

C.7/68

York 31/7 Mo. 1845.

My dear Fr<sup>d</sup>  
Geo: F. Story

I have to acknowledge the rec<sup>t</sup>.  
of the Board's Case, which was rec<sup>d</sup>. in 5<sup>th</sup> mo.  
but from some cause or other nearly all the  
plants were dead. I think they had been too moist  
and had had too much sun upon them. Only one  
Gunnia was living, and some Wood-lice fell upon  
it and eat out its eye. We preserved a piece of  
*Saurolas littoralis*, two Orchideous plants which lay  
at the top, *Polypodium Billardi* & *Asplenium*  
*glabellatum*, all of which are growing. - The hole  
at the bottom of the case is intended to drain off  
the water, when the case has been filled with  
earth & the earth saturated, before the pots  
are plunged in it. The hole is then plugged up. -  
I doubt if the clay is not too impervious to mois-  
ture, & I do not think it a good vehicle for seeds:  
they can scarcely be got out again. So far as my  
experience goes seeds travel well in papers, or  
in muslin or calico bags in boxes not too air-tight  
in the cabin. Exposure to the steam of the upper  
part of the hold is destructive to them. They are

best near the floor, yet quite out of the way of wet; probably the elevation of a chronometer would be best. Sent in letters, in muslin bags, seeds come well. We have raised a crop of what was sent for *Platycheilum balseanum*, and what I hope will prove it, but its young leaves are rather rounder than I recollect to have seen it. — Plants are best if established in pots before being put into the case. — We purpose sending thee another after a while & hope it will have better success. — We ought to have mentioned that *Pseudobolium Pierardi* often sheds its leaves and remains dormant for many months: we have had it without any appearance of vegetation for more than a year. — Your high mountain plants are desirable to us, especially those which are showy in flower. — Sir W. J. Hooker says he has had Ferns from N. D. L. packed in a box in nearly dry moss. Couldst thou send us any in this way? We have *Adiantum affine* in addition to the two above-mentioned. I think it quite possible Gunnera might likewise survive the voyage packed in moss, in an air-tight box. —

I have recd. a letter from G. Walker. I think since I wrote, as has also Josiah Forster. G. Bennington has likewise had letters from him. Peter Bedford has lately had one from A. C. Flower, from Launceston: he joins me in the hope that Gods of your Mo: Mag: will deal tenderly with Abm feeling for the trying situation in which he has been placed, and for his constitutional peculiarities, which claim in some other members of his family, great allowances. It is very important in disciplinary proceedings to keep in mind the apostolic remembrance, "Remembering thyself, lest thou also be tempted." I shall be glad if thou find thyself comfortable in thy berth in the Botanist Garden, as I think it will suit thy taste. — I am writing rather hastily being on the eve of leaving home on a religious visit, part of wh I have accomplished at intervals, and for which I have had a minute more than half a year. Several Gods in the ministry are moving up and down in this country, but I conclude you will be made acquainted with such proceedings by the British Friend.

My love is to my Gods generally at Hobart Town & in Swan Port. It is long since I wrote to G. Cotton, but I now have my hands very full, so he must excuse me a while longer.

I remain affly  
thy fr.

Jas Backhouse

1847  
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