr Asa Gray

Lc - Kc - Kc
P.S. I began this in Hooker's room at Kew but finish it in my own house

but I think she is now quite reconciled to the prospect and that she feels that the choice her father has made is a thoroughly good one.

I ought before now to have thanked you for your kindness in sending me Mr Green's letter which I answer - better late than never - just before starting for an autumn excursion of two months in the Eastern Alps & Venetia. I hope to return to London before the end of October

Believe me very truly yours
John Ball

My address is 10 Southwell Gardens
London S.W.

Aug. 21

My dear Dr Gray

I have been for the last two days in a country house with our friend Hooker and he is gone within the last two hours to Herefordshire where he is tomorrow to be married to Lady Jardine. Of course you have heard all about it but as I know that you have a sincere

regard & friendship for him I think you will like to hear from me that as far as it is possible to forecast the step he is now taking seems in every way to promise happily both for him & his family —

His life has been a very anxious & unjoyous one since he lost his admirable wife — being as he is of an anxious temperament the care & thought he has

felt it necessary to give to his children has been a source of frequent anxiety & ^{has} doubtless interfered much with his scientific work — I had no idea that he was thinking or likely to think of Lady Jardine (who will tomorrow be Mrs Hooker) when many months ago I told my wife that I thought his marrying her the happiest thing that could happen for both.

His daughter Harriet who has shown more energy & maturity of character than any one expected at first seemed to have a strong aversion to the idea of his marrying again

10 Southwell Gardens London SW
26 Feb 4.

Your card of 13th reaches me only today - I am annoyed at the parcel having been left behind at Kew - & shall if possible go to morrow & take it away & forward through Wesley - 'Out of sight out of mind' - Since I was laid up in Jan 4. I have been only once to Kew - but I renewed the request to have my parcel forwarded - I don't know how you are off for S. American plants - Have you corresponded with Hieronymus & Philippi - I have received a very fine set from the former from which I may be able to send you some duplicates if you are not likely to have them - I am also expecting a large lot from Philippi but he sends very sparingly & I don't expect duplicates - The supplement & indices arrived a few days ago & are most welcome - I renew my thanks - I shall have another little S. American paper to send you soon

Ever yours
W

Professor Langley - I suppose the astronomer of that name - had published a memoir on the absorption of solar heat by the atmosphere which I much want but don't know how to procure it Do you know him & could you ask him to send it?

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

POST CARD—GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

(GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE)

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Dr Asa Gray F. R. S.

Cambridge

Massachusetts



United States of
North America

Cà Trepolo San Tomà Venice

4 June

immediately but do not
know how soon our
mutual friend Hooker
may return to New-

Believe me in haste

Dear Sir

Very truly yours

John Ball

Of course you are well provided
with European plants but
if you should happen to want
rare species from the Alps
Apennines or Pyrenees I may
be able to supply them & I
be happy to do so. My address
in London is Oxford & Cambridge (Chs)
Pall Mall

My dear Sir

It was with the greatest
regret that I found I had
missed the pleasure of seeing
you & Mrs Gray here. What
made it worse was that I
returned before you had
left Venice but by some
blunder of my servant did
not receive your card till
after you had gone away.

I have not been able to see
Dr Nassias the Secretary &
most active member of the

Venetian Institute but
have spoken with his
nephew who lives in the
same house - The latter
assures me that there is
no doubt but the Venetian
Institute will gladly enter
into an exchange of publications
with the American Academy
It will be quite enough if
you will write to say that
you are authorized to propose
the exchange - mentioning
whether it extends to the past

publications or is limited to
those hereafter published -
and if you are able to point
out the best way of practically
carrying out the object
(through the bookseller who
supplies your academy? or
otherwise) it will be a
convenience to the people
here who are probably not
well up to such matters.
Your letter may best be
addressed to Cavaliere Giacinto
Nani - Segretario dell'Istituto
Veneto delle Scienze - Venice
I hope to be more fortunate
in meeting you in London
than here - I start almost

which he is investigating, it seems to me that with all such deductions there remains a large contribution to our knowledge of the physics of the globe but which cannot but influence all the efforts whether of geologists or of naturalists to reconstruct the past history of our planet. If anything important bearing on these questions should appear in the scientific transactions or periodicals in the United States I shall be very thankful for a reference (on a post-card) which would enable me to make myself acquainted with it.

Pray give my own & my wife's very kind remembrances to Mrs Gray & believe me always sincerely yours

John Ball

P.S. I came to Italy for my wife's health now quite satisfactory & we are about starting homewards

address
10 Southwell Gardens
South Kensington
London

Rapallo Riviera di Genova
27 Nov 1882

My dear Dr Gray - It is long since I have heard of you or Mrs Gray but that is owing to the fact that I have been so to say out of the way since early in the present year - I have had the good fortune to be able at least partially to accomplish one of the dreams of my youth by making the tour of South America - The time was indeed too short - only five months of which more than half was passed at sea - the season unfavorable for botany in Chili, Magellan Strait & the Plate region - and finally my own ignorance as to a great portion of the tropical flora stood in my way - but with all these drawbacks I had a most delightful & suggestive excursion and saw nearly as much as was possible in the time - In spite of the war I had four delightful days in the Cordillera of Peru - In Chili in late autumn the snow had fallen - rather low but I saw a good deal of two fine valleys - those of the Cachapoal & of

Aconcagua - I had a most interesting voyage of five days through the channels of Western Patagonia leading into the straits of Magellan & passed five days at Sandy Point in the straits - and my tour was concluded by a glorious vision of Brazil where I passed ten days in that earthly Paradise Petropolis besides glimpses of some other points - It was the accident of the departure of a friend for Lima that induced my wife to consent to my departure - I am now not without the hope of persuading her to cross the Atlantic with me in 1884, the proposed meeting of the British Association in Canada providing a pretext if not a reason - But I should think a visit to N. America miserably incomplete if I were not able to see something of the Rocky Mountains & of the Pacific region - and for this I think that my wife is scarcely fitted. Though you may not have thought so when you saw her in London

her health is not strong and she easily breaks down under fatigue and the vicissitudes as to food & the like to which travellers are liable -

I do not yet know what time is fixed or is likely to be fixed for the meeting of the British Association but I suppose it will not be so early as not to leave time for a tour in the far west before the meeting, supposing that I am able to arrange matters for that end.

I suppose that you have been reading the volume on Climate and Time by Croll.

It is true that most of the substance has already appeared scattered through numerous memoirs & papers but there is a great advantage in having his views brought together & arranged in something like order & sequence - Whatever one may think of it it is a book deserving most careful consideration and for my own part although I find not a few conclusions that appear to me disputable and a general tendency to overrate the action of the causes

Paris 9 July 1883

that he had nothing left for him
to do & his spirits & with them his
strength have been continually
declining - He always seemed glad when
I or any other friend went to see him
until the last week when he has become
much weaker & refuses to see any one.
Hooker is I believe the only person he
consents to see & even with him he
declines conversation - The camp is
going out for want of fuel. Pray
give the very kind regards of my wife
as well as myself to Mrs Gray - My
wife admires & somewhat envies
her spirit & her strength which trust
among other journeys will some day
carry her back to England

With our united best wishes believe me -
most sincerely yours

John Ball
Unfortunately your last note
indicating Mrs & Mr Burgess came
while I was packing up & I had barely time
to send a note & the hope of seeing them in the autumn.

Mr Burgess was kind enough to leave the parcel of plants along with your note at my
house but I had no time to open it - Of course it is from Mr Burgess

My dear Dr Gray - You have heaped
coals of fire on my head by your kind letters
to say nothing of a very hot one in the shape
of a kind note from Mrs Gray - It has not
been indolence or forgetfulness but the
difficulty of knowing what to say that
has kept me from writing - You have
tempted me by the most attractive
propositions that I can imagine to
myself especially in your second
letter received about three weeks
ago - The notion of visiting in
your company Mexico & then
travelling in the Spring to California,
with ulterior plans for the summer
is so delightful that it is enough
to make a man break through all
ties & neglect all duties - My
virtue however still resists however

feebly but I cannot make up
my mind to renounce altogether
the hope of seeing something of the
far west in your company.

The fact is that my health has
not been flourishing through the
last spring - I was twice laid up
with bronchial attacks which
were very tedious and I am scarcely
yet rid of cough - We are now
on our way to the Alps, starting
this evening & from past experience
I expect to be thoroughly set up
by the air of the higher region
but my wife has been troubling
herself about my health & I
shall find it more difficult than
it was last year to get her to agree
to my remaining long at a distance

On the other hand I am clear that
she is not strong enough to undertake
the journey across your big continent
& I don't yet see how to arrange
for her to remain in the Eastern
States or Canada during my absence.

Of one thing you may be sure &
that is that if at all possible I shall
try to arrange so as to meet you
next spring in California or elsewhere
in the Far West; & you will probably
have a letter from me asking you
to give me a rendezvous somewhere.
I grieve to say that Bentham has
reached the close of his noble life
for unless he should recover strength
to a degree scarcely to be expected -
I cannot wish mere existence
to be prolonged - Since the appearance
of the last part of the General he has
felt & sometimes expressed the feeling

The amount is drawn
into Bank, in full
Received -

Dr Asa Gray F. R. S.

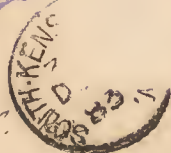
Professor of Botany

Cambridge

Massachusetts

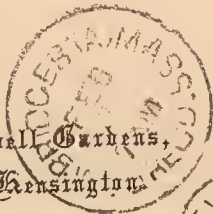
United States
N. America

1881



*Unwanted - ...
a lot of papers M*

10, Southwell Gardens,
South Kensington.



04

on two questions of some difficulty
which have ~~some~~ immediate practical
importance at the present moment,
and as to which you have not pronounced
a ~~decided~~ ^{decided} opinion in your recent article
in Silliman's Journal - You are aware
that a new Edition of Steudel's nomenclator
is now being prepared by Mr Dayman
Jackson Secretary to the Linnæan Soc^y.
Mr Jackson is next to nothing as a botanist
but a painstaking man with a taste
for bibliographical research and, I dare
say, will do his work well - but he properly
feels that he is not the man to decide
difficult questions - After a little
preliminary discussion it is I believe
settled that a small committee (of which
I am to be one) is to consider & endeavour
to solve the difficulties

The first ~~has~~ ^{its urgency} been for some time
pressing, but has been very greatly
increased by the publication of the
Genera plantarum - and under
the general heading come several
special cases.

10 Southwell Gardens London SW
Christmas day 1883

My dear Dr Gray

I will not let this day go by
without sending our best greetings
and good wishes to you & Mrs Gray
with the hope that we may meet
you both in the course of next year.
I suppose that you adhere to
your project of going to Mexico
in February & as the season
advances working up northward
along the west side of the Continent -
For my part I have a positive longing
to see your Pacific region & should
think myself too fortunate if I
could find myself there in your
company - But intense as is my
desire to accomplish it I fear that
the difficulties are too great. My wife's
health is not strong - even our short

Journeys in Europe fatigue her very much and it is quite out of the question her undertaking a journey to the far west, while on the other hand she cannot bear the idea of my again going so far & being as she says out of reach in case I were laid up.

She has offered to cross the Atlantic with me & to remain in some quiet sea-side place on the Atlantic side - if indeed there be such a thing as a quiet place in your go-a-head country -

But on my side I cannot see my way to leaving her so far from home in a strange place - even though to us there is little or no difference between the U. States & England. If it were possible for one of my sons to cross the Atlantic at the same time the case would

be different - but of that there is little chance - It is more likely that I shall resign myself to crossing a few weeks before the meeting of the Brit. Association at Montreal, & seeing something of the vegetation of the Atlantic States. I suppose that a visit to the White Mountains in New Hampshire will not be without interest and I dare say that you can recommend me to some botanical friend ^{at Cambridge} who would direct me how to use a short time to the best advantage.

