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July 29, 1851
St Louis July 29 1851

My dear Doctor

Your last letter, dated April 16 I found here when I returned from Cincinnati. I had after 11 years, of slavery in St Louis ventured to cut loose for 2 weeks, in order to attend the meeting of the American Association. I was delighted in every way, delighted with freedom, delighted with travelling, with new scenery, and more than all delighted to meet old friends and make new ones. Among the former was foremost Agassiz; I was only sorry that he was so much occupied that I could not see him much in private - nevertheless we spent a few half hours together. He is a host indeed - a great acquisition for America and will no doubt exercise a vast influence on the study of natural history in this country and be able to give it a higher direction and a wider field. - You (I don't mean to flatter) and Morton, who is unfortunately gone now, I have always numbered among those few working in the same field; but Agassiz by a happily combining several eminent qualities has gained a great and controlling influence, which I hope will be very beneficial perhaps for generations to come.

I had been absent when the city was very healthy but soon after my return Cholera again began to prevail and ~~kept me~~ together with other diseases kept me extremely busy - day and night - During June & July sickness is now abating a little and I begin to breathe more freely - if the hot weather does permit! -

As to botany - - I will only tell you that mostly I could not take my meals with my family, and that few nights only I remained undisturbed - Can you expect -

any leisure hours than for botany!

Linckhimer continues to collect about N. Bramples and finds a good many new things, among others 3 *Mimosa* not found by him before - a beautiful *Sarcostemma*? with linear hastate veined leaves and brown flowers, etc. - He has also abundantly collected the *Dipterandra*, but the complete flowers have 8 stamens. Correct therefore. -

I learn from him that his connections have extended to the Smithsonian in Washington and to Paris and Vienna.

I left of the Cincinnati meeting, among my old botanical friends I was pleased to get personally acquainted with Mr. Lapham, and Dr. Clapp - and was sorry not to meet with Dr. Short, nor to find him in Cincinnati. He is living in the country. - Prof. Bach, Henry and Braun ^{Dr. Willd.} are among those whose personal acquaintance I was happy to make. - Your name was of course frequently mentioned and it was a source of regret that you could not be there.

You know that Braun has a fine field now as Professor in Berlin in Link's place. He well deserves this.

Willdenow has left his family for a while and has gone to California. I hope his tour will turn out to something for science, though money is now his object. -

I don't know whether this letter will yet find you in England, but I will send it any how. I must excuse haste and incoherence.

Hohenacker's offer to Linckhimer were such, that L. after having begun to collect for him has given it up; he now says he can sell it that cheap price only 12 or 15 sets. - Linckhimer ought to wish begin something else. -

I was under the impression that the Chazes and the Gregg's Mexican Collections could be studied together with those of the Exploring expedition, or that some one of the English Botanists such as Benthams for example would take the matter in hand. - I am sorry that I had not answered you sooner - perhaps you could have made some arrangement. I see well enough that you have no time to give to these things. - But it is I must be satisfied with any thing you may do or not do. - Fendler would be glad to get a catalogue of his Chazes Collection. - Gregg's collection I leave in the hands of any competent botanist, who will examine and describe them, and he may take of course any *Dipterandra* he desires (and there are many of them). - Will you study it yourself some later time, perhaps with Coulter's collection?

Before I had received your order not send any more parcels I had already sent Lindheimer 1850 coll. and coll. for Hooker and seeds, I have not been notified of their arrival, neither in Boston nor in New York.

Thanks for the Linna virginica seeds - they are entirely satisfactory. -

I enclose the running *Dipterandra*. Give my respects to Dr. Willdenow and remember me if you please to Mrs. Gray.

Very truly yours

George Engelmann

via New York or Boston and Liverpool Steamers

PAID

Prof Asa Gray

Care of Sir Wm. J. Hooker

Royal Botanic Gardens

Kew

England

Received
24th Feb 1859



Engelmann, George. 1851. "Engelmann, George July 29, 1851." *George Engelmann letters to Asa Gray*

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