

25 Dec 1844

British Museum

My Dear Mr

This will be delivered by Mr. G. Mr. Gerard ~~will~~ will
pack the specimens and give you an account of them,
I have derived him bringing the sketch then with him by rail
and learn from Mr. Masters the best way of sending of
the others.

As soon as I have received the specimens and been
able to sort them into kinds I will at once proceed to
make the short descriptions you desire of the hitherto
undescribed specimens, which are marked as not having yet
been characterized in the list of your birds which you have
promised to send to me and send their descriptions for
insertion in Taylor's Annals of Natural History, it would
be more satisfactory if you transmitted with the list the
descriptions ~~quarters~~ you have already made on these
species; that my ~~described~~ additions may only be the filling
up of any lacuna that may be necessary. as I consider
every thing that can be procured from your own hands
so very much more valuable than what is to be derived
from the study of the dry skins & bones and at the same
time more satisfactory

as soon as the collation is sorted out and the duplicates
distributed into sets for the different museums according
to your letters we will set to work to form the catalogue of them
and of the drawings. but it would greatly facilitate this affair
if you will give me a complete list of your various
papers and the works in which they have appeared that I may
search for them in the India House & other libraries for the local
Magazines of India very rarely find their way to this country
and are even more rare in a perfect sets. Hence the great
difficulty we experience in knowing when & where the Indian
specimens are described. This catalogue may be made in 2 or
3 months. so as to appear in the Spring I consider this catalogue
of the greatest use. as making known where your numerous
and very interesting & very descriptive are to be found for of
the works which contain them are rare in London their
existence are quite unknown on the continent and of
the specimens were sent without being accompanied
by such a work the names would almost all be considered
as new sp. and therefore little or not at all
regarded

You have more than once assured me of being
anxious to grasp at your collation in this you quite

misunderstand me my anxiety to have the specimens
is more on your own account than on any mere wish to
increase the Museum collections which has been increasing
at the rate of 20,000 specimens a year for the last 2 or 3 years
I could have added more than 27,000 specimens this year
But by your sending a series of specimens to the British
Museum there can be no carrying in home to come what
where your discoveries & the type of your species. and
you will have them before long. that your
Nepal fauna may appear. at the same time it must
be owned and nobody can be more willing to allow it
than I am that your collection is a most magnificent
contribution to the National collections & to science in
general.

I will use my utmost endeavours to induce some artist
to undertake the publication of a selection of your drawings
figuring especially the more interesting of the numerous
new species which you have discovered for I don't think
that it is possible that I could ever find any one to
engrave or purchase to support the entire series
I say artist for large publishers will never undertake

subtly publicans and I believe the only a person who
will devote himself to the work & getting it into circulation
as Mr Gould does that could make a work of the kind
pay its expenses should such an artist be found but I
owe him any assistance in my limited power. as I did
to Mr Howard when he was engaged upon it.

If you were going to remain here I should have recommended
you to have all our set to work collected together & put in
a systematic form all the very interesting and strikingly
novel remarks & observations with which the backs of the
your drawing and notes books are filled and to proceed
to print them for I believe they would form a work which
many publishers would be glad to undertake & which would
be a most valuable contribution to natural knowledge
but as you are going back to nearly the same neighbourhood
I think it better the work should be delayed for a few years
that you may add to it any fresh observations which you
may be enabled to make and read it over when it is
collected together into an acceptable form to take from
many repetitions and add both the facts that must occur
to your memory on such a perusal When you have

your materials together little peruse and give you
a friendly assurance that may occur to a close
systematic Naturalist like myself. but I am convinced
from what I have seen of the notes that very little assistance
will be wanted for me. as I should not recommend you
to overburden the work with dry systematic descriptions
or measurements
taken from the dry skins (which are of comparatively
so much less
importance ^{than} of the notes on the structure and
habits from animal or birds made on the spot by
an enlightened and accurate observer like yourself
but what ever friendly assistance my numerous and
laborious occupations here will allow me to give
to the work I shall be most happy to afford though at the
same time I must decline to take on myself any
responsible part in either the publication of the
plates or letter press. notes descriptions

Believe me, My Dear Sir
Yours Truly
J. E. Gray

W. H. Hodgson Gray

K. & K.