



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1872-09-11

Letter from [Asa Gray] to John Muir, 1872 Sep 11.

Asa Gray

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restrain evaporation, & so
dried too much. I should
have had oiled paper or
oiled cloth to wrap them
in. But I find the
best and a most avail-
able thing to send live
plants in by post is
Segar-boxes, and the
roots & packed singly
in hardly damp moss, -
speat moss (Sphagnum)
by all means, if that is to
be had. I should think it
grows in the valley.

The season for sep sending
is at hand. And I will
begin next sheet with
a list of some of the
things I am longing
for, at the rate of a
Segar box full of each.

Britanic Garden -
Cambridge, Mass. Sept. 11, 72

My Dear Miss
Your welcome letter of
the 24th Aug. reached
Cambridge before I did,
and I responded to it among
the earliest.

How you must have enjoyed
Turkey, and what a surprise
it must have been! And to
us, too, to know that he was
at Salt Lake City, and almost
on his way to Ogden when
we were there going East.

We (wife & I) had to the
last a happy, successful,
and instructive journey. -
except that the driver upset
us on the way to Calaveras
- at Jamestown - & sprained
Mrs Gray's shoulder. But
it is all well now. We
made no long excursions after
our return to San Francisco.

But we went to Santa
Cruz, by land, and had a
day among the Redwoods
of the San Lorenzo Valley
- some of which, for size
would do you discredit to
Calaveras or Mariposa.
Going E. we reached the
Colorado Mts. via Denver.
- found Dr. Parry settled
for the summer at Empire
City, in a cabin, by himself,
which would have delighted
you - I climbed with him
Mt. Parry & Mt. Helen -
and he made with me & Mr.
Gray a most successful &
gratifying ascent of Gray's
Peak - the finest mountain
I know.

I am going to send you
& Mr. Hutchings, books &

006014
publications as soon as
I can get them from
New York. And my
Dulcique discourse -
which I rehearsed to you
in our pleasant walks -
I shall send by mail
as soon as printed - in
2 weeks, say. -

Now I am longing for
some of the plants that
grow around you - and
seeds.

The Herons we took from
Nevada Hall neighborhood
were, I find, sent too dry,
& a considerable part are
dead in consequence.

That is they were
packed in a cotton bag
without any thing to

Botanic Garden, Cambridge, Mass.,
Sept. 11, '72.

My dear Muir:

Your welcome letter of the 24th Aug. reached Cambridge before I did, and I respond to it among the earliest.

How you must have enjoyed Torrey, and what a surprise it must have been! And to us, too, to know that he was at Salt Lake City, and almost on his way to Ogden when we were there going East.

We (wife and I) had to the last a happy, successful and instructive journey, except that the driver upset us on the way to Calaveras - at Jamestown, and sprained Mrs. Gray's shoulder. But it is all well now. We made no long excursions after our return to San Francisco. But we went to Santa Cruz, by land, and had a day among the Redwoods of the San Lorenzo Valley, some of which, for size, would do no discredit to Calaveras or Mariposa. Going E[ast] we reached the Colorado Mts. via Denver. Found Dr. Parry settled for the summer at Empire City, in a cabin by himself, which would have delighted you. I climbed with him Mt. Parry and Mt. _____ and he made with me and Mrs. Gray a most successful and gratifying ascent of Gray's Peak - the finest mountain I know.

I am going to send you and Mr. Hutchings books and publications as soon as I can get them from New York. And my Dubuque discourse, which I rehearsed to you in our pleasant walks, I shall send by mail as soon as printed - in two weeks, say.

Now I am longing for some of the plants that grow around you - and seeds. The ferns we took from Nevada Fall neighborhood were, I find, sent too dry, and a considerable part are dead in consequence. That is, they were packed in a cotton bag without anything to restrain evaporation, and so dried too much. I should have had oiled paper or oiled cloth to wrap them in. But I find the best and most available thing to send live plants in by post is Segar-boxes, and the plants packed snugly in hardly damp moss - peat moss (Sphagnum) by all means, if that is to be had. I should think it grew in the Valley. The season for safe sending is at hand, and I will begin [the] next sheet with a list of some of the things I am longing for, at the rate of a segar box full of each.

[Remainder of letter evidently lost]

[Asa Gray]