But in any case I shall be anxious to know how to communicate with you during your journey & as I suppose you will have some letters forwarded from Cambridge I shall be glad to know how to secure that mine may be among the number. -

I am anxious to know your views

will agree that the multiplication of synonyms
has already become the plague & opprobrium
of natural history - & will grow worse if effective
means be not found to arrest it. Experience
shows that good advice is no check - There is
nothing to prevent any ignoramus not only from
publishing as his own all the species transferred
from one genus to another by B. & H. ~~from~~ but
further from coining new specific names
for each of them, unless botanists agree to
recognize the absolute claim of the older
specific name -

I shall be much indebted to you if you will
put your opinion on these points on paper -
— a separate slip which if you allow it
I may show to others - Perhaps Hooker
has written to you on the subject. I don't
think you will agree altogether with him -

I have seen Bentham to day - extremely
weak - confined to one floor - his head clear
but fearing the least exertion - He may
tally a little but the sand is nearly run out.
With my wife's kindest remembrances & good
wishes for you & Mrs Gray

Always sincerely yours

Wm Ball

I quite agree with you as to the names of
natural orders & tribes in the Gen. Plantarum
but it is now too late -

Where ~~genera~~^{a genus} previously admitted is
now united to some other ~~genera~~^{older} previously
established, how are you to cite the
names of the species of which it is composed.
Take for example the Species of *Ligularia* united
by B. & H. to *Senecio* - & a species *L. mongolica* D.C.
of which the specific name has not been preoccupied.

I admit all that A. DeCandolle says - we must
not make B. & H. say what they have not said -
& write *Senecio mongolicus* B. & H. - But on the
other hand there is something preposterous
in proposing that in this and hundreds, nay
thousands, of similar cases ^{Mr Jackson says} he sh. be instructed

to write *S. mongolicus* D. Jacks., when in nine
cases out of ten Mr Jackson wd not know the
species or the genus if he saw it, and where
the entry in the new *Stuedel* would not refer
the reader to any work in which he would
find the plant under that name. The question

is whether any alternative course may not
be found - In spite of all that has been urged
against lengthening the name - and the fact
that the name of a plant is a binomial consisting
of the name of a genus & that of a species - I continue
to think that the least inconvenience will be found
in citing (within brackets) the name of the first describer
of the species, with or without the name of the
genus to which he referred it. This plant was
first named *Cineraria mongolica* by Turczaninow
then *Ligul. mongolica* D.C. in Prod. - I would write
Senecio mongolicus (Turcz.) or *Turcz. Cineraria*).

Now take another case in the same genus
Ligularia amplexicaulis DC - It happens
in this case that Wallich after first calling it
Davicia called it *Senecio amplex.* in his Catalogue
but the difficulty arises in another way
Both C. B. Clarke (*Compos. Indica*) & Hooker in
H. Brit. Ind. have overlooked the fact that
there is an older species *S. amplexicaulis* H. B. K.
What then is to be done with Wallich's plant.
A new name becomes a necessity - I suppose
there is nothing for it but to trust to the
discretion of Mr Jackson -

There is a ^{third} way of escape but one which
I should not ^{on my own authority} venture to propose, though
there is much to be said for it - & that is in
large genera with sections that have been
regarded as genera by reputable authors to make
the name a trinomial - & say *Senecio Ligularia*
amplexicaulis D.C. and *Senecio Peruvianus*
amplexicaulis H. B. K. I think the introduction
of new names for old plants i.e. plants well
known by existing names so serious an
evil that it sh^d not be incurred unless the
necessity is stringent - we must face the fact
that the mass of material is so great & the
strain on the memory already so serious
that we must not shrink from even a
daring novelty if it will promote the ends of

Science

I think that where ~~there~~ a monotypic
genus of a previous author has been
incorporated in a larger one - although
the specific name has not been mentioned
the same implication is so clear that
unless you adopt the suggestion of giving
the first describer of the species in brackets
you may properly give that of the author
of the generic identification

Thus I would write *Mesogramma apifolium*
DC. either *Senecio apifolius* (DC. *Mesogramma*)
or *S. apifolius* B. & H. -

A second difficulty in nomenclature nearly
allied to the first has not I think been
adequately met - and urgently requires a positive
decision - What specific name should
be adopted where a plant has been placed
by different genera under different specific
names? To save place I will refer you to two
very short papers of mine in the *London Journal of*
Botany - New Series Vol VI (1877) p. 357 &
Vol VII (1878) p. 140 - The question is whether
the rule of applying the older specific name
(when not open to objections easily defined) is
every case, both as to the past & future publications
should be uniformly applied - I think you

and myself.

I thought that the opportunity might be used to settle - as far as it can be settled - the nomenclature of the plants now known to botanists but the more we have looked into the matter - especially with reference to the changes consequent on the adoption of the Genera Pl. as the basis of the work - the heavier & more cumbersome the task has appeared. The view we now take is that the new Standard should be simply an Index of the existing literature of botany so far as the names of plants are concerned and that the definitive decision as to what the name ought to be in doubtful cases must be left to the monographers of the future.

With reference therefore to genera which have been thrown together

London
10 Southwell Gardens S W

5 March

My dear Dr Gray - I must not any longer delay thanking you for your kind letter & the valuable and important paper which accompanied it - I lent this on receiving it to Dyer and have been unable to get it back from him - he being at present overpowered with work and at the same time much occupied and anxious about his wife's health - She has been for some time in a condition that causes much uneasiness to all her friends the more so perhaps that the medical men find it so hard to discover any definite cause for the weakening of all the

functions - and reduction of
strength -

I do not know that from a
purely selfish point of view
I should be glad or sorry that
the fates may possibly keep
you and Mrs Gray in New
England this summer - It
seemed only too good fortune
for me to have the chance
of meeting you in the West
but on the other hand the
prospect of finding the support
& countenance of such kind
friends may make the whole
difference as to my wife's undertaking
to cross the Atlantic - As you
know there is some chance
though an uncertain one

of the Hookers also making the
same expedition -

Will you kindly let me know
where Mr Greene now is - If I
should be able to make a run
to the far West I should like
to meet him & shall write to
him in any case - A postcard
will give the needful address.

I think that I should willingly
subscribe to everything in your paper
but when I get it back I shall
have more to say which I
reserve I may however
at once tell you that my views
as to the New Standard have been
considerably modified since I
first wrote & we are now here
pretty nearly of one mind on
the subject - Even Hooker though
with some reluctance having
come round to agree with Dyer

by B. & A. we think that
the course should be to give
~~the~~ supposing genus B to be
united to genus A.

B - (A species B & H. Gen. Pl. . . .)
x then insert ~~the~~ alphabetically
the species of B as hitherto
published - while as to such species
~~while~~ under ^A nospecific names
should be given save those which
have been already published
under that generic name.

We think however that where
the authors of the Gen. Pl.
have specifically asserted that
a given plant should rank
as a species of a given genus
even though they have not printed
the two names together

the implication is so complete
that they ought to be quoted.

To take the last plant that I
was examining - *Heinzelia lythroides*
of N ab E in Flor. Bras. Benthams
distinctly asserts after examination
that it cannot be separated from
Chectothylax & in such a case

I think that we should print
under the latter genus

C. lythroides B & H.

Not to lose another part I
close with our kindest greetings
to Mrs Gray & yourself

Very sincerely yours

John Ball

P.S. The staff at Kew is very fully occupied
& besides Oliver is rather apt to take peculiar views
on matters of detail to which he clings very
fast & Baker who has an immense capacity
is not very fit for deciding questions of minute
detail requiring patient investigation - In
practice a load of work which the more
one looks into it the larger it seems would
be thrown on Hooker - and it is just the
sort of work for which he is least fitted -
To require him to decide the dozens of
doubtful questions arising in the case of
each large genus would lead to immense
worry & expenditure of time & patience
& when all was done the work would be
far from perfect as you doubtless
have observed that he has made a
good many mistakes on points of
detail of this nature -

more on this subject in my next

JM

I am again indebted to you for your Mem- on nomenclature in all of which I entirely agree - I am very glad that you concur in thinking it best to limit the new Nomenclator to names actually published. I had at first more ambitious views but the further I have gone into the matter the more I am convinced that we must adhere to that limit. Future monographers & systematists working at Kew may properly as you recommend quote Benth's Hook in Herb Kew - but if we set Mr Jackson, who knows a good deal about botanical books but nothing of plants, on such a work we should add years to the time needed for completing the work & add a large number of blunders to its pages.

Many of the points noticed in your mem. have been forced on my attention during the past winter.

10 Southwell Gardens London. SW
20 April, 84

My dear Dr Gray

Your letter of the 21st March was most welcome - After much deliberation I have secured a Cabin in the Gallia for the trip leaving Liverpool on June 14 for New York - I wish we could have fixed an earlier date as I somewhat dread the great heat of summer in the Eastern & Central States both for myself & my wife -

Our subsequent proceedings are still uncertain - the main point being to decide on my wife's course - She is rather

disposed to undertake the journey
as far as Colorado and to make
her head quarters at Colorado
Springs, while I see as much
as I can of that region & of
California - returning eastward
in August. But I have not
yet made up my mind to this
arrangement knowing how
liable she is to suffer ^{seriously} from
overfatigue in travelling - The
wiser course I am sure w^d be
for her to remain at some
sea-side place on the east coast -

The Sowell's speak highly of
Mount Desert and Hooker suggests
Beverly or somewhere near it
on the coast of Massachusetts -
He adds that you & Mrs Gray

sometimes go in summer to that
neighbourhood & this of course
w^d be a strong inducement -
One element in my calculations
as to touring in the far west is
that of expense - At the best an
American tour must cost a good
deal more than our usual trips
to the Alps & Italy, and of course
the long railway journeys must
come to a good sum -

The Canadians have raised a
fund to lessen the cost of the
voyage to members of the British
Association but I have not
thought it right to apply for
a share as I understood that
there are many applicants
who probably ~~to~~ can afford
the expense less than I can.

in deciding our plans

With our very kind remembrances
to Mrs Gray

always sincerely yours

John Ball

P.S. It would seem that no botanist
has collected (or collected & published)
at or about Chicha, the terminus of
the line planned from Lima to Oroya -
No doubt there were no facilities, & no
special inducement, before the railway
was constructed. In three days spent
in and about Chicha I collected a
good many new & interesting plants
enough to make up a little Sentulum
Audinum. There will be in the next
Journal of the Linn. Soc. a little paper
of mine on Patagonia of which I will send
you a copy - I received just after it was in type
Lorentz & Naudulin Botany of the Expedition to the Rio Negro
of Wk. I will send you a notice.

while working & naming my
South American collections -

There is one branch of the
nomenclature question - not of the
first importance but arising often
enough to deserve consideration
and a positive decision, as to which
you have never as far as I
recollect pronounced yourself -
namely the specific name for a
plant which has been referred to
several different generic groups.

I refer as a typical instance to that
cited by me in Journal of Botany
for 1877 p 359 - *Spergularia diandra*
Boiss - Guss. (sub *Arucusis*.)

On the one hand you have the
logical argument - The name of a plant
is a binomial - The first published (binomial)
is entitled to preference - the plant in
question is a *Spergularia* - therefore it

should be called *Spergularia patens* Hochst.

Alph. de Caudolle agrees that the rule should be to prefer the earlier specific designation - and would say Hochstetter ought to have written *Spergularia diandra* but he shrinks from asserting that the rule though neglected in the first instance should be subsequently enforced. But what is the use of the rule if it may be broken with impunity -

Are you to allow men like Mr Gaudoger instead of coining new names for each slight variety of common plants - over 4000 new names for roses - to attain the great object of perpetuating his own name by coining new specific names for hundreds or thousands of plants whose generic ~~position~~ title has been altered by Bentham & Willd.

Baillon or others -

Are we to have to learn & to adopt new specific names for the Andean *Lucilias* & hundred of others made up by any one who may bid defiance to A. de Caudolle's laws?

