

Extracts of Letters discussing Plants and Flowers

1801

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Mother, Esther Symonds, October 17, 1801]

Page 1: I have had a good deal to write to Lizzy Thoburn which no one else cou'd do, about seeds & plants I have sent many sorts but like enough nothing new. [...] There is perpetual summer the trees & grass have almost constantly the fresh verdure of May. A few weeks of dry weather dries up the grass which is always short but it does not make it very brown & one night of rain with this heat turns up a fresh crop & every place is like green velvet: upon the trees this drought has no effect, as it has with you. Philosophers have a way of accounting for this, but I do not well understand it myself. This freshness is not preserved by dews or fogs for we have neither. The trees are large & tall & the whole place is like Parks & gardens with every beauty that can be in a flat country, Neither plants nor trees have their leaves eaten by insects nor curled up by them as yours are with what we call blight: they are perfectly clean & fresh and most of them bloom all the year.

Page 8: when the fine warmth of the night & the sea-breeze cooling the air invites us to sit out on the terrace before the house - The moon so bright shining on the trees, the grasshoppers chirping & the Sepoy tinkling his little wild tune on a sort of guitar on the one side of the garden - The Sea roaring at a distance (which I hear as I lie down in bed). The [word crossed out] Tubereuses* & sweet flowers smelling pleasantly and all these without the least fear of catching cough or cold. –

* *Agave amica*, formerly *Polianthes tuberosa*, the tuberose

Page 10 [referring to a local ceremony that includes Oleander and Palm flowers]: The festoons of flowers that ornamented it were excessively pretty, but the sheep are not to die till tomorrow morning the altar therefore remains.

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, October 17, 1801]

Page 1: Some awkwardness may arise which you must excuse as I can manage no better at present not being as yet acquainted with any person belonging to ships the Gentleman who brings this brings also two trees & a basket & packet of seeds for Mr: Whitley - His name is Livingston if he should call he is a surgeon I was introduced to him to do me this service & am in hopes he will come out again – [...]

Tell Mr: Whitly my seeds wou'd not grow - English seeds seldom succed [sic] - The Cape seeds are hung up in bags in a basket & hung up in Cabins & they do here - Swindons seeds* from

England grow & begins to be in great repute & are done in varnished past board - I have sent him some in both ways. I hope they will grow –

*N. Swindon, Brentford nurseryman

1802

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Mother, Esther Symonds, January 23, 1802]

Page 10: the latter half of Dec[ember] & this month are like one of the finest seasons in May & June - whatever of the plants we have, which cultivated in England [word crossed out] either flower, or are fit for food - in June are ready here at this time.

Page 12: As the Hedges & trees yield them so many things you may suppose their labour in gardening is not much - but they keep their beds neat enough for some few greens. Their Gardens look more like shrubberies with these flowering trees, which blow like laburnums & the bladder Senna, but some are very handsome which you have not seen & all blow profusely & have the lightest foliage waving in the air. - This country is now truly [sic] beautiful here is no spot uncultivated but is either used for Cocoa nut groves, mango groves, (or Orchards, you would call them), - pleasure grounds, gardens or Rice fields - The Rice looks exactly like thick crops of wheat & as yet I should not have known it without plucking it, it is at present green - some [c]rops of Millet are cut in & some other small grains –

Page 13: These groves & corners & the full Hedges ~~look~~ give a remarkable richness to the look of the corn fields - Never were seen such beautiful hedge-rows as are on each side the roads & dividing every field & garden. & the plants for Hedging are as various as beautiful. Every body chuses [sic] for himself - some are of Ivoryy [?] a plant so exactly like hawthorn whether it grows in the Hedge or runs up into a tree that, without plucking it you could not know & therefore the English are fond of it for their fences, however it has no thorn & the flowers are more like Mignonette [sic] in appearance & smell - The hedges have all trees of various kinds growing in them - another favorite hedge is a plant that has no leaves or rather nothing but leaves it is extremely [sic] verdant, thick, bushy & tall & like lace work - Bamboo, plaited into another rich looking hedge & throwing itself upwards rises (14) in plumes like light feathers, 60 or 80 feet high. - some people like the American Aloes which have not that stiff look you might imagine for having trees in the rows the various kinds of Bind weeds that every where abound [words crossed out], hang down & cling about from the branches of the trees to these strong plants where they find support, & form the most fantastick [sic] festoons - Convolvuluses of various sorts & beans with many wild Gourds - these binding plants profuse of flowers, clinging about the Indian plants of large size are to me the most beautiful as well as the most novel kind.

