

St Louis July 14 1852

My dear Doctor

I do not ^{know} what lassiness or rather apathy
has come over me, that I have not written a letter for 4
months I believe. If my correspondents were not the
best natured kind of men they would all cut me absolutely.

We have had a good deal of sickness lately in town and
very oppressive heat so that lectures were scarce and
one did not feel like doing any thing, when they came;
a cooler day, and Cholera, Cholera infantum etc etc abates at
once and gives me leisure as well as spirit to think of my
too indulgent friends.

Some time ago Col Emory sent me Dr Parry's Report on
Cereus giganteus with the request to publish soon. I have
therefore made up an account of this plant and added
notes on other Californian Cactaceae, for Sillicman's Journal
I enclose it herewith. I would not trouble you with it,
but I wish you would read it through and change the
phonology a little if necessary, and also insure the
correctness of the printing. — See that I get a number
of Extra copies.

It is unpardonable that I have not even acknowledged
the safe arrival of ~~my~~ ^{your} package, *Asclepiadaceae* etc
sent six weeks ^{ago}; as also the big letter with Cactus seeds.
— How do the Cactus seeds with you? Some have germinated
with me especially *Cereus Greggii*, some *Opuntia* etc.
Many of Wright's Cacti sent last summer, are alive
and can be described; some of the best species
however are dead. I hear nothing of him lately —
probably my own fault — not having written to him.
I received your account of Bertoloni's plants,
this is much like Schelle!! And Schelle should have

been converted in the same manner! Both *Cuscuta remotiflora*
and *pubescens* are no doubt = *Cuscuta compacta* Juss.
C. remotiflora is a more slender form (perhaps only younger!)
which I have received from you as related by Dr. Gates on
Pikes Peak! and *C. pubescens* is the form you collected
on the Mountains of N. Carolina! possibly only different
from the other as being older, collected a month or two later!
— the "hippodamiae" is a good one, = horse-staminate; but
even hypostaminate would be a vox byzantina, ought to be
hypostemonus or something like it!

The description shows a want of knowledge of these things, as
they are very verbose to very little purpose.

Not knowing Kunth's account of *Menodora* to be incorrect
I of course put our *Silene* generally distinct. but it may
be as you state, and if George's species No. 44 of which I have
sent you a specimen, is really *Menodora bellanthemoides*, then
all doubts are solved. And it appeared to me that it might be
different and I have named it *M. thymifolia*. — The other plant
of George, No. 527 however is certainly distinct from *M. rubra*
I have sent you only 527 which I believe has no seed, but
No. 498 has ripe seed and leaves no doubt. I enclose
a figure of 44 and seed of 498. together with a description.
Please compare 44 with *Humboldt's figuera* and *Canella*
specimen. you can then decide. the lobes of Corolla
applanate. — *Men. scoparia* breaks a little into
your arrangement, because the calyx is 5-6 parted.

You may send my notes as an appendix to yours
to *Sollum's Journal*, if you think proper.

Dr. Dreis has no doubt delivered to you before
this 2 packages of seed for you and 2 for Hooker,
which please forward, from Lindheimer. Also his plants
of 1851, among which a few interesting things, especially
fine specimens of *Flourensia*. Dr. Dreis is a worthy

and scientific man, who deserves your friendship. I have
also sent the flowers of that fine new *Thymus* (sent by Hooker in a letter)
On the 27th I find time to continue! Thanks for your
liberous copy of *Amtham's* names of N. America. I have
sent Hooker a Copy. — W. You should send Hooker
a Copy of N. *Wrightianae* — Direct! A Fendley, Memphis, Tenn.
He deserves it. —

Supera from New Zealand, with regular anthers, and filaments
and (possibly) numerous ovules can not be identical with
Phoradendron I think.

I should pay Wright something for the seed, and
plants I receive from him and the duplicate *Cacti* which
I expect to retain and distribute, as Col. Graham has
permitted me to do. — How much? and how send to him?
through you probably? — Don't forget me in the
distribution of Wright's plants. — Do you or Lewis
want any of Wright's living *Cacti*? I shall send some
to Prince Salis, perhaps to Berlin? to make some
income for Wright. —

I was delighted to learn that you will now continue
Flora! It is a great desideratum! I hope you will
have leisure to do it. —

Any news in the botanical world? I hear nothing
yet nobody, have neglected all my correspondents
even Brown and I am afraid they repay me
in the same way! —

Among the few plants I cultivate from seed sent
by Wright and Bigelow, (besides *Cacti*) is a *Satureia*
(*S. Metel*?), a *Solanum* very near *theracanthum* (sent
also by Hooker) a *Cuscuta*, still found in *Portulaca*,
Menodora etc. —

I close my dear letter with the best wishes for you
and yours, and with the best promise to the future from me
your ever George Engelmann



Engelmann, George. 1852. "Engelmann, George July 14, 1852." *George Engelmann letters to Asa Gray*

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