And if you adopt a law for the future are you not to apply it for the past - saving of course the higher rule *quiesca non movere* - keep the name whatever it is that has received the consensus of the chief authorities.

This is the only remaining question connected with the Nomenclature that I regard as yet unsettled & I should much like to know your opinion.

If you have decided on the place or places where you & Mrs Gray are likely to spend the summer the information might weigh much

a share in opening up that
region - In 1856 being then Under
Secretary for the Colonies I sent out
the Palliser Expedition the first
which traversed the country between
the two branches of the Saskatchewan
& discovered the passes leading
across to the West on the British
side of the 49th parallel. —

My chief regret is that I could
not arrange to start earlier so as
to see more of the Vegetation of
the Pacific Slope - but I shall
be thankful to have at least
some personal acquaintance with
that region

Very sincerely yours

John Ball

with kindest greetings to Mrs Gray

10 Southwell Gardens London SW
22 May 1884

My dear Dr Gray

I have again to thank you
for your interesting letter - I write
today only a few lines - in the first
place to account for a liberty I
have taken with you - I am told
that I must give an address in
America for letters & documents
that may be sent to me from
Montreal and not - knowing any
other secure address at this moment
I have said care of - yourself
at Cambridge - I suppose that
even if you should be absent some
one in your house will take
care of them & after my arrival

we shall make proper arrangements -

We are disposed to follow your advice & go by sea from N York to Boston - probably going at once from the Gallics on board the Newport & Fall River boat. We shall go at once to one of the Boston Hotels & my first move on shore shall be to go to see you at Cambridge -

I know so well my wife's constitution that nothing will induce me to let her attempt the long journey westward. Even our short European railway trips try her severely & my great object is to find some place where she can have quiet & agreeable security - I suppose that she will hit the coast first - perhaps the hotel you mention

near Beverly - and after that perhaps some pretty place in the hills near the Canadian border - we have heard of ^{two} places Newport - & Mountain House on Lake Memphremagog - that seem tempting & quieter than the large hotels in the White Mountains - My elder son is going with us but can remain only about a month in America he will remain with Mrs Ball making probably an excursion to Niagara

I have a Cambridge friend who joins in my western trip so that we shall be on arriving a party of at least four - possibly six as a Cousin of my wife's with her husband is thinking of joining her -

I am rather anxious to join the excursion on the Canadian Pacific line immediately after the Montreal meeting the more so as I had

find me -
With kindest regards to Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

John Ball

Manitou House 11 July

My dear Gray - I sit down to report
progress knowing that you will
think very meanly of my proceedings
Several things have turned out otherwise
than I expected - Imprimis the season
as always happens to travellers is an
exceptional one - The winter & spring
were unusually cold with quite exceptional
snowfall and the heat has come on abruptly
hence the vegetation is - we are assured
a month later than usual and a
large proportion of the plants growing
at moderate heights are not yet in
flower - The journey from Boston was
pleasantly cool as far as Chicago rather
unpleasantly hot by day ~~since~~ thence
to Denver - On the day following our
arrival we went to Estes Park both
of us feeling much want of rest & coolness
my companion having his digestion out
of order & I feeling the heat & racket
of the preceding days rather severely
Remembering that I am a complete
stranger in this region you will

that wherever I go in the mountains
I find much to interest me - At Estes
Park we were at about 8000 ft. and I
made daily short excursions - on one
day rode up nearly to the limit of
the forest on Long's peak found a luxuriant
vegetation many charming plants
but no appearance of alpine vegetation
at 9700 or 9800 ft. Even there the
heat was more than we liked & only
towards morning did the air in
one's room become really cool.
Meanwhile we learned that the
thermometer in Denver stood from
90° to 96° by day while the plan of
our tour has been kept in suspense
by the misfortunes & misdeeds of the
Denver & Rio Grande R^y Com^{py}. You
have perhaps heard that the line
between Pueblo & Gunnison has been
'washed out' in several places
& traffic interrupted - To make matters
worse Mr Lovejoy - manager or president of
the line - took up the rails near the
junction between the Colorado & Utah sections
of the line with a view to stop traffic

in spite the Utah people - lastly
the company is unable to pay its workmen
and a receiver was appointed ~~up~~ ^{the} day
or the day before - Of course we
are assured that all will ~~so~~ be set
right within a few days - but ??
we may have to go round by Cheyenne
I shall at least secure the ascent
of Pike's Peak where the trail
is kept open & on which mountain
there seems to be much less snow
than on any other high summit
in the range -

What has so far surprised me most
is the heat of the Cascade at a
considerable height above sea-level
I have seen something like it in the
Sierra Nevada in S. Spain, ~~but~~
about the end of June, but that
is a small island of mountain surrounded
by very hot districts & at least 4° lat.
farther south than Estes Park
yet the heat was decidedly less
I must close - in case of need
Post office San Francisco will

my plants take up all my time not
employed in travelling

I have several good letters from
my wife who has thoroughly
enjoyed Niagara

Both Mr L. Stanford & Mrs
Crocker are away & it is doubtful
whether I shall see either of
them

Hope to find you & Mrs Gray
flourishing at Montreal

Ever truly yours

John Ball

San Francisco Cal: 26 July

My dear Gray I thought you will be
shocked to learn how little we have
done I can assure you that I have
enjoyed the journey extremely & found
abundant interest in many ways especially
botanical - The season you must recollect
has been (as happens so often to a traveller)
quite exceptional - So much snow has not
fallen in the Spring they say since 1816
& if we had known all the best things
to have done we have been to run straight
for the Sierra Nevada leaving the Rocky
Mountains to their own devices - The chief
practical difficulties have been to get
information and owing to the practices in
this country of constantly changing arrangements
as to trains stages & steamers we have found
that till you get to a place there was no
way of knowing when any conveyance would
start - Since we came west there have been
4 different time tables for the Union Pacific
& so of everything else - Mr Jackson could
not I believe have done anything for
us in Colorado and we lost the Grand Cañon
Gray's Peak was practically inaccessible

as well as Long's peak - I made sure of
Pike's and went expressly from ~~Marquette~~
to Colorado Springs to see Sergeant Hall
who is in charge of the station but lives
at Col. Springs - He told me that owing
to the snow I could not take a horse
& keep it for the night so I had to
give up that arrangement but had two
pleasant days botanizing the first about
the halfway house the second higher up
to where (above the timber line) snow
lay & alpine vegetation begins - It turned
out that Hall was not well posted up &
on the same day people who started early
found the trail clear & were able to ride
to the top - We went via Cheyenne to
Salt Lake city & thence to Truckee
& followed your route to Tahoe city
were detained a day because the steamer
& stage did not run but enjoyed it much
especially the visit to Tallac & Emerald
Bay - Then went by Greenwood to
Carson city & engaged a wagon & pair
to the Big Trees of Calaveras - The way
by Mono Lake seems at present very
doubtful - Snow lies down to 8000 ft
& patches even lower & no one has

crossed that way for some time - The Isabel
mine in Silver Creek has stopped working
Silver Mountain city has evaporated & you
find only empty sheds & a Hotel without
windows - we luckily got hospitality from
Mr Chalmers the Scotch Director of the mine
On the pass snow in places & only very lately
melted - so that I found but four plants
in flower - The drive through the forest
was delightful & the Big Trees of Calaveras
grand & impressive - But we found
that all the arrangements advertised
for July had been altered - Stages running
only three times a week & that to see
the Yosemite would cost us 9 days to Calaveras
San Francisco - We might probably
have done it by hiring vehicles but as it
cost us 100 dollars for the two days to
Calaveras we could not face the expense
of that mode of travelling - In fine rather
than spoil all the rest of the journey we
gave up the Yosemite & came here yesterday
evening Tomorrow go to Monterey & for
the rest shall do what we can -
When you recollect how new all this
flora is to me you will not be surprised
that I have collected largely & that

Manitou the Mt. Spicers

Yellowstone Park

18th Aug

making a rest day - may be tho
a little out of order in the
digestive arrangement; & will
have to wear this in
without any gypers - I shall
stay where you more of our
stay when we rest at Montreal
I was invited to the house
of Dr. Hingsley 57 Union Avenue.
I suppose that you & Mrs Gray will
also be lodged with some of your
friends -

In haste
E. J. Young

John Ball

I am afraid that a botanical notebook
like you has no use of the hard work
that falls to your humbler brethren.
I often work till 10 past 11 sometimes till
one & am up again at 5 -

My dear Gray I have had my hair
so full especially in drying my plants,
that I have hardly had time for short-
& hurried letters to my wife - This will
I hope catch you before you leave
home but if not I shall repeat
Viva voce. The latter part of our
trip has been on the whole very
enjoyable in spite of some slight
misadventures & one great
disappointment - I had from my
heart on having a day's botanizing
in the ripine region of the Northern
Cascade peaks - & for this your wife
& I were by way of
Francisco - on which trip I was left
behind botanizing on the hill above
Astoria - but rejoiced to start next
day at Portland. I was led to suppose

that I should be able to reach 10000 or 11000
ft on Mt Rainier alias Tacoma with
little difficulty by the help of a human
railway that looks on the map to go very
near the foot of the big mountain - After a
very pleasant run to Puget Sound &
Victoria Vancouver where I spent 4 or 5 hours
I went (without Forster who has been
having twinges of gout) by the proposed
railway was told that there was no
trail from the farther station & dept
at Bonato & stopped at another called
Wilkeson - learned that one must go
through 20 m of forest before one could
even see the mountain. The only man
having two ponies away next day
Sunday was over - in short the
thing impracticable without much
more time than I could give -
Tell any friend with designs on that
mountain that he must allow
7 or 8 days from Portland - must
engage everything, needful for camping

out there is at Tacoma to see -
how & guide from the latter place
& will have to pay handsomely for the
trip. But I had time to follow the
trail some way into the forest & it
was well worth the expedition
The Douglas pine in that region quite
beats every other conifer excepting
the Sequoias and has over them
the advantage of generally running
up straight & tapering to the top
The Yellow & Sugar pines of the California
woods had delighted me but are quite
surpassed by the Douglas. Why is it
that in California the latter can grow
to half the size & in the Rocky Mountains
is quite a poor tree. The whole
journey from Portland here is very
interesting & requires a great contrast
to the line from Salt Lake City though
there is a little more of the same
& show other mountains

and a night thunderstorm
destroying several houses which
spoiled the Genl's Illumination
& fireworks & better the fine
view from the Citadelle

More when we meet & best
greetings to Mr Gray

Ever truly yours

I Wall

Yes we shall act on your
advice about luggage
hope that all our throats
& stomachs will be in prime
order at Philadth

Montreal Tuesday 2 Sept

My dear Gray - I have found
it difficult to write or to make
up my mind as to our course
because I found myself so unfit
for another gathering or for what
attracted me still more, the prospect
of a trip with you to the Alleghenies -
I arrived here with my stomach much
out of order & the Montreal water
finished the business - Only to-day
I feel myself getting right again
& I know that a day or two of quiet
ought to make me all right & fit
for work After deliberating with my
wife we have decided to leave
this on Thursday morning by

The special train & stop at Saratoga
remain there a clear day & go on
to Philadelphia on Saturday morning.
Now with regard to the invitation
to Mr Redfield's which has never
reached us but which from what
you told me exists somewhere -
we feel that it would be quite wrong
at a moment when Mr Redfield
probably has many friends whom
he wishes to invite for us to keep
a vacant space in his house
from Wednesday to Saturday.
I will therefore ask you while
thanking Mr Redfield sincerely
for his proffered hospitality to
explain the state of the case &
say that we cannot think of standing
in the way of his hospitality to others.
Should he however still express a wish

to retain us I authorize you to
accept on our behalf with many thanks.
In the opposite alternative I must add
to all the other trouble we have given
you by begging you to secure lodging
in a hotel - either one good room with
two beds or a bed & a sofa (for we are
both bad sleepers) or two rooms side by side
& to write a line to United States Hotel
Saratoga Springs N.Y. - If posted
on Thursday I suppose that I shall
get it on Friday -

I am much distressed at what
you tell me of the Dyers - Of course
I have long been uneasy about
Harriet's health & was not satisfied
with Dyer's condition but not prepared
for such an unfavorable report.