Page 15: Agriculture is carried on here in a manner just the reverse of your's and so is Gardening, for as you raise beds for the vegetables & leave a sunk path to walk round [sic] them, here they sink the bed about a hand-breadth, & the path round [sic] is raised. This is in order to retain the water which is of course much exhausted in the day. –

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, February 7, 1802]

Page 2: I wrote a letter for my mother & you jointly - a letter to Lizze [sic] Thoburn & sent some that had been returned to me from a ship that sunk in harbour - together with seeds for Mr: Whitley by [word crossed out] (3) Mr: Livingston surgeon of the ship Lord Thurlow I hope you will receive them safe in March-[...] It is of particular consequence to entrust seeds to some persons care but of (4) all that I shall write to Lizzy.

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, February 12, 1802]

Note on the side: I have divided the seeds for Mr. Whitly into 3 parcels - all directed to you. –

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, March 18, 1802]

Page 1: I had hardly time to send a few seeds on board for Mr: Whitley however the same gentleman who took the shawl took also a bag of seeds & another gentleman a packet nearly alike but packed differently - I believe there was nothing valuable it being a bad time of year. In the bag of seeds I put a small bag with some seeds strung for beads & wrote on that bag for Mrs: James. I had no time to explain about them - they are not a seed of this part but are sold for ornament & some Ladies wear them. I thought it likely they wou'd pass with the seeds otherwise they wou'd be taken. They are cheap enough rough as those were & I think handsomer than when polished [sic] but some people like them better polished [sic] when they are dearer I shall there fore get some done to send you & some to Nancy Green as you may like to give them away to any friend. They look very well with a small gold bead between each - They are called here Fakier's beads,* - the Fakiers are a sort of Religious who travel about & beg with their families & they wear (2) these beads –

*Possibly Rudraksha seeds, used as a prayer bead in Hinduism, especially in Shaivism, and produced by several species of large, evergreen, broad-leaved tree in the genus *Elaeocarpus*. (Wikipedia)

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Mother, Esther Symonds, July 16, 1802]

Page 17: The shops of flowers are much like the flower shops in Covent garden but more like artificial flower makers because they hang up wreaths & bunches made up. It is surprizing [sic] what quantities of flowers are sold in wreaths eight months in the year they are of a sort of double white Jasmine the rest of the year yellow flowers but all are occasionally [sic] mixed - all these shops sell beetle leaf which looks exactly like lilly [sic] of the Valley leaves (18) & I used to take the little bundles to be some flower of that kind rolled in the leaves. -"

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, August 23, 1802]

Page 2: I sent by the [word crossed out] Monarch in March last by favour of the surgeon two pieces of Muslin a shawl & some pieces, seeds &c which I hope you will receive in August or Sep[ember] I expected many opportunities before this but they have all failed [sic] -"

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, October 18, 1802]

Page 4: -we send by Mr: Templar [...] two pots with trees for Mr: Whitley & some seeds but I find the pots were broke & I fear the trees destroyed & the Sea water has possibly spoiled [sic] the seeds - Mr: Templar promised me he wou'd try at the Cape to get some seeds & wou'd add to those I sent which were but few. -

1803

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, February 1803]

Page 6: The seeds (the letter excepted) were the only part of the things I was very anxious about & seeds ought to be here before Xmas, or else they are too late to sow- our rains are in Nov:r therefor Dec: & Jan:y are to us what June & July are to you. In these months we eat peas & french beans, Cabbages, carrots, turnips, lettuces of all kinds in perfection -as to fruits; the oranges are here in high perfection at this time Dec:r Jan:y & Feb: being the season of oranges of every description- for we have various kinds tho' none I think, better than yours.-

Page 8: This place has just the air of a beautiful English village & we walk a great deal- The soil here is fine, & therefore I have sowed my seeds by Dr. Anderson's orders. He has put some in this ground as have many of the good gardeners.-I have sent some to Lord Clive yesterday.- Several of the flowers are come up tho they have only been sown three days.-

