

Sibbertoft
Market Harborough

My dear Sir

I thank you very much for your
valuable volume, & for procuring for me the
account of Borneo Fungi from Cesati, to
whom I write to day. I send you the most
recent photograph of M. J. B., which is a very
good likeness of an old man now in his 79th year.
I send you as many duplicate memoirs as I
have, and also some more schedules of Ceylon
& Cuban Fungi, prepared for a work similar
to yours, but which increasing years made it
difficult for me to finish. I have given my
Herbarium to Kew, as out of my numerous
family, 15 in number, 6 sons, 9 daughters there
is not one who would make any use of them.
My eldest son is in the Andaman Islands
where he finds good Orchids, but not many
Fungi. He has been a good collector, but not
a student. My second son, who is a
Savoy Major at Lucknow is an admirer
of plants, but no student. My eldest daughter

who died alas! in 1876 was a beautiful painter
of Fungi, & my daughter Ruth is one of the
best collectors I know, & draws Fungi for me.
My daughter Margaret draws small Fungi
admirably. There are a great help to me
and I am so crippled in the hands with
rheumatism, that I sometimes cannot
write, & am obliged to have an amanuensis.
With the exception of gout & rheumatism, I
have good health, & do not quite give up
mycology, but there must soon be an end
in the course of nature. Believe me always
very sincerely yours Wm. B. Keely -