

Gray

BOTANIC GARDEN,  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Dec 19/4

My dear Sir William,

I am sorry I  
fear to give you some little trouble,  
but I hope you may be able to aid  
me in answering a question which  
I find somewhat difficult.

Who is Mr. Macrae who is men-  
tioned in the introduction to Torrey  
& Gray's Flora of N. Am. ? There are  
two letters of his to Dr. Gray, one in  
1843, dated Dec, from Montreal - sending  
a parcel "by my Cousin George Moffatt on his  
way to England", saying he shortly will  
himself go to England. Evidently the  
letter was written in great haste & un-  
signed - Another in 1845, written in

August from Vermont, & alludes to a  
hasty Catalogue of plants he had  
written out for Tuckerman, - &c &c, &  
signed W. F. Macrae -

I wrote to Prof. Macrae at Ottawa  
to see if he could tell me anything  
of him, & he refers me to you -

Could you give me his full name,  
the year he was born & when died;  
whether he ever held any official  
position, or ever published anything  
in Botany -

You see I am still at work on  
the autographs, and the whole has  
grown immensely on my hands -

These early collectors it is especially  
difficult to learn about -

Can you tell me anything about  
old Goldie, whether I could by any  
chance get an autograph of his.

I have a photograph sent Dr. Gray, that was taken when he was 86 years old - He died in Ayr, Waterloo Co. Canada in 1886 -

I feel as if my work would be useful in the future, especially if I can find out something of these early botanists -

I hope you & Lady Dawson are well & have had a pleasant summer - It was an unusually hot summer here, & the last part very dry - But everything looks greener than usual for the season now, & we have had no frost as yet - I was away at my dear Beverly for some weeks with my brothers & sister, and it was a charming summer for the sea -

I hope that you are comfortably

settled in your new abode, &  
feeling at home, though the change  
must seem great after being so  
long at the College -

With very many kind remem-  
brances to you both,

I am very cordially

Yours, James Gray -

Did you know that Mrs. Gassiz  
had sailed for Europe with her  
daughter Mrs. Shaw? - Strange to  
say she has scarcely seen Europe  
with all her journeys -