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, February 15, 1803]

Page 1: Captain Pitman sent a note, saying that he had had our boxes on board his ship; but that the Director had thought proper to order those & some others small parcels to be un-shipped & sent to the

India House as they had not issued an order for their shipping. that of this he had given timely notice to the gentleman who sent them but, that he had to regret that his sailing [sic] orders arrived before the above had been regularly arranged - & that he had only a basket of seeds for us. - This note was dated by him Jan: 25th: 1803. We had heard by chance that many packages had by ~~an~~ new regulation ~~order~~ been unshipped because they had been sent on board without an order but as Captain Pitman said he had given timely notice to the Gentleman we supposed that to be either Mr: James or Mr: Livingston & that the Boxes would be sent by the Devaynes & therefore waited very patiently till that ship came in which was on the 13th: of Feb: just about a fortnight after wards - by that to our surprise [sic] we found nothing for us by that ship but letters -

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Mother, Esther Symonds May 7, 1803]

Page 6: Every sort of English vegetable grows here in perfection except for Windsor beans Cauliflowers and artichokes - & these grow in Bengale but the natives do not understand the culture of our things & therefore it is only where the master of the house understands & watches the garden that things are good - We are but just begining [sic] to understand it I have a vast many fine cabbages but they are not yet fit to cut they grow short & close & so fine a bloom upon the leaf that they look quite comfortable indeed we have so many screaming birds to pick up every grub & fly that our vegetables have never a bitten leaf - we have no trouble to wash from insects - I forgot to tell Hetty to send me bags from Covent Garden of herbs constantly - mint grows here well & so does sage but it is not exactly like ours - but Thyme [word crossed out] Marjorem [sic] I have not tasted since I came here I will beg of her therefore always to put me up a small bag of both & a little Parsley & Baum [sic] - savory I do not like - I like the Lemon Thyme best but both are good.

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, August 13, 1803]

Page 9: I have sent them some seeds by the Captain of the Wellesely an extra ship which takes this to you as they have unexpectedly opened a Packet

[From Elizabeth to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, September 10, 1803]

Page 10: I have no opportunity (11) of sending anything by these ships but I shall send just a basket of seeds by Mrs: Davies. If I keep them they will be spoiled [sic] so I may as well venture When you receive them pray send them directly to Mr Whitley -

Page 14: for here I have still less patience than ever to throw away time in dress - I rise at eight in the morning Breakfast & the accounts take my time till then; from ten to twelve is all the time for writing learning or drawing - only 2 hours out of 24!! & yet more often than every other day - people come & take up those two hours. - at twelve oClock comes Luncheon time, as we call it Tiffin, - we are ready to faint for food - indeed if I have been detained I often do, in the extreme

heat - after this meal we are so oppressed with heat that it is quite a force to do anything - at this moment I am writing after Tiffing [sic] - at 3 o'Clock we dress at 4 we dine, sometimes sleep a little between Tiffin & dinner but I never do it if I can keep up. - between five & six we go to walk about the garden to see it watered & seeds sown or else we go out airing - whic[h] is all the exercise we have. - If we walk in the garden; we drink tea & go out at eight o'Clock (15) to make visits & as the places are so far from one another we do not get home till near eleven at night - If we go our airing at 6 o'Clock we have sometimes a little time for writing in the evening, but it is not to be depended upon Visitors may come in or we dine out - or we have company, large or small is an equal hindrance - or there is a ball. - in short if I get my two hours in a day it is all I expect.

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Mother, Esther Symonds October 20-21, 1803]

Page 3 [Regarding Lord Clive]: He does not seem to know anything of Botany his gardening was chiefly for culinary purposes, except such collection as Lady Clive had desired to be made. Indeed the study of Plants wou'd have been esteemed highly by the Natives. Tho' their mode of studying Botany differs from our's at least our modern mode - such respect have they for the vegetable tribes that many of the more useful plants are venerated as Divinities. But their books & descriptions are exactly in the stile [sic] of Culpepper. & a plant is seldom ~~not~~ selected as a remedy for any natural quality but for the influence which some Planet [word crossed out] is supposed to have over it. - -"

