

PSYCHE.

SOME OLD CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HARRIS, SAY AND PICKERING.— VIII.

[HARRIS TO SAY.]

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. March 21, 1834.
To THOS. SAY ESQ.

Dear Sir,

On the 27th November I wrote to give you information that my long-promised collection of insects was shipped in a large case, in the Tarquin from Boston for New-Orleans. I have since received a receipt for the same from Mr. Jos. Barabino, dated N. O. January 15th, enclosed in a letter from my friend Vose, who tells me that Mr. B. will pay every necessary attention in forwarding the collection safely to you; & I therefore presume that you must, long before this, have received it. As it is possible that my letter may not have reached you I shall repeat, what I therein stated, that a succession of domestic afflictions prevented me from complying with my promise to you until November last, but that my love for Entomology still remains, & with it an increased desire to obtain your kind assistance in determining many of the insects sent to you. Of the collection (consisting in all of 1970 specimens, or about 1800 species,)

1202 insects are for yourself; the remainder, being *uniques* from my cabinet, you will please to return as soon after examining them as you can. I hope you will let the numbers remain attached to all of these insects for the present, even to those which are for yourself; & I must beg you, in particular, to keep the uniques in the boxes in which they are sent during the time you may find it necessary to retain them. Red tickets are attached to a number of insects, which were presented to me by Mr. J. W. Randall, (a student in the University, who has a good collection of native insects of this vicinity,) & who is desirous of describing them if new. In the Mss catalogue I have endeavoured to give the specific names of the *first* describers, whenever known to me, notwithstanding that they might be less commonly received than other names. The same has been done in the printed catalogue, made out about two years ago for Prof. Hitchcock, & printed last autumn almost without alteration or correction. This brings me to the present object of my letter, which is to solicit your immediate at-

tention to the collection, with a view to enable me to revise, correct, & enlarge the catalogue of insects attached to Prof. Hitchcock's "Survey of Massachusetts", of which he has just informed me a new edition will be issued in the course of 2 or 3 months. Do not, I beg you, disappoint me in this matter, for I know that the catalogue is very imperfect, & in many instances may be incorrect. Typographical errors you will discover in it; for these however I am not answerable; but, for the credit of American Science, I do hope that you will help me to give a better & longer list of the insects of Massachusetts, which the collection sent to you will undoubtedly enable you to do. In the case is a blank catalogue, prepared with numbers corresponding to the insects themselves, & to the Mss catalogue, in order to save you some trouble & to obviate mistakes & omissions; & ample space is left in it for any remarks you may be willing to add to the names. As fast as you fill up the sheets of this catalogue please enclose them in an envelope & forward them to me by mail. In cases where you entirely agree with me in the name you can, if you prefer, merely write *yes* against the numbers:—where I have expressed a doubt (?), if the name nevertheless be right, you may say *yes with't doubt*; in all other cases I rely upon the information you may give alone, having hitherto been unable to ascertain the names, or having merely given names myself to supposed nondescripts.

I believe that I have already thanked you for the specimens of *Cremastocheilus* you sent to me—two of them came unbroken, but the others were injured by the crushing of the little bit of wood in which they were enclosed; still I was enabled from the fragments to ascertain that one of them was a new species. The description with figures of these insects ought to have appeared long ago; but the Boston Society of Natural History has delayed publishing until this spring, not for the want of matter, but from a desire of increasing their cabinet, library, & other means, before undertaking so serious a project as the publication of a Scientific Journal. The first number, however, is now in press, & the 2d, which is to contain my paper, will soon follow, & will be forwarded to you.

With the insects sent to you I also sent a few shells, the papers containing which were numbered. Of these you will take note, &, at your entire leisure, I shall be glad to have you give me the names corresponding to these numbers.

And now, my dear Sir, I have imposed upon your friendship & your love of science a heavy task—but how could I help it? I only wish that it were in my power to do something for you in return. In the hope, whatever may have been my *apparent* delinquency, that you will now fully exonerate me from wilful negligence, & will favor me with a speedy reply, I subscribe myself

Your friend & serv't

T. W. M. HARRIS.



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