Our Quebec excursion ~~with~~ was
much marred by heavy rain.

week were perhaps forwarded to the
Aldine Hotel at Philadelphia or perhaps
elsewhere - so I enclose a post card
with the address in blank asking to
have them sent to you - Better late
than never. Hooker is such a punctilious
correspondent that I rather think he
has written to me & sh^d be sorry to
lose his letter.

We trust that Mrs Gray was not
overfatigued by her excursion to
the Alleghanies - I shall always count
it as among the most enjoyable I
have ever made - combining natural
beauty - glorious vegetation & delightful
Society - and all this in addition to
much else I owe altogether to you.

Ever truly yours

John Ball

P.S. My wife sends her love to Mrs Gray
& hopes to meet her again very soon
under less trying conditions than those
of Philadelphia
Of course I shall write again & give you an
address when we have decided on places.

Niagara Falls (Cataract House) 27 Sept

My dear Gray - I write mainly to
report progress. My wife joined me at
Harrisburgh two or three hours after my
arrival. I had a good bout of work
in changing papers &c & in making
ready the parcel which I despatched
to Cambridge - as already announced
by my postal card - On Wednesday evening
we stopped at Watkins Glen where it
rained all night & we saw little beyond
the hotel & the bridge crossing the gorge -
On Thursday as we travelled this way
the sky cleared & I had time before
dark to go toward Goat Island -
Yesterday was very fine in the morning
We spent some hours again on Goat
Island & went in the afternoon across
the Suspension Bridge - enjoyed the
glorious views but found everything
near the Great Fall very wet from

The spray carried by the SE wind
which 'as is its nature to' brought
rain at night & this morning.

This is a place of which one could
not soon tire & we shall remain
till Tuesday at least. I wrote to
the Kaaterskill Hotel for information
(how long the house is open &c.) but as yet
have no answer so that we are rather
uncertain as to our movements -
shall perhaps go to Lake George
or to the Thousand Islands.

The only thing clear is that I am
anxious to reach Boston on or about
10th Oct. We then hope to accept your
hospitality - and I think of going at once
to your house if that be entirely convenient -
My wife wishes to remain over Sunday at
Boston & on the following day will be
happy to place herself under your
roof always supposing that this
remains convenient to you & Mrs Gray

For my part ~~or~~ I shall look on the days
spent at Cambridge as precious &
I shall care very little about the sights
of New York - but I think that my wife
who is rather fond of cities will like
to have a few days there before we
depart from this Continent -

Meanwhile the weather is a good deal
warmer than I like & I rather sigh
for the brisk fresh air of Roan Mountain
or even of the Salt Pond - but such
a luxury is not easily found on this
Continent as the foolish people seem
to fly from the mountains just when
they become most salubrious.
We like this hotel very much & bless
Mrs Gray for having sent us here.

It would appear that two newspapers
& also possibly some letters have gone
astray - we found here two letters one for my wife
& one for me & two newspapers which
probably reached Boston about the 22^d but
all of which Mr Watson was good enough
to forward - but the papers of the preceding

Cataract House Niagara falls N.Y.

30 Sept

If the air were not so relaxing
I should like to linger here - In any
case we shall not move until we
receive Mr Gray's good advice

Always truly yours

John Bull

My dear Gray - I am very sorry that
you sh^d have had the trouble of telegraphing
about the letter at the P. Off. here - It is
true that I had not thought of enquiring
there - I return with many thanks
Hooker's letter - His letter to me written
two days earlier shows that for
Bentham it was really a release.
He had been for two months in bed
ceasing to take the slightest interest
in any thing rarely speaking even
in a monosyllable & unwilling to open
his eyes when H. went to see him
His account of Harriet is decidedly
better but I fear that Dyer is much
out of health - He ought to get away
for six months but I know how
difficult that is
We are remaining here where we find
constant interest - a good hotel &
a quiet time together - while it

appears that most if not all the
hill & mountain hotels are closed
or on the eve of closing - we had
nearly settled to start this morning
for the White Mountains, in the
belief that the Fabian House was
kept open - I took the precaution
of telegraphing an inquiry on that point
yesterday & find that it is about
to be closed - My wife has written
to Mrs Gray to know whether she can
suggest any place ^{within reach of Boston} combining creature
comforts & a sight of the forest in
its autumn colouring - Of that
there is very little here certainly not
more than we generally have in
Europe - Even Lake George as we
are assured closes on 1st Oct.

I suppose that you have received
the trunk full of plants that I

forwarded from Saratoga to
Cambridge on 5th September, the
same day we went to Philadelphia
but in case of delay I enclose the
paper which I received at Saratoga.
I paid the charge for carriage but
I dare say there may have been
some further charge to add to the
numerous items of my debt to you

I have found few plants in
flower here but several in fruit
which I had not seen - e.g. a
Hypericum suffruticosum doubtless
Kalmianum - but strangely no
acorns - Something has gone wrong
with all the oaks this year -
The tail of the cyclone which as the
newspapers announce passed over
Lake Huron reached us here on
Sunday evening & night - Shook
our windows & doors but did
no damage

Cataract House Niagara Falls 4 Oct^r

My dear Gray. - Your kind & elaborate letter has filled me with remorse at the thought that a man whose time is so valuable sh^d have given so much of it to so little purpose - but I think you will appreciate the reasons for my decision - My wife is not up to much travelling & is easily upset by fatigue - at the same time we have been so little together this year that I don't like to shorten the period that we can spend together enjoying a quiet time in the Country - I therefore decide to diverge very little from the shortest line to Boston & make our halting place in the Berkshire hills - Mrs Gray speaks well of Lenox but on the whole we are more disposed for Lebanon Springs of which we have heard a good account

from some nice Americans we have met here - That place is very near Lenox but in New York State. I send a telegram to day to enquire whether the hotel there (Columbia Hall) is kept open for another week & unless the weather be very unfavorable we propose to remain there till this day week when we shall make our way direct to Boston - I know that this involves giving up White Mts - Catskill hypoxides & the Appalachian Club - but after all it is well to leave some plums in the pudding in view of the chance of crossing the Atlantic rully again.

That must be if at all earlier in the year - when Alleghanies in June & White Mts in July wd form a tempting second course -
Pray thank Prof. Peckering for his kind invitation to join the Appalachian Club of which I am an ^{unworthy} Honorary member.

I shall send a postcard or telegram if the answer from Lebanon Springs is satisfactory - or indeed in any case - if affirmative our address will be
Columbia Hall Lebanon Springs N.Y.
We have had three wet days this week yesterday the sun came out but the air very damp - quite saturated to day fine.

Affectionate greetings from us both
to Mrs Gray

Ever yours

John Ball

Wendover Hotel

New York Sunday 19 Oct

My dear Gray

Three times to say that I
arrived all right about nine
this morning - If I lived here
I should never travel any other
way between Boston & New York
My wife has been rather out
of sorts chiefly lying down
much muffled but is better
to day & we are just off for
a drive in the Central Park
after all my packing
Yesterday I forgot one thing
left in the tray of my plant
trunk in the little room
above herbarium - a map

of the western territory of
Canada better than any
I have - I think it w^d
spoil it to send by post
so perhaps you will
put it in the pigeon hole
for New - & write my
name on the back -
It will reach me sooner
or later -

My wife is full of regret
at leaving America - though
she sometimes growls at
the cold as I did at the heat
but I am not without
hope of another trip

across the Atlantic
we shall talk of that when
you come next to London
meantime accept from
yourself & Mrs Gray
our affectionate remembrance
& boundless thanks for
all the kindness you have
both shown us

Always truly yours

John Ball

10 Southwell Gardens London S.W.

4 Nov - 1884

My dear Gray - We duly arrived after a rough but quick passage - reaching Queenstown in 7 days - where my wife disembarked while I went on to Liverpool in order to see luggage (plants &c) safely through the custom house - I found as usual a huge pile of letters awaiting my return & have been kept busy in answering the more pressing ones.

We had the Thompsons (very pleasant & sympathetic) & some other scientific men on board but the heavy rolling of the ship made many sick & was inconvenient to all.

I stupidly omitted to note down your advice as to poisoning plants with Arsenic & must beg of you to let me have exact instructions I forget whether you see objections to the use of methylated spirit.

I bound up all your 'Contributions'

that I proposed last winter forming
a goodly volume - I enclose a rough
list of these - nearly all due to your liberality
& besides these have since had from you
the part published in 1883 - 'Characters of
new Compositae etc' & your recent
'Revision of N. A. sp. of *Oxytropis* & *Saxifraga*' -

I have also your monograph of *Rhynchospora*
& paper in the Ann. Sc. Nat. on *Shortia galacifolia* -
Whether this exhausts the list of your shorter
papers on descriptive Botany I cannot say
but if you happen to have any duplicates
of others not in the above list you will
add to my obligations by sending them -

Of course I don't refer to the more considerable
works such as *Plantae Wrightianae*. *Pl. Thunbergianae*
Chloris B. Americana &c. which I have procured
some time ago.

I came home with a heavy cold, much
aggravated by five hours' delay in the
landing at Liverpool on a raw foggy morning,
but though nearly well I have not yet
got out to Kew or seen any friends.

My wife is very well & joins in sending
our love to you & Mrs Gray

always truly yours

John Ball

P.S. You omitted to endorse the
cheque which you sent to Mr Janssen
for Forbes's Malayan plants - but
I have set the matter right -
'There are spots in the sun!'

Notwithstanding your wealth
I hope to be able to add something
to your herbarium from my
S. American collections

10 Southwell Gardens
London SW
7 Nov~

We warmly congratulate you
& your countrymen - we
feel as if some near relations
had narrowly escaped
public disgrace & ignominy

Yrs ever



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

POST CARD—GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

(GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE)

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



Dr. Asa Gray F. R. S.

Cambridge

Massachusetts

United States N. America

10 Southwell Gardens
London SW
Christmas Day /84

My dear Gray

This bears our affectionate best wishes for you & Mrs Gray and at the same time my best thanks for your letter and for the valuable gifts of your various papers not hitherto (except one or two small ones) in my possession - It has more than once occurred to me that it wd be a great service to botanists if some young American wd put together a little Nomenclator Grayianus i.e. an alphabetical list of the species described or mentioned in your works & memoirs with references.

You may say that the N. American species will all ultimately come out in the Syn. Flora, but it will be some time before that is complete &

meantime it costs no small labour to hunt out all that one wants to learn from you - Besides there are many Pacific & S. American species besides those in the Bot. of the U. S. Expl. Exp.

Any careful young man could do the work without giving you the least trouble and would deserve to have his name immortalized by your naming a species or even a genus after him - ample reward for his pains.

My wife has not been photographed for a long time but I have found one about 15 years old done in costume for a fancy ball - please - give it to Mrs Gray if she does not consider it too fantastic for her collection of serious people -

Of course you have heard of the expected addition to the Hooker dynasty - Our friend

announced it to me with a somewhat apologetic air.

Harriet is I think decidedly improving & may I hope get quite well in health but Dyer is overworked & not strong.

We have had stormy & wet weather but now dry & moderately cold - not quite frosty -

Just received a letter from ~~Harriet~~ Miss North from Chili with a very pleasant account of her doings

We are all well here & hope to get a satisfactory account of you & Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

Wm Ball

I shall have parcels of plants for Mrs Canby - Mr Greene in California & a small one for you - Would it do to send a box to you & would you receive the right share of expenses from each - Or can I prepay the whole or shall I send them separately I suppose if sent to Cambridge they would have the risk of being ill used at the custom house -

10 Southwell Gardens

London S.W.

27 Feb 7

My dear Gray Our thoughts & best wishes are often with you and dear Mrs Gray on your southern tour and often I wish that it would have been possible for us to join you - Perhaps you wd not have found me so bad a travelling companion as I was in Virginia when I started so very much below par as I have rarely if ever found myself.