Page 6: But tho' they vainly expect from their herbs & roots supernatural effects, they find real ones; & have many excellent medicine amongst their Vegetables & which they apply [word crossed out] frequently with great success. and indeed there is a knowledge of Plants even amongst (7) the lowest of the people that shews [sic] a great attention to the productions of nature, altho' they have formed no notion how the qualities of vegetables act on the human body. -- They divide all diseases into [word crossed out] hot & cold & certain plants are supposed to be suited to [words crossed out] cool & others to warm; but from what I can learn an English Physician wou'd neither agree with them as to the nature of the disorder or the power of the herb; however as their experience is better than their reasoning their patients are relieved. -"

**[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, no date.
Elizabeth's birthday is 21 April 1803; internal evidence suggests the letter is written spring 1803]**

Page 7: I sent besides some seeds for Mr: Whitley & a great number of trees. If he knew how many that he wants are packing up he wou'd grieve to think as I do that most likely none will be alive however Mr: Prosser's extreme good nature in offering to take them is very pleasant & therefore I send those most likely to live but the ship will have to pass the Cape in the depth of

winter & most likely all will be washed overboard as Lady Clive's were - Polly has drawn some plants slightly & on that paper I have written some account you will please (8) to give him, the papers marked for him - they are rolled up with some drawings of her's -

Page 12: I fear I must also order the seeds & Plants for Mr: Whitley to you also probably you will not be troubled with many as I think they are likely enough to die on the road[...]

1804

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Mother, Esther Symonds March 7, 1804]

Page 4: but the sending is the worst of the job - seeds or anything of that kind which have no duty we can send but of other things ~~they all~~ (5) every one has enough of his own –

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, August 13, 1804]

Page 5: Pray tell Mr: Whitley that I have sent him a bag of seeds & thank for the seeds I have had out both of which came safe both Dr's. & the Cooks & came at a lucky time of year as we have had a good deal of rain.-

Pray do you pay for the seeds - for I am ignorant & know not whether to thank or not for them - you see I can say nothing of the preserves but that all is good that is left but that is like Mr: Prossers trees very little indeed.

Page 6: Dr: Sims has paid me great compl[i]ments I blush - Pray what can I send him if anything I can do will be acceptable I shall be very happy in the way of Plants - I hope to know a little more about them as we have some botanists come down now & I am becoming learned - I shall never (7) have done -"

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Mother, Esther Symonds October 12, 1804]

Page 17: As we have no meadows [word crossed out] nor fields where horses go to graze there is a grass-cutter to each horse, a woman, a horse keepers wife, or some of their set - these bring home every evening a bundle of grass which they dig out from the dry ground wheron [sic] Paddy has been in the wet seasons - from the road sides, from the borders of tanks & waters, from commons & - places that look frequently so arid that you wou'd little expect them to yield what they do - They are covered ~~with~~ however with a most nutritious species of grass called *Agrostis linearis** in the language of botany & by various names amongst the people of India. It never rises far above the ground (18) but runs along the ground, to a never ending length as it takes root as it runs. The stems are white round & sweet. The leaves small & fine & abundant in its blossom - The women tear this up by the root, first cutting up the ground with little hoes –

* *Cynadon dactylon*, called Bermuda grass, Couch grass, Quick Grass (Kew Science, Plants of the World Online: <http://powo.science.kew.org/taxon/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:397065-1>)

Page 19: & our Cows have as all Milck [sic] cows have Bran, Bengal Gram Cotton seeds & a sort grain called Natcheny* (20) I do not know the Botanical name just now –

* *Eleusine coracana*, or finger millet (Wikipedia)

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, October 16, 1804]

Page 1: I know not a soul belonging to these ships that is officers &c but Captain Rees calling here & seeing two boxes of plants lying ready under a tree said he wou'd get the Captain of the David Scott to put them on the Poop - I am glad to accept the offer because there is in one of the boxes a large tree that is above two foot high of the plant which the German Botanical Doctor has called by name & I thought if it cou'd be preserved you woud [sic] like to see it He has sent some sprigs of it to Germany & I wrote the Particulars to Mr: Whitly in the ~~Glory~~ Prince of Wales. We have the greatest fears about that ship for we have heard nothing of her & she had not got into St: Helena long after the rest of the ships had left it -"

Page 1: I am learning botany seriously - a gentleman lately come down the Country has lent me a large botanical library & Dr: Rottler the German Missionary [word crossed out] gives me a lesson once or twice a week - I am very proud of my acquirements (2) & hope to be of use in time for I have hitherto sent the things unnamed."

