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1872-01-04

Letter from A[sa] Gray to John Muir, 1872 Jan 4 .

Asa Gray

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glacier-ice, but in
spicy wild perfume.

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What Pine seeds
were those you sent -
in a letter-envelope
not long ago - I have
been thinking of you.

Your vivid delineation
of glacier-life in its
last throes is reproduced
in Smithsonian Journal
for June.
Gov Torrey was here
a month ago - lively,
but growing feeble.

Ever yours A. Gray
with heartiest wishes for
the New Year.

BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

January 4

187 2

My Dear Miss

Your letter of the
18th Dec. has been here
4 or 5 days. To-night
comes the nice-glorious-
package by Express.

I have taken out the
beautiful Torrey's seeds,
poked thro' a wilderness
of suspect Pellaea mucro-
emata - & some Libanotis
all in first rate condition.
but dare not go farther
in the warm room for
fear of awaking the
Primulas. Yet they
I see, were so admirably
put up that they must

need be in good condi-
tion. I am sick
with a bad cold on ~~throat~~
throat, and dare not
go now into the cold
when it will be kept till
to-morrow my assistant
overhauls them.

What a splendid plant-
finder you are, and
I envy, while I stand
by over your walk.

It seems to me here
and now just astonishing
that I dare say if I
~~was~~ were with you and
had my travelling legs
on I should have
gone with you.

Considering the very
old weather we here
had, I wonder how

¹⁵
The plants got here
without repeated freez-
ing & thawing - which
ruins the plants.
But here they are,
all right.

It was well thought
in you to prepay the
package. - How much
I can't see any more of
But your next must
let me know. Our
establishment gets all
such bills, and is very
thankful to us besides.

Pray find a new
genus, or at least a
new species. That I
may have the satis-
faction of embalming
your name, not in

Botanic Garden, Cambridge, Mass.,
January 4, 1872.

My dear Muir:

Your letter of the 18th Dec. has been here 4 or 5 days. To-night comes the nice glorious package by express. I have taken out the plentiful *Torreya* seeds, poked through a wilderness of superb *Pilea mucroermata* and some *Liliales* all in first-rate condition, but dare not go farther in the warm room for fear of awaking the *Primulas*. Yet they, I see, were so admirably put up that they must needs be in good condition.

I am sick with a bad cold on lungs and throat, and dare not go now into the cold, where it will be kept till tomorrow my assistant overhauls them.

What a splendid plant-finder you are, and I envy, while I shudder over your walk. It seems to me here and now just astonishing. Yet I dare say if I were with you and had my travelling legs on I should have gone with you.

Considering the very cold weather we have had, I wonder how the plants got here without repeated freezing and thawing, which makes the mischief. But here they are, all right.

It was well thought of in you to prepay the package. How much? I can't see any record. But your next must let me know. Our establishment foots all such bills, and is very thankful to us besides.

Pray find a new genus, or at least a new species, that I may have satisfaction of embalming your name, not in glacier-ice, but in spicy wild perfume.

What Pine seeds were those you sent in a letter-envelope not long ago? Have been here 2 or 3 weeks.

Your vivid delineation of Glacier-life in its last throes, is reproduced in Silliman's Journal for January.

Good Torrey was here a month ago -- lively, but growing feeble.

Ever yours,

A. Gray

With heartiest wishes for the New Year.

*Torrey letter
under file of
Aug. 25, 1872.*