I do not write to you much as work - or at least engagements of one kind or other - is constantly pressing on me in London. - The most pressing reason for writing now is to tell you that Miss North is due at Mexico some time in March & that if you will let her know your intended movements she wd be very likely to make an effort to meet you somewhere in that region.

I had a very pleasant letter from her not long ago from Santiago - She seems thoroughly to have enjoyed that delightful country & to have found every sort of facility & attention both from Chilian & English residents -

We have had since mid January very mild weather - it was never really cold - and I saw 10 days ago quite 20 species in flower on the rock work at Kew - All these are fairly well. Harriet seems to be gradually getting strong but Dyer - has troubles - I fancy the liver is the cause - Hooker very well & Lady H. recovered in a few days from the trifling inconvenience of increasing her family - Hooker is beginning to talk rather often of retiring but I hope that may be postponed for some years - He is apt to worry himself overmuch about the small difficulties & troubles that must arise in the management of so large an institution

Now I must shut up with renewed good wishes and our love to Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

John Ball

Flora of the Andes & also a little
book - Notes of a tour round S. America -
or something to that effect, chiefly
with a view to physical geography
& its relations to plant distribution.

I am not sure whether they have yet
forwarded from New a case with
a good many parcels from me -
I hope it is not wrong - most of them,
addressed extrinsically to you, are destined
for Mr Cambry & Mr Greece. There
is I think only one parcel for you
of sundries that I thought likely to
interest you - I have another
nearly ready with ^{the goods} from S. America
containing some novelties and other
things which I thought might be of
some interest - I shall remain in
debt to you but nevertheless whenever
you happen to have a few specimens
to spare from your stores I shall accept
the scraps from your table with due
thankfulness - My wife sends her kindest
greetings to you & Mrs Gray & remain
Always most truly yours

Wall

10, Southwell Gardens,

South Kensington.

2 June 1888

My dear Gray - I write to welcome your
return to the Centre of Civilization - I have
heard from Mr Cambry the fact of your
return but I hope to hear soon a little
more & to be assured that you & Mrs Gray
are quite well & have enjoyed your journey -
As a botanist I think you cannot
have failed to do so for you have
been at the best season in a singularly
interesting region - Many a time
during the last three months I have wished
that I could be with you, but in
truth it was out of the question -
My wife has been delicate ever since
our east winds began in March
& lasted with little intermission
till about 10 days ago - Twice
I took her to the country for change -

of air with but slight advantage -
but the fine weather has come -
at last & has set her up again -

I suppose that you have heard
from Hooker - Harriet has been
decidedly better this winter & spring
& I am in hope that her health
will be set up again - sufficiently
to remove anxiety though she will
always be delicate - Dyer also
is better & has been very active -
I must tell ^{you} in confidence - for I
wish it not to be spoken of - that
his friends have been rather anxious
about Hooker - There are symptoms
of induration of the arteries that
might become serious, and the
great object is to avoid all extra
excitement - Two months ago
he was looking ill & was I

think uneasy about his own health
but latterly has been living a quiet &
regular life & is looking all right -

When I last wrote I thought you were
likely to meet Miss North somewhere
in Mexico but to the surprise of her
friends she returned to London about
a month ago - having renounced
Guatemala & Mexico & spent a month
in Jamaica - The fact is that her
nervous system is much shaken
& she is no longer fit for roughing
it as she has hitherto done - I
trust she may be induced to remain
at home but the passion for
travelling is so strong that I don't
rely on prudence to restrain her -

I have been very fairly well
this winter - worked at Kew at
my South American collections
& am finishing a small paper
for the Linnæan Soc. on the

address 10 Southwell Gardens
London S.W. 10 June 1885

My dear Gray

I had already written
to you but must send a
few lines to thank you for
your very interesting letter
& for letting us know that
you & Miss Gray have returned
in good condition from
the trip which must have been
thoroughly enjoyable - Since I
wrote our house has been thoroughly
upset by my elder son being
attacked by Scarlatina -
My wife who has had it

insisted on undertaking the
case with the help of a trained
nurse - My second son sent
into lodgings & I am sleeping
at a hotel & see my wife
only at a very respectful distance.

The case has been going on as
favorably as possible & the patient
is now in the convalescent
stage when the danger of infection
is greatest so strict quarantine
regulations are enforced -

It has been hardest in my wife
who is not strong - but she has
insisted - To me it has taken
the shape of interfering with

my work - I have not been to
Kew & I don't know whether the
plants which have been there
for 2 or 3 months are yet
despatched -

It is understood that the South
American plants are to follow
later

With affectionate greetings
to Mrs Gray

Ever yours

J Wall

Grindelwald Canton Bern
Switzerland 27 August

My dear Gray your welcome letter of the
26th July reached me here only two days
ago having travelled to & fro - I suppose
there is some compensation in human affairs
but in our case we seem to be paying
for all our good fortune last year by
various mishaps which have fallen
mainly on my wife - She came to
Switzerland a good deal the worse for
confinement to the house & want
of exercise but after a fortnight in
the region surrounding the Lake of
Lucerne she was beginning to walk
pretty well - We went to Rosalace
meeting there a number of Gasquet-
friends when going up to the old
site of the now shrunken ^{glacier} she slipped
on some very flat rocks & fell, severely
bruising the ankle &c -
After a few days she was carried
here over the Scheidegg but does
not run too much & is confined

to alternate between bed & sofa
not even owing to the restaurant which
is the harder as we have very pleasant
Italian friends in the house. Among
other people who have turned up was
my old friend Lord Aberdare who has
a lively recollection of his meeting with
you & Mrs Gray at our house & made
many inquiries — By the way I am asked
by our Roman friends here to consult
you as follows. He is the Duke of Sermoneta
better known as Prince Teano (his title
during his father's life) an active, intelligent
well informed man who carries out many
experiments & improvements on his large
property — (about 60000 acres) which includes
a large part of the Pontine Marshes — a sandy
tract near the sea — Some stony hills & some
deep soil good for tillage — He wants to
plant hickory & introduce it into southern
Italy — The questions submitted to you are
1 which species is economically most useful
& most likely to succeed in Southern Italy
2 What sort of soil should be chosen
3 (the most difficult) How is he to procure
the plants? may he rely on the nuts ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~country~~
he procure you of plants & if so how?

I am rather surprised to hear that
the parcels which I sent to Kern
many months ago should not yet
I have reached you — As the matter
stands I think I may best wait
until I return about the end of
October — I am very glad that
you are about to attack the
Polypetalae — It will be a great day
for botany when the work is
complete but I hope that we may
see you either on this or on the
other side of the Atlantic before
that comes to be

My wife sends her love to you &
Mrs Gray & I remain always

most sincerely yours

John Hall
I'm here so bad that I can't
see what I write

Pray give our united love to
Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

John Bal.

P.S.

I have written to Oliver
about the parcels that
have been so long lying
at Kew

Casa Parolini Bassano Veneto
28 Sept

My dear Gray - I fear that I
have never thanked you for your
interesting letter of the 26th July
& my conscience has been spared
by getting further your postcard of
the 4th Inst. Our fortunes this year
have been chequered - we had much
enjoyable weather in the Alps & were
fortunate in meeting friends & agreeable
acquaintances, both English & Italian
but the pleasure was marred by
an unfortunate accident - my wife
falling on some quite easy hurt
her foot ankle & so severely that
she does not yet after 7 weeks walk
freely & was for a month quite laid
up. In Switzerland I saw Casimir
Decandolle (Alphouse was away)
& I went to spend an evening with

My dear old friend Boissier
who was only just convalescent
from a very serious attack of
his old complaint - hemorrhage,
& inflammation in the stomach
which for some time kept him
in imminent danger -
He is far advanced in the supplement
to his *Flora Orientalis*

We go in a week to Venice
to spend a week with the Lagards
& then for a week to Florence
getting back to London about
the end of October

You will read with some interest
Christ's article in Engler's *Bot Jahrbuch*
part 5, 1885 on the vegetation of the
Canary islands - Allowing for a
different appreciation of the limits
of general species on the part

of the authorities we here follow
& it is certainly true - though you
may probably differ from some of
his conclusions -

It is high time that writers on geographical
distribution should cease to
include ferns - & acolytes in
general - among the materials for
discussion & comparison - If anything
is certain as to the means of diffusion
of species it is that the spores of
acolytes may be transported over
indefinite spaces by air-currents
& that their presence or absence in
a given region gives no indication
of the probable origin of the flora
I may remember me kindly
to Mr Watson I hope to hear that
he has quite got over his attack

& we shall all join in wishing
prosperity to your work at the
Polytechnic -

got over her accident -
Accept our affectionate best wishes
for yourself - Mrs Gray
Always sincerely yours

John Ball

Of course you know all about
Hooker's retirement from Kew.
I am glad to say that there is no
doubt about the succession. Dyer
has received the official offer of
the appointment, & I suppose will
very soon be formally appointed -
I found Harriet better & stronger
than I had seen her for a long time
but she will always be a delicate
person requiring care & unfit
for fatigue.

10 Southwell Gardens S.W.
1 Dec^r 1885

My dear Gray - Although it is nearly
three weeks since we returned to England
I have been so occupied with matters out-
of my line - family business & the like -
that I have had very little time for
botany, only within a few days have
found time to go thro' the parcels
that were awaiting me at Leeds

I find that you have added to my
former obligations by sending me a
very nice set with several plants
entirely new to me & full of interest

I fear that you will think the
S. American plants, that have I hope
now reached you, a very poor
return for all your liberality.

I hope you will forgive me for
bothering you but the question
is one which no one else can
solve - I have been for some
time doubting whether the genus

Galvesia founded on G. linearis
Juss. first collected in Peru by Donkey
can be kept apart from Antirrhinum
Once you give up the closed mouth of
the corolla as a generic character
for the latter I don't see what is to
separate them -

I find that Galvesia linearis is pretty nearly
intermediate between the two Gaudichaudia
your A. speciosum & A. junceum (Maurandia Reute)
the base of the corolla is more gibbous therefore
more Antirrhinoid & the only character left
is a slight thickening & still slighter bilobation
of the tip of the style - But in the Gen. Pl. Reute
judging from the fig. & description of Saccularia
Veitchii Kellogg in Proc Calif Acad. ii. 17 sets
that down as a second sp. of Galvesia -

You have in the Syn. Fl., pretty perhaps
deliberately, omitted all referred to Kellogg's
Saccularia - That plant came from Cerros
Island and I observe that you give Cerros
as a locality for Ant. junceum - I have
today compared the original specimens
of A. junceum collected by Hinds with
Kellogg's fig. & description & I am

persuaded that Saccularia & A. junceum
are the same thing - saving only that
Hinds's specimen appears to be quite smooth
while Saccularia if correctly described is
slightly glandular & pubescent - I suspect
that Kellogg's figure represents the lobes of
the corolla rather longer & more patent
than they really are - and as to his
miniature representation of the entire bush it
is obviously quite wrong. Galvesia comes
into a little paper that I am about to
send to the Lin. Soc. & therefore it is that
before I commit myself I turn to you for
light

I expect in a few days to send you a paper
already in type, but not out of the
printer's hands, containing some speculations
as to the history of the S. American flora
as to which I shall hope when you have
a few minutes spare time to learn
your judgement

Meantime we should both be very
glad to hear a good account of
you & Mrs Gray - my wife
has very nearly 40 (but not complete)

Christmas Day 1885

10 Southwell Gardens

London SW

My dear Gray - It is a curious coincidence that I had addressed the envelope of this letter and enclosed our greeting to Mrs Gray when a midday postman brought a second welcome letter from with one from Mrs Gray to my wife - so I now answer that of 24 Nov. as well as yours of the 14th - and further to renew my thanks for the parcel of plants which I received soon after my return & which I found full of interest - especially those of your last journey to the west.