1805

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, March 6, 1805]

Page 9: ...you do not know & cannot guess what a great Botanist I am become - since I have had one Volume of Dr: Martins new Edition of Miller's Dictionary - I wish I cou'd get it out it is sent for to Ware I hope it will come soon - for it aids me in reading Latin - when I know what it is, I (10) [13] I guess with astonishing facility. But that Book is very correct in all I have seen. - Yet even in that I see [word crossed out] some things that an attentive observer might rectify. -- Dr: Rottler praises me too much & makes one lazy & turn my mind to other things - The truth is that I shou'd not have put myself upon so new & difficult a study but that without some little knowledge of Botany it is impossible to read the Hindoo languages - Their allusions to particular plants which are essential to their different ceremonies are so pointed that unless you know the plants which Botany alone can teach you, the merit of the whole passage is lost; and after learning a little Botany it seems almost impossible to stop –

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, August 27, 1805]

Page 14: Mr: Livingston sent me a box of seeds with the Catalogues I requested, which I am glad of as they give me much information. - I have been dividing the seeds amongst my friends –
Page 15: I have drawn the plant which Dr: Rottler has done me the honour to call after me I hope it may be new - if so you will like to have it hung up Gwillimia Indica This drawing I have given to Dr: Rottler. I have taken great pains to send it home the plant General Trent was so kind as to carry was ~~the~~ I hear alive when he left it in the ship & I hope it got safe but it was a cold time for a plant that requires sun. This was the 4th time I have sent trees of it to England - It is a very sweet flower at least here it has a delicate odour but not strong. It came from Batavia & is there called Sampa Salaca. - which means milk flower - It is very much like a Magnolia Glauca - but seldom opens wide till it is near fading -- I rather think that Dr: Rottler wants this drawing which I have made to be sent to Dr: Smith with the dried specimen - but perhaps he will return it to Mr: Whitley & if he does the drawing is for you. If not I will draw you another the flowers are always larger in the early part of the year but it flowers all the year, - the leaves almost always appear scorched or broken [words crossed out] at the ends unless at the ~~Beginning of~~ top of the branches (16) [6] But this I attribute to the strong winds we have at Madras - the air of Batavia & the Eastern Islands is all softness. –

Page 20: [...]in the same time that I am making a cap I cou'd draw a flower or a bird & I am not half so tired in the end.

Page 25: Dr: Rottler has asked me for the drawing of the Plant (26) mentioned in the last page of sheet No: 5 - but if it shall please God still to bless me with health as this year I will draw you another. –

Page 26: Mr: Keene who by Mr: Gwillim's desire is to call upon you carries with him a Packet of dried plants - the drawing I have spoken of & a letter all for Dr: Smith of Norwich - If he brings them to you please to pack it nicely for me & send the whole to Norwich by the coach paying the Carriage. that is if Dr: Smith be there but he is frequently in London & Mr: Whitley cou'd tell you if he is or Mrs: James Clarke can tell you. for Dr: Smith's Brother Married one of Mrs: Howarths daughters Miss Emma, a sweet creature who died. [words crossed out] pray be careful as this is the second time of sending the plants”

1806

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, February 11, 1806]

Page 6: I have not collected many seeds but I send some which are fine & I send the Barrilienis longiflora* - very fine seed - I wrote to Mrs: Whitley; but I suppose the letter never reached her

for she has not answered nor did Lizzy or Nancy mention it - I am tired of sending plants because they are so unlucky & give more trouble to Mr: Whitley to fetch them than they are worth - I wish I could know if that poor man of the name of Shephard took home his Bread fruit tree for he had a terribly illnatured [sic] Captain - Give my love to Lizzy & Mary & remember me to Mr: Samuel

*Perhaps *Barleria longiflora*

[From Elizabeth Gwillim to her Sister, Hester "Hetty" Symonds James, n.d., likely November 1806]

