

Phil. Dec. 18th 1854.

Prof. Asa Gray, Cambridge.

My Dear Sir,

Your favor of 6th inst. has duly come to hand. I thank you much for your kind remarks and for the error you have pointed out; both are mine. No doubt you will discover many others by perusing it again and you will oblige us to point them out, that the publication of our full report be less faulty.

The great defect of our labor is that we were working separately, whilst another altered and corrected. The whole was done in a great hurry, without having time to revise conjointly, as Dr. Heermann was on the eve of his departure for another exploration and hurried us awfully to deliver all his reports before starting. We were also hurried by the publishing Committee of the Acad. of Sc. who had their journal under press. Besides it was the first attempt of either at describing and writing Latin and we had no time to submit our labor to the revision of competent judges.

From Heermann's notes, I see on the Chart the route followed by the Expedition. Most names are new. It started from Buénicia in the beginning of July, ascended the San Joaquin river to Lake Tule, crossed King's river one of the feeders of that lake; ^{then} the Mohave river and descent to the Californian Colorado which they crossed some 80 miles above its junction to the Gila. Hence they entered the country of the Tejon Indians where they found the Tejon Valley & Pan and farther down the Pimas villages on the Gila river. Posa Creek must have been between the Colorado & Gila. ^{by} Fort Miller, a new Fort, having been a starting point, must be on the San Joaquin river.

I rejoice, my Dear Sir, in the hope to see you soon in Philadelphia. As I know the claims of our friend James upon you, I do not insist upon your accepting a room at my house, but I hope you will not refuse and dinner with James and Dr. Hilgard with whom I am very desirous to make you

acquainted. We will spend our morning in looking over my California
plants and then rest ourselves merrily. Do not refuse on their favor.

Unfortunately I have no fruit in my two small specimens of *Polluxia*.
I see, however, in a flower far advanced the protuding apex of a stigma
which may prove of some service. I shall not touch it before your arrival.

I have discovered another error: The specific name *gambeliana* had
been applied by Whittall to an *Erigeron*, before us. How prolific
is California in the puzzling genus! I have five other specimens different
from the 50 or 60 species which I have in my herbarium & that of the
Academy of Science.

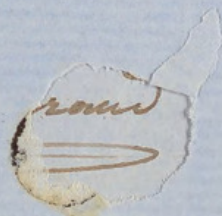
Very respectfully your friend
E. Durand



Prof. A. A. Gray

Cambridge

Warracott





Durand, Elias. 1854. "Durand, Elias M. Dec. 18, 1854." *Elias Durand letters to Asa Gray*

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