I sent your advice as to the hickories to the Duke of Sermoneta & you may in addition to all your other good deeds have the name of a benefactor to Italy - We have been growling a little that we were not here - let into the secret of the intentions of the transatlantic Botanists for your 75th birthday for none among them would more heartily have joined in well earned tributes than many of your friends in this country -

Not only among scientific men, but among all right-minded men, the feeling that we are really portions of one nation under somewhat different institutions is I think now well rooted & the sooner it is openly recognized the better -

I was very glad to hear that Watson's

health is now reestablished - pray convey
to him my best wishes for the new year -

My wife is not well to day - laid up
with a bad headache which I trust may
be only a passing disturbance - I know
that she intended to write to-day to Mrs Gray
but unfortunately she cannot even read
a letter.

You will have received a letter from
me which must have crossed yours on
the Atlantic - Chiefly about Kellogg's
Saccularia Veatchii - I think that
a post-card will suffice for the
reply. A paper of mine sent to the
Linnean Soc^y last July, is at last
published & I shall of course send you
a separate copy when I receive them.

I shall be glad to know whether you
approve of any of my speculations -
I have another little paper just ready.

I am much indebted to you for the
plants from Gray's pack & for putting
my name down for a set of Pringle's
plants of Chihuahua - He has usually
sent me a notice as to his collections,
of which I have had three sets, but
none has reached me this season -

Hooker is well & cheery - a little put out
about some friction with official connected

with the new arrangements at Kew, but
he will be all the better for having nothing
but his scientific work to think of and
the difference of income will be nearly
compensated by the less need for hospitalities
at Kew which were a constant demand.

How you tempt me with the vision
of Florida & Texas! - but for many
reasons I must not think of such
a thing this year.

I am very glad that the Supplement is
off your hands and the road clear for
the Polypetalae - It is all the better
that materials have now so far
accumulated, that you have nearly
all the spoil of the mighty West to
work upon.

With every best wish for you & Mrs Gray
affectionately yours

John Ball

10 Southwell Gardens London SW
1 Jan 1886

The new year began well bringing me
your welcome letter of 20 Dec - but I
am in much trouble at the dangerous
illness of my dear old friend W. Forster
whose life is precious to the whole nation.
In spite of careful packing the flower
was so brittle that it came broken & in
any case would not have borne to be
put in hot water - It seems however quite
to agree with those I have looked at in
Kew Herb - I think *Galvezia* may remain
as a separate genus including *A. juncum*.
I hope that you have had from me
a tolerable specimen of *G. limensis*
if not I must send you one
from my own Herbarium.

I am working at my Compositae
which take much to put them
in order - but as I have to
formic at the microscope & rarely
use a lens - I can do little
more than put things in order.

I have already sent you
our united best greetings for
the new year.

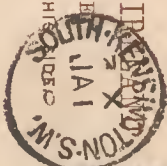
Yours ever
W. Ball

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(GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE)

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



B. Air Gray F.R.S.

*Cambridge
Massachusetts*



*United States
of North America*

10. S. Garden Lⁿ SW 4 Jan 7

Received yours of 23 Dec - Sorry to say
that I have not *Orthocarpus australis* -
I now find to my disgust that
in the confusion of last summer
when scarlatina made my
herbarium inaccessible for
many weeks the parcel of S.
American plants which should
have gone to you long ago
remained behind - It shall

go in the next box from Kew
You will find a few novelties

I have not yet received copies
of my paper on the London Flora
but expect them daily - I
have another S. American paper
going to the Linn. Socy

Yours &c

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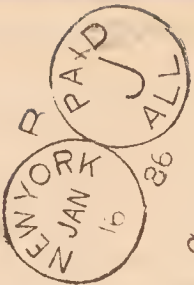
(GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE)

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Dr Asa Gray F. R. S.

Cambridge

Massachusetts



United States
of North America



10 Southwell Gardens London SW

13 March /86

My dear Gray - The parcel of S. American
Plants so long delayed - has been confided
to Mess^{rs} Wesley & I hope that it may soon reach
you - I have sometimes doubted whether
you ever had a full set of Y. Coulter's Plants
of California & Mexico - if for no other reason
because I rather think that he was the first
discoverer of a good many plants of those
regions which have gone to the credit of
subsequent explorers. I first knew him in
1842 some years after his return from America
He was in charge of the Herbarium at Trinity College Dublin
which was chiefly founded on his collections in
various countries - He had gone through severe
& prolonged hardship in his explorations &
became a martyr to rheumatism & died not
long after I made his acquaintance - The duplicates
which were not numerous were distributed by
Harvey who had a very great regard for you
but I don't think he had yet learned to
know you when the Californian Dups

were distributed. As I volunteered to help
Harvey in his work in the Herbarium I
got a tolerable set of duplicates - I have
since identified most of the doubtful
plants but I every now & then come
on something incertae sedis - To day in
arranging the Helenioidea I come on one
which Harvey, I think correctly, referred to
Helenium - Of this I have two small specimens
each rather under 6 inches in height - which
I have little doubt belong to the same species
The one labelled 356 - California - has four
short moncephalous branches from the base
of which I enclose one - The leaves excepting one
lowermost which is sinuato-pinnatifid
are entire - The other specimen - labelled
in Coulter's hand Monterey n^o 358 has only
two branches & the leaves sinuato dentate
& almost pinnatifid -

My eyes are very weak & I don't attempt
to use even a lens at this moment.
Perhaps to your familiar eye the sketch
that I send will suffice -

I am for the second time this winter
confined to the house & coughing vigorously
The season continues to be quite unusually
severe & we are all more or less incumbrated
but have had nothing serious to lament
Ever yours

John Ball

P.S. Sunday

This was late for the post yesterday
& I open it to say that I believe what I have
said about Coulter's plants to be all bosh.
Last night - I returned to the Helenioidea
& found that you have more than once referred
to Coulter's plants by their numbers.
E.g. under Helenium Thurberi
I do not know whether you possess any account
of Coulter's Wanderings & explorations - So far
as I know he never published any account of
them -

people of Boston who have been
sending me addresses - Gladstone wd
I think change their tone if they
were themselves to face the condition
of society that Gladstone (if his measure
be carried) would create in Ireland.
It would simply be handing over
the island to barbarism & probably
to civil war. The most conclusive -
though not the most eloquent speech
in the H. of Commons was that
of Goschen on the 12th night.

Tell any of your friends who care
to form a sound judgement to
read that in full.

My little S. American book is at
last approaching completion.

With our united kindest greetings
to Mrs. G.

ever yours

John Bull

10 Southwell Gardens London S.W.
15th April 1872

My dear Gray

We have been (my wife & I)
much plagued with coughs -
throats, &c. - but I hope that
a week spent at Tunbridge Wells
has set us right - One inconvenience
has been that until yesterday
I have not been able to get
to Kew for six weeks - I had
as much as I could do & have
not yet had time to go through
the parcels of Pringle's plants -
I get them poisoned at Kew before
they are sent home - I suppose
that Mr Pringle will let me know
the amount of my debt & so and

also his address - that I may
remit the amount to him.

I hear also that I have -
a very nice set of plants from Gray's peak
after New Herb. has been satisfied
and I thank you in advance -
for the gift -

I hope to have a small
parcel of Chilean & Argentine
plants to send you later
this year -

I have a great lot of duplicates
of European & Mediterranean
plants which might be
acceptable to some of your
botanical friends, & which
I would gladly give in

token of sympathy with the N. Amer.
naturalists - but to speak plainly
I cannot afford the time to write
out proper labels - but if the
receiver would be satisfied with
labels in pencil, I will take the
trouble to copy them fairly. I
shall put a parcel together on
occasion & offer - At the same
time I should make a separate
parcel of the rarer species which
might by chance be acceptable for
your herbarium and from which
you might choose without the
trouble of looking through the whole
lot.

I am, in common with most
thinking men here, deeply troubled
at the ~~present~~ ^{present} ~~state~~ ^{state} of public
affairs in this country. The

Sund Friday 23 April 86

Just received your very interesting
^{which I shall soon answer}
letter - cannot trust my memory but
shall write to Dublin & hope to obtain
more particulars than I can recollect
as to Coulter's journeys - I trust that
we shall be here when O. W. H.
comes to London - If you can learn
the date of his intended arrival,
and where he will put up - or letters
find him - let me know - With
that information I shall take care
that he shall at once receive
an invitation to the Athenaeum
& Cosmopolitan Clubs we are
both tolerably well but I have been
wornied by a visit from Lumbago
With our best greetings to both

Yrs

10 Southwick Gardens
London S.W.

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THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Dr Asa Gray F.R.S.

Cambridge

Maspachuproto

United States

of N. America



for Dr. Candolle,
Monograph of the Gramineae, with several
curious facts as to the distribution of
American grasses. I hope he will give
a notice on the subject.

With my wife's best greetings to you
Mrs Gray

always truly yours

J. Wall

10 Southwell Gardens ^{London} S W

11 May 186

My dear Gray - I am shocked to
find that I have been all this time
in your debt. I hope to enclose the
amount in this - as I am going out
in the town to day, but if not I shall
forward the money tomorrow - I do
not recollect your having specified
the sum in your letter of (I think)
December last - but will not spend
time uselessly in looking for it.

I have been often to Kew of late
partly because my wife has not been
well & I wanted to get change of
air for her, & for myself to be near
the herbarium - All the decent lodgings
were occupied and with a good deal
of trouble I at last found a small
house which we have taken
for four weeks.

Now your letter announces the actual or impending arrival of O. W. Holmes & of Mr & Mrs C. Loring - I have written to both (care of Borings) & when I know their respective addresses shall ~~hope~~ do anything I can to make their visits agreeable - A little later we hope to see them in this house -

Meanwhile I am horribly busy striving amid constant interruption to finish my little book about S. America & led into by-paths that consume a great deal of time - One of these by-paths led me to Langley's important memoir on solar radiation - and I have had a little correspondence with him - He sent ^{me} a brief summary & also a short paper from the Comptes Rendus but not the full memoir - I suppose he had no copy at his disposal. It is in the Series of Professional Papers of the Signal Service. Of course I did not tell him so, but I think I have secured that his claims shall be duly weighed in adjudging the medals of the Royal Society. The remark made to me by one man was "He is so young that he may wait awhile - I don't know his age."

No time to talk - & no use in doing so - of our public affairs, but I read with much pleasure what you have written. Of course one knows that near relations are apt to meddle in each other's affairs - & besides both our people & yours think they have a call to give advice to the world in general, but I must say that your public men are going rather far in regard to this formidable Irish question. You - very naturally resented the expressions of opinion - often honestly meant - that it would be better to let the South go its way, & you very properly judged that the question was one for you to decide - or not for outsiders - But at the worst there was no public official sanction to the volunteer counsels of British advisers.

I sent you last week another small paper about S. American botany - You patted me on the back so benignantly after the last that I was encouraged to ventilate some further speculations - I have just had a long & interesting letter from Haeckel - who is getting on with his big

10 Southwell Gardens London SW 19 June

Received yesterday your parcel of plants
& will not lose a post in thanking you most
heartily - They are in every way precious
additions to my Herb^m - especially coming
from you - & souvenirs of your Mexican tour.
I did not know that you had been to
Orizaba - How very rich that district
must be - I had a pretty good set from
there collected by a German F. Mueller
who died - I believe was killed - in
Mexico - I don't think there are more
than three or four of the same species
that you have sent - The Compositae
were named by Sch. Bip. but I believe
never published - at least I have never
ascertained where they are to found except
in Herbaria - imprimis in his own
Herb. now belonging to Copou.

Pray thank Mr S Watson for the
new part of his Contributions received
yesterday - I shall write before
he starts for the Regs

yours ever JWS

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POST CARD—GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

(GRANDE BRETAGNE ET IRLANDE)

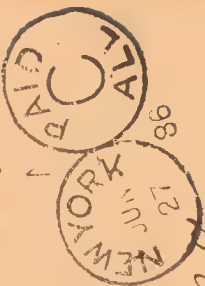
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Mr Asa Gray F. R. S.

