

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 set 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 happy combining several unequal 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 breath 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 feed nights only I remained undisturbed - Can you expect

any leisure hours there for botany!

Lindheimer continues to collect about N. Brumfield and finds a good many new things; among others 3 Monocots not found by him before - a beautiful *Sarcostemma*? with lanceolate pointed leaves and brown flowers, etc - He has also abundantly collected the Diphorandra, but the complete flowers have 8 stamens. Concur therefore. -

I learn from him that his collections have come to the Smithsonian in Washington and to Paris at Durand.

I left of the Ohioensis 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 being in the country. - Prof. Buckley, Henry and Baird & Allen <sup>wishes</sup> 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 was a fine field worker as Professor in Berlin in Link's place. He well deserves this.

Wickes 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 get past you in England, but I will send it anyway. You must excuse haste and incoherence.

Hohenacker's offer to Lindheimer 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. - Lindheimer ought to mark his ground elsewhere. -

I was under the impression that the Chagres and the Geogia Muscian Collections could be studied together with those of the Exploring expedition; or that some one of the English Botanists Bechman 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. - As it is I must be satisfied with any thing you may do or not do. - Foster would be glad to get a Catalogue of his Chagres Collection. - *Geogia collection* I leave in the hands of any competent Botanist, who will examine and describe them; and he may take of course any Diphorandra 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 sent any more parcels I had already sent Lindheimer 1850 coll. and coll for Foster and seeds, I have not been notified of their arrival, neither in Boston nor in New York.

Thanks for the Linnaea virginica seeds - they are entirely satisfactory -

I enclose the curious Diphorandra.

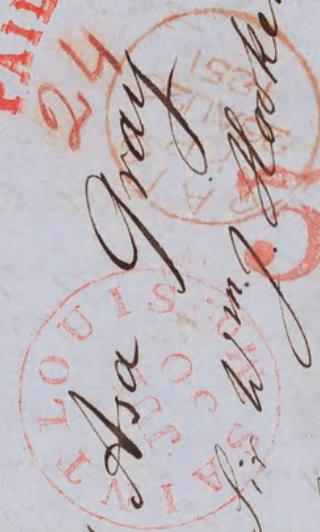
Give my respects to Sir Wilson and remember us if you please to Mrs. Gray.

Very truly yours

George Engelmann

Via New York or Boston and Liverpool Steamers

**PAID**



Prof Asa Gray  
Care of Dr. Wm. J. Hooker  
Royal Botanic Gardens  
Kew  
England

Frank Lloyd  
Wright



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