

Columbus O. 25 July 1861.

Prof. Asa Gray Cambridge

Dear friend. A few days ago I received
from Mr Sullivant the *Pilces* and the
Glanta Wrightiana (from Cuba) with
your examination of Darwin's theory.
Let me thank you heartily for these
communications, especially for the pleasure
of reading this last review. His most
interesting, indeed and certainly the best
~~that~~ has been written about this so
called new theory. I say so called, because
as though I do my best to find it, I
can not see the difference between Dar-
win's and