Cambridge

Massachusetts



United States

of N. America

devoted to public objects - is a
great orator most influential in
the public life of the country -
and to crown all an enthusiastic
botanist with a very fine Herbarium
kept in excellent order which
is after his death to go to the
Museum at Pesth -

We are now moving homeward
and expect to reach London
about the 15th October

My wife joins in the best & kindest
wishes for Mrs Gray & yourself
Always truly yours

John Ball

Grand Hotel Wien 30 Sept - 186

My dear Gray - I did not at
once answer your kind letter
which reached me somewhere
in Hungary where we have
been travelling for the last
five weeks - Any spare time
I had was given to correcting
the sheets of a little book which
will I hope come out in November.
As you have done so much to
encourage my South American
speculations I think it may
interest you at least here & there,
& as I have made it as short
as I could I am in hopes that you
may read most of it. In due
time you will of course receive
a proper copy but in the mean
time I shall send you the duplicate

Sheets of proof merely asking
you to keep them to yourself until
after the book is published - I am
not so vain as to suppose that any
American publisher would care
to bring out the book, but I
am bound to take care that no
such accident shall happen
to my publisher -

The part I am most anxious
about is my plea for the ancient
mountains of Brazil & as to this
the ^{statement in the} proof is incomplete as it omits
an important point which you
will find in the correct copy.

We much enjoyed our Hungarian
trip especially the two or three
weeks which we spent in Transylvania.
As you know it is botanically an
interesting region producing
a fair number of endemic species

as well as some representatives
of the Eastern Flora such as
Brouckenthalia & - Unluckily
my first botanical excursion ~~was~~
in the mountains was also the last,
I got drenched by a sudden storm
passed a miserable night in a shed
got a bad cold & cough which very
much limited further proceedings

The progress of Hungary is wonderful
Out of the United States one can
scarcely anywhere see such a
growth of fine towns - manufactures
railways & all the paraphernalia
of modern civilization - with here
& there some remains of a more
primitive condition which makes
the country the more interesting

We paid a visit to Cardinal Hagnal
one of the few remaining great bishops
he is Archbishop of Kalocsa with
a great revenue nearly all

SMITHSONIAN Southwell Gardens London S W 12 Nov. 1866

My dear Gray - I am very much pressed at this
moment and ~~regret~~ ^{regret} answering your kind letter
till I have got the rather tough appendix to my
little book off my hands - Meanwhile I send
this apology for a letter the more readily
as I think you will be glad to hear that the
Council of the Royal Society have adjudged the
Rumford medal to your countryman - I might
almost say our fellow countryman Langley for
his admirable researches on Solar Radiation
especially his Report on the Mount Whitney
Expedition - I think that although I don't
pretend to have any authority in the matter
I contributed to the result as I was so much

1866

struck by the excellence of his work & the
importance of his results that I got several
of our best men to study the Report of which
I fancy not many others have come to this
country - I don't believe that it is possible and
it is only from a friend that I even ate to the north
it - Hooker is looking remarkably well - Hooker
very much better than he was - that we have
lost made an excellent & most member of the
Philosophical Club -

With our warmest kindest greetings to dear
Mrs Gray ever best yours
I have seen the history of the Brit. Mus. & made
to explain the Nat. history of
Tennessee & North Carolina

10 Southwell Gardens London SW

23 March

My dear Gray I need not tell you that I read with great pleasure your encouraging notice of my little Audéan paper - I have not succeeded in attracting notice to my speculations among English naturalists & though I have been somewhat pattered on the back by Dr. Haudin & one or two more on the continent, ~~but~~ it is great promotion to be smiled upon by a man of your authority -

I have another small paper going through the press, & have been striving to finish a little book growing out of my S. American Tour - in which there will be very little botany but a good deal about those physical problems which affect plant distribution in the part as well as

the present - but it has been uphill work, for I have been far from well, coughing till my head ached intolerably, & altogether below par - All the while I have been devouring that very remarkable memoir by your astronomer Langley on Solar Radiation I think that I wrote to you about it since then I have been able to borrow it and am full of admiration. It seems to me one of the best & most solid pieces of work in physics that has been accomplished for a long time - keen criticism of the work done by his predecessors & by himself - Extraordinary care - perseverance & enterprise - philosophic judgement & caution - all present -

I have been trying to use his results & have covered pages with calculations most of which on close scrutiny I have had to reject - the net result so far as my book goes will be a little table in the appendix which

at the best will be no more than a rough approximation

Hosker has been fretting himself about the Linnæan Society here which has fallen into the hands of rather inferior men - He has been anxious to bring about the election of Dyer as President - He would be the right man, & would I have no doubt be able to improve the society very much, but the Brit. Mus. people hate him & ~~his~~ he is resolved not to have a contest & will not be nominated - For himself he is right but it is a pity that things should be so -

After further delay owing to my being laid up the parcel of S. American plants is at last on its way to you -

My wife joins in kindest greetings to you & Mrs Gray
I am getting quite right
again
Ever yours
J. Wall

1887

Clifton Down Hotel 22 April
after Tuesday 10 Southwell Gardens SW

My dear Gray - We are very
glad to know that you are safely
housed in England for the
reports of storms in the Atlantic
made us somewhat uncomfortable
& we hope that by this time
Mrs Gray is quite reestablished -

I really hope that you
will not cut us down to one
evening from first to last
but at least arrange to give
us another on your return
from the Continent -

Meantime we shall count
on you for Monday 1st May

I am going tomorrow to Miss
North & hope to persuade
her to come to meet you
& Miss Gray on the 1st

Ever truly yours

John Ball

them on our returns - we
were not fortunate enough
to find them at home - Nobody
is at home at this season
in London.

With our kindest greetings
to Mrs Gray

Ever truly yours

John Ball

10 Southwell Gardens SW

5 June

My dear Gray - I own that
I thought Pringle's plants -
which are very good - rather dear
so as there was a mistake I will
ask you to let him have the
£13 on account for his next
years collection - I am not
sure whether I thanked you for
the nice specimens from Gray's Peak
of which I had what they did
not keep at Kew -

At last I have nearly got my
little S. American book off my
hands - It is to come out in the
Autumn - I have used my little
tour as a peg on which to hang
various questionings & speculations
in physics & nat - history -

and hope to send it for your
critical judgement next November.
Your friend C. W. Holmes has
been made a lion of & regularly
hunted - I believe that I told
you that I caused invitations
for the Athenaeum & Cosmopolitan
Clubs to reach him on his arrival
& wrote him a civil note - to
which no answer came. When
I did meet him he disclaimed
the slightest recollections of our
meeting (with you) - We should
have been happy to show any
attention to him & Mrs Sargent
but I have a fixed aversion
to lion hunting and am not
likely to see him again.

I don't blame him in the least
for not answering my note
What can a poor overhunted
animal do but snatch such few
moments of rest as are left
to him?

I may be able to despatch
the bundles of despatches
before we start for our annual
wandering at the beginning of
July but I am not sure
as I have yet much to do.
We have taken a small house
at Kew to procure change
of air for my wife & have
been living to & fro - which
crosses some waste of time -
Did I tell you that Mrs Mrs C.
Loring went off to Italy almost
immediately - I hope to see

10 Southwell Gardens SW
25 Nov 187

My dear Gray - We returned too late to see Mr Gray & you before your departure from this old country, but I have been very glad to get good news of you from Hooker - Lady Hooker has been in trouble - the death of his father has been soon followed by that of her last surviving brother who has been a victim to typhoid fever at Tonga just after his promotion to a better post - that of course at Samoa -

Our summer was not spent exactly as we had proposed - we had secured rooms at Murren above Lauterbrunnen when meeting a man descending on a bicycle as we ascended by zigzags a rather steep slope in a little carriage near Kaudersteg our horse took fright & bolted upsetting the carriage & throwing us out - Four feet further the result w^d

have been tragical & a respectable
alpine career w^{ch} have ended ignominiously
we were both much bruised and I
broke a rib the result of which was
to spend four weeks tightly strapped
up - not allowed to go up or down hill
or to ride - It is not a serious
accident as it leaves no unpleasant
consequences -

I have been coughing much since
our return the result of a cold
brought back from Italy but I am
now nearly acclimated as I hope

I see that Mr Howell is about
to collect in the Sandwich Islands
If it be not too late I sh^d like to
be put down as a subscriber for
his collections but don't know where
to address him - Will you kindly
manage that for me if possible -
I have not heard anything of
Mr Pringle - If he has been again
in Mexico I shall hope to get

my share of the harvest -

It is hard work to manage
a herbarium without assistance
& most of my time is spent in
mere arrangement -

I hope to send ^{you} this winter a rather
large lot of ~~books~~ duplicates that
I put aside last year but writing
the labels takes much time -

I hope to be excused if most of
them are written in pencil
with affectionate messages from
my wife to Mr Gray & yourself
& my kind remembrances to
Mr Watson

Ever truly yours

John Ball -

1887

10 Southwell Gardens / 13all

29 Dec

My dear Gray

The kind thoughts of Mrs Gray anticipated us in sending Christmas Greetings - but I think it has been mainly the unusually rough & severe weather that has kept us mainly within doors & prevented us from procuring in good time the Christmas cards which are now the customary tokens of remembrance. But you well know that there is no danger of being forgotten in this house where we so often call to mind the pleasant hours we have both passed with you & dear Mrs Gray -

My little book has been out of my hands for some time but there was delay at last over the small map on which I have tried to lay down the isothermals for year & for January & July - It is

altogether a small affair but is it
supplies some suggestions for thought
& hints for further enquiry & research
it may not be useless - In looking
it over I have repeatedly struck by
the matters that I neglected to enquire
into & which should not have been
passed over even in a hurried journey
I have for the last month been entirely
neglecting my herbarium & have
buried in calculations respecting
balloon ascents & meteorological
observations on mountains all
all destined for a paper in the Philosophical
Magazine - by which the moral is
that our knowledge is still most imperfect
that many conclusions that have been
accepted are not justified by such
facts as we possess & that we
urgently require such information
as might be supplied by properly
conducted observations

We have been paying tribute

to the season by much coughing
but nothing serious - only hoarseness
& requiring care & much staying
at home - Hooker has been
very well looking much better
than he did a year ago - I was
very sorry to miss seeing S. Watson
pray remember me kind^{ly} to him

I hope to send you soon some
Coulteriana

With affectionate best wishes to
you & Mrs Gray

Ever kin^{dly} yours

John Ball

I send a new kind of New Year
Card - which is not a card

to Mrs

10 Southwell Gardens
London SW

9 June 1888

My dear Mr Watson

I take the liberty of enclosing to you a letter for Mr Pringle who is I suppose at present in Mexico. The letter contains a cheque and as it is probable that you may be remitting money to him I leave the letter open so that if you see fit you can have the cheque (made payable to bearer) cashed at a Boston bank - and take cognizance of the contents of my letter - I lately returned from Teneriffe having gone there in January to get rid of an obstinate cough which troubled me during the winter and at the same time to see something of the vegetation of that very interesting island.

On my return I found Mr Pringle's letter and very lately received the box containing his collections of

last year - They are as usual excellent
well selected & well prepared and
I think him quite justified in increasing
the price as he has done but I have
told him of the unreasonable charge
for carriage. -

No doubt your mind is occupied
with the question of completing the
great work of the Flora of the United
States which was the main object
of Asa Gray's life - You have
now so many good botanists in
America that if they would undertake
special families - such as Gramineae
& Cyperaceae - the work could be
completed within a moderately short
time - Hooker is working manfully
at the completion of the Flora of
British India and he is so well
that I look forward to his doing
other good work when that is

completed - I have had a very interesting
set of Chilean plants - 1300 to 1400 species
including a good many that have been
distinguished on slight grounds by R. A.
Philippi who is still active - It strikes
that in some families especially Grasses
& Cyperaceae there are more forms common
to North & South America than has been
generally supposed, & especially in regard
to the plants of the S. W. region of the
U. States, it would be desirable to compare
carefully with the species described
from Chili & Argentina -

I suppose that you often see from
Mrs Asa Gray - Pray give her the
affectionate remembrances of myself
& my wife - Every day makes the
sense of the loss of that admirable
man more acutely felt - first by
those who had the good fortune to
know him as a friend and next by every
naturalist in the civilized world

Believe me very sincerely yours

John Ball

a writer uses this abridgement
for loco citato forgetting that his last
reference occurred some pages before.

