

York 6/11 mo 1861

Dear James

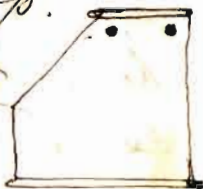
I write a hasty line to fol-  
-low Father's letter, which I expect  
was forwarded by the last post,  
in which he replied (respecting  
the offer from the Curator of your  
Gardens) to thy enquiry. It stated  
that we should be glad to  
receive 2 more boxes of *Glic-*  
*chenia alpina* in exchange for  
plants which we would return  
in the boxes. Although I did  
not anticipate getting more till  
we had brought back at least  
a portion of the cost of the latter  
by sale, yet for exchange we  
shall be glad to receive them.



They should be packed just in the same way, except that I would suggest 2 inches of broken stone or pots at the bottom & no earth whatever except the sods containing the plant. Squeeze them harder than before if possible, — for although the roots of the last lot were alive they would have been incomparably more vigorous & valuable too if by any means we could get them <sup>here</sup> with the fronds on & fresh.

I would suggest that two holes, say  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch wide, should be bored in the end of one (only) of the Cases near the top.

Only in one of the Cases & only at one end of that Case.



The holes should be sloped upwards, so as to prevent the water from dashing in. This would permit of a very slight escape of moisture.

Do not be afraid of getting the plants, & making the Cases all ready a week or two, if necessary, before the vessel sails.

There is "nothing"; — the "balance of moisture" everything!

If packed before hand, do not let the Cases be rained upon when they are opened to give air, which is best done only at night when the prevailing atmosphere is more humid.

The end of 1<sup>st</sup> mo, or during 2<sup>nd</sup> mo is the best time for shipping them.

Add blocks of Hymenophyl — run just as before. Cut them



out on rather thick blocks of tree-ferm, & secure them well to the sides & ends of the Cases. The last were "adrift" on arrival!

The Case which has not a hole in will be best for these, but try both. Perhaps the

Curator will be able to find

1 seed Hymenophyllum rareum, a slender, linear dark green sp. (bispinatifid) \*

Seed H. flabellatum (the shining pendant sp. with wiry stems & fronds 4 to 12 inches long) in greater number than H. crispatum.

These are the 2 species sent last.

Direct them to the care of

Betham & Blackith

Cox & Hammonds Quay

or Brown Shipley Row

Lower Thames

Liverpool

LONDON

\* See note on "Hymenophyllum" in the "Hymenophyllum" case.

We are all nicely I am  
thankful to say. Thomas  
had a nice tour on the Continent  
last summer on the occasion  
of his "coming of age". He  
visited the Tyrol, Lombardy,  
Parts of Germany & Switzerland  
France &c.

Trade is much depressed  
in West Yorkshire & Lancashire.  
10,000 hands were reported  
out of work last week, &  
it was expected the number  
would rapidly increase. A  
sad prospect for winter.  
In the West of Ireland & in



The north of Scotland there is  
danger of much distress (almost  
of a famine) owing to the  
destruction of crops by rain.

Not only potatoes, but grain crops.

Our legislature seem notwith-  
standing, determined to go on  
wasting the public money over  
military & naval purposes as  
recklessly as ever. "No reduction"  
seems to be the cry, & prob-  
ably will be till a crash  
of some kind comes to compel  
people to do what principle  
& common sense fail to ac-  
complish. Things seem

no better in America. No  
blessing seems to rest on ~~the~~  
the Federal ~~cause~~ <sup>cause</sup>. Not that  
we ever expect it to attach  
to war of any kind, but  
in this case there seems a  
conspicuous series of disap-  
pointments & reverses.

With dear love in which  
Mary joins  
I remain

Thy friend affly  
Wm Backhouse Junr