Page 2: I send by [Captain Willim] a bag of seeds which you will please to send to Mr: Whitley as they contain many seeds which I shou'd be glad to see growing. - I send the bag of seeds by a Mr: Hoseasan who is going hence with a large fortune - They have so much to carry for themselves that I cannot ask them to take anything home for me but he will take the bag to Trincomali in Ceylon where Captain Willim & some more of the ships are waiting for the remainder of the fleet and will then deliver it to him - the seeds are directed to you pr. favour of Capt: Willim. - as some of the seeds have been procured with difficulty I was loth to trust them all to one chance (as I did everything to the poor Prince of Wales-) I have therefore divided them in some measure, Captain Willim's bag contains my own collection & half of Dr: Berry's - and I send another bag containing Dr: Rottler's collection in the Mysore &c very numerous & the other half of Dr: Berry's - I have besides added a packet of flower tree seeds & some others fit for a present to any body you may chuse [sic] to give them to & who wants them whilst they are fresh. You never told me you wanted them or I wou'd always send them; but indeed they are of little use to any but those in the profession for Private Gentlemen's Gardeners wou'd either give them away or not take the pains to raise them - If any misfortune shou'd happen to Captain Willims bag - give the little packet with the rest to Mr: Whitly but if that comes safe keep it. It is within a larger bag containing the other packets of Dr: Rottler & Dr: Berry's half & this packet has a label on it directed to Mrs: James - This great bundle (-but it is not very large) is given to the care of Captain Torrens a very genteel & I think a very good natured young man who was Passenger on board ship with us out & who is going home with his Regiment the 19th: Light Dragoons - The first & best Regiment that has been in the Country. - I do not suppose you will see Torrens, he will either be with his Regiment or go to Ireland to his friends but he will send the seeds by a mail coach from some place where they land to you. - The little Packet which I put up were intended for Mr: W. Cam in consequence of the letter which you inclosed [sic] from him but Sir Henry wou'd not let me send them to him because he said it was foolish to do so [word crossed out] for Lady Rodney [word crossed out] has a brother & sister-in-law in Ceylon where they may get seeds better than here; & because the gardeners wou'd only steal them &c &c - so give the little packet to whom you please -"

[Probably from Elizabeth Gwillim to her friend, Miss Thoburn, n.d.]

Page 1 [Extract from Miss Thoburn's letter]: I spent yesterday morning with Dr Anderson he is very attentive and his Garden contains all the useful plants that bear hot climates and all the trees that are either useful or beautiful his attention is wholly given to the Fruit and Forest trees of large growth His great pride is having brought into this country the Bastard Cedar it thrives here exceedingly is found in every Hedge row & is certainly a great acquisition in a tropical climate - it is a native of Jamaica It's Verdure is very fine & the foilage [sic] most profuse even after the greatest drought the country can experiance [sic] It's leaves are food for the cattle when scarcely a blade of grass can be obtained I think it is more like a lime tree (but fuller of leaves than any tree) & is like that tree covered with Flowers that have a honey smell - The Natives who have seldom any delight in novelties are very fond of this tree they have a superstitious respect for bees & as this tree smells of honey they set a great value upon it & if they do not go [word crossed out] so far as to be industrious in planting it they take the greatest care in sheltering & protecting any young trees of it they find springing up either in the roads or about their huts Dr Anderson boasts that he wants no cultivation of it as he has the crows very active in aiding him the fruit or nut of the tree has a smell by which they are attracted & they carry them into (2) all their retreats & in such places they attempt to open them but the shell being too hard they leave it & after the rainy season it springs up Wee [sic] have a great many trees of it about our grounds & one fine large tree that shades the whole of side of the house where Mr G has his study its branches sweep the ground on one side & spread over the Verando [sic] on the other so that when one sits in that one seems directly under the tree the squirrels run up & down the branches all day they are very pretty & very numerous all about the houses & gardens here Dr A made me particularly notice one tree which is a great height & size smooth [word crossed out] shined & is eighteen Feet in circumference this tree is only 12 years old , wee [sic] have all the variety & beauty that wood & water & works of art can produce on a plain washed on the one side by

the sea & every where crowded with inhabitants whose natural grace exceeds what wee [sic] see represented in the finest ancient sculpture

[Nancy Greens letter from Mrs G, copy in an unknown hand]

Page 1: This is a very pleasant country for those who [...] delight as I do in the Production of nature I have received a considerable degree of attention since I came here & even the servants bring me whatever they find that has not fallen in, [?]