This I have found especially in references
to Michaux in the Synoptical Flora.

As a rule I think this should not be done
except where the reference is made
to some preceding species of the same
genus, and that the person using
the book should not be forced to search
through preceding genera, especially

as he often finds that in the locus citatus
the pages is not that which he wants —

My set of Gray's Botanical Contributions is unfortunately
incomplete and, as the limited space available in my house & indeed
that of my purse also prevent me from purchasing a complete
set of the volumes of the Amer. Acad. emy, it must so remain —
but there is one ^{paper} which I very much wish to procure. —
It appeared I think in two parts. 'On the Botany of Japan'
I do not know whether it was ever reprinted or
whether separate copies now & then appear for
sale but if it should ever come in your way I
shall be greatly obliged by your purchasing it
on my account

Excuse this long discussion of trifling
questions — Pray give the affectionate remembrances
of my wife & myself to Mrs Gray and believe me

very truly yours

John Ball —

10 Southwell gardens London S W
18 Sept

My dear Mr Watson

Returning from a short tour in Scandinavia
I find I have at once read with deep interest the
Memorial of Asa Gray which I doubtless owe to
your kindness — I am tempted to write a few
words on a subject which was discussed with his
usual clearness & ability by our lamented friend
in several letters which I received from him.

Having been invited by Hooker to assist in the
management of the great Index Kewensis
which through the munificence of Charles Darwin
is now advancing towards completion I
was led to consider afresh many questions
connected with nomenclature & to consult
Gray with regard to some doubtful points.

I have always looked on most of the disputed
questions as of quite secondary importance
the only really important object being to attain
to an uniform system. Science is no longer
national but is cosmopolitan — and whatever
creates a difficulty between scientific men
of different countries in understanding
each thoroughly is distinctly mischievous

I should have written at greater length but that I find in the September number of the Journal of Botany edited by W. J. Wither an article with which I in the main agree. I own that I think there is a good deal to be said for the view of retaining the original specific name - and I was myself an offender against the Geneva rule in the *Spicilegium Florae Maroccae* - ~~to and it~~ we were now starting afresh in systematic Botany I am not sure on which side I should range myself - But that is not the case. The highest authorities in the science have adopted the rule 48 of the Geneva laws and it can cause nothing but confusion to attempt to set up a different system of nomenclature.

I therefore am very anxious to see that your American fellow-workers in science will come to view the matter in the same way that I do, and I trust that your influence may tend to that effect.

There is a small matter which I mentioned to Hooker when I saw him before my last departure from England and as I found that he agreed with me I put it now before you.

Science is long-lived and though the present generation is not likely to make mistakes posterity may do so - It is therefore very desirable that the name of an author's abridged in the designation of species should not be open to ambiguity - American botanists are very naturally accustomed to write after the name of a species Gray or Watson - but however unimportant a writer he was John Edward Gray is sometimes quoted as also is Hewett C. Watson. The proper abridgements in these cases would in my opinion be G. Gray & S. Wats.

In using the Synoptical Flora I have been struck by the fact that while Gray habitually under the generic character gives a reference to the Gen. Plant. he sometimes omits to do so - and likewise that when he retained a genus which has been merged in the Gen. Plant. he sometimes notes the fact but sometimes omits to do so. I think that it would be well if in the remaining parts of the work the practice which was habitual with him were made an invariable rule -

A further small point is with regard to citations from a previous author with the letters L.C. - It easily happens that in referring to the same work in several consecutive pages of a descriptive treatise

10 Southwell Gardens London SW
5 Nov

My dear Mr Watson - I have received your interesting letter of 26 Oct and must send a few lines of reply by return of post. I thought that I had sent (as I certainly intended to send) a post-card thanking you for your kindness in regard to Dr Gray's Japanese Fl. papers - I shall get the missing pages copied for me at-
his.

I think that you will see by my last letter that I am ⁱⁿ complete agreement with you ~~too~~ as to the nomenclature controversies - and as Hooker takes quite the same view of the subject you are not likely to find much to object to in the Index Kewensis. Of course in a work of such gigantic proportions there must be some slips but the rule is to adhere to well established names even though recent investigation

may show that they are not entitled
to actual priority - This would occur
such cases as that of *Castalia*
But the difficulty will arise in
cases where a name in general
use 10 - 20 - or 30 years ago has
been changed to an older name
in modern works of authority
In these cases the older name will
generally be preferred - understanding
by the older name the binomial
designation of a plant - i.e. that of
the genus & species & not the specific
name alone -

You will have seen the papers
by Messrs Britton & Greene - I think
the whole controversy comparatively
of little importance - The important
object is to secure - as far as possible
an uniform system & the minority
must yield in this as in other
matters.

The only point in your letter

as to which I cannot agree is
in writing Gray instead of either
A. Gr. or A. Gray - The former
is exactly parallel to R. Br. usually
adopted for Robert Brown - Botany
is not essentially an old world or
a new world science - and I think
that we must seek to make our
rules as far as possible adapted to
the whole world present & future

I write in haste but do not
like to leave your interesting
letter unanswered

Very sincerely yours

John Ball

present year -

I remain very truly yours

John Ball



10, Southwell Gardens,
South Kensington.

London SW

16 Dec / 90

My dear Mr Watson

The news which reached us by telegraph filled us with grief & consternation which has been shared by very many of the friends in England who had learned to appreciate him - I need not say that to botanists throughout the world his loss will be felt as a calamity, and to his friends it is a personal misfortune - Seeing in spite of advanced years such a store of energy and vigour I had looked forward to many years of continued activity on the part of that dear man -

I am much indebted to you for your kind letter of the 5th inst -

received - We do not venture to write to Mrs Gray but when you have an opportunity I beg you to convey to her the affectionate sympathy of myself & my wife - we have thought much & often of her during the last ten days.

I have to thank you for taking care of me with regard to the collections of Messrs Howell & Pringle - As I must set bounds to my expenditure in that line I do not propose to subscribe at present for Dr Palmer's plants.

In the letter which Mrs Gray handed to you there is, if I remember right, a reference to a small matter which I may as well explain. Feeling a desire to reciprocate the general kindness which I have received

from American botanists & a wish to promote the spread of our science in your country - I commenced some two years ago to set aside duplicates and soon put together ^{chiefly} four large bundles - over 1000 species - of European & Mediterranean plants including a full proportion of rarities & several rarisime - I might easily put aside as many more, but the real difficulty is to find time to write the labels - those left with my duplicator being ~~useful~~ usually intelligible only to myself - I have done a part of this work at odd times - but having no assistance it gets on slowly - The arrangement was that anything wanted for the Cambridge Herbarium should be retained there & the remainder given to any American institution or private botanist where they wd be likely to be of use -

I propose in any event to carry out that arrangement & hope to despatch the case some time during the

I propose in any event to carry out
that arrangement & hope to despatch the
case some time during the present
year.

I remain very truly yours

John Ball.

The original of the above letter is sent
to W.T.T. Dyer, one of the trustees under Mr.
Ball's will for the distribution of his her-
borium.

Erasmus Watson

Cambridge, Jan, 10/90.

(Copy.)

10 Southwell Gardens

South Kensington, London, S.W.

16 Dec./

My Dear Mr. Watson,

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telegraph filled us with grief & consternation which
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it gets on slowly. The arrangement was that
anything wanted for the Cambridge Herbarium
should be retained there & the remainder
given to any American institution or private
botanist where they would be likely to be of use.

Meanwhile I have to thank
you much for sending me
by the last mail a number
of your own papers from the
Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts & Sci.
which I have hitherto had to
consult at Kew - and if you
can spare the set of Engelmann
which you kindly offers
I shall gladly accept it.

As I am spending a good deal
on my Herb^m this year I will
not ask you at present to buy
any collections for me. I feel
justified in accepting Mr Cauby's
offer of a set of Palmer's plants as
I have a duplicate set of Bonpland's
plants of 1871 which I can
send him -

Believe me very sincerely yours

John Ball

10 Southwell Gardens
S. Kensington London

24 April

My dear Dr Gray

I must thank you
at once for your very
kind letter. There is nothing
I should enjoy more than
a tour in the far West
& I am always looking forward
to the possibility of accomplishing
it. But as you remark truly
it is too much for a summer
excursion & various circumstances
have combined to make it
very difficult for me - to
manage it. Besides some
occupations I in England

I find it difficult to get through any year without going to Italy where I have a house and a little property & the appearance of a little business to add to the unceasing attractions of the country. This year I shall be able to leave England for a very short time only as I feel that I must complete my small task by the publication of the *Primitive Flora Marocanae* the plates of which will require my personal superintendence -

I shall at once write to your friend Mr (anby and have little doubt that

we shall be able to exchange to our mutual satisfaction. I dare say that if Mr Greene should be disposed I can also exchange with him as he may find most desirable.

I have always taken it for granted that through your numerous correspondents you receive almost everything you can desire from Europe & the Mediterranean region but I shall gladly take the opportunity when going through my duplicates to set aside anything that I think likely to interest you including a few plants that I have described myself & will forward the little parcel through Kew.

wing to a stiff neck.

Will you pardon a natural
anxiety about my box as
the time is drawing so near
for the display of its contents
I have had no notice of it
& fear it may be at the
funeral. Would you be so kind
& tell me what steps to take?
Hoping to see you very soon
& with affectionate regards.

To Mr Gray I am
ever sincerely
Yours
John Hall

1000 Thanks for the papers
which I got all in due course
- the Spectator has taken
to twaddle like a very dotard

Windsor St.

Montreal

Thursday

My dear Dr Gray

Thank you for congratulations.
Poor boy! he was so hard-worked
& the therm. over 80, so you can
understand how pleased I am,
& it will be welcome news also
to Mr Hall. I feel in such
a vice of spirits at the thought
that please God I shall see
him on Tuesday. As you know
he has seen a great deal
which were ^{long} then unpaid, although
he lost some good things.
The pity of it is that he

was so hurried. To have
come so far only to scamp
such wonderful scenery is a violation
of the spirit. I believe I feel it
^{more} sure than he does for himself.

I feel very thankful to have
got through my solitariness so
very well. I have always found
so much to interest & amuse me
I doubt if there be a people
on earth more pleasant to be
thru as amongst as a stranger
than your countrymen & women
& you must remember it is
the mere tourist folk that
I have been meeting, what the
Germans call our "transients"
the "Reisejölkel". When

do you come? To see a
friend will be a happy
sensation, & devoutly do I hope
the hot spell may have
vanished. In my bedroom facing
N. it is always 84. & goes down
little at night. The Brit. Am.
who have begun to swarm in
bear it with the national phlegm
only looks rather red in the face.
Montreal is to my mind a most
charming town, their shade
walks are a glorious national
institution. I saw two of
the piquant effects of them.
My hand is rather shabby
I fear, I have to write
in an abnormal position

enabled to make interesting observations on the minute forms of animal & vegetable life to be found in the Snow region, but such researches require a degree of special preparation that is scarcely to be expected from ordinary travellers

Nest to the preservation of observations & specimens attention may be called to the importance of placing them in the hands of persons who can ^{turn them} _{to useful account.}

Specimens that might serve a valuable purpose in the museum of a man of science are often retained for no conceivable purpose in those inconvenient assemblages of dusty fragments that are sometimes called 'collections of curiosities'.

S. Wall

Ann Park



To remind

10 Southwell Gardens

Dinner Sunday 13 Feb 4

$\frac{1}{4}$ before 8 o'clock