



Letter 196

John Stevens Henslow to Charles Darwin

15 & 21 January, 1833

My dear Darwin,



... I have just been putting by the perishable articles in the way I said — Birds — several have no labels— the best way is to tie the label to their legs — One has its tail feathers crumpled by being bent from bad packing — the rest in good order— Quads. The large one capital, the 2 mice rather mouldy— Pack up an infinite quantity more of land & freshwater shells, they must be nearly all new — The minute Insects most excellent— what work you will have— You know better than I whether it is not dangerous to their antennæ & legs to pack them in cotton. I suppose if moistened by vapour they may be taken out quite safe.—

The Lichens are good things as scarcely any one troubles himself to send them home —

For goodness sake what is No. 223 it looks like the remains of an electric explosion, a mere mass of soot—something very curious I daresay — Wd. it not be a good precautionary measure to transmit to England a copy of your memoranda, with your next packet? I know it is a dull job to copy out such matters — but it is highly expedient to avoid the chance of losing your notes by sending home a duplicate —

Every individual specimen once arrived here becomes an object of great interest, & tho' you were to send home 10 times as much as you do, yet when you arrive you will often think & wish how you might & had have sent home 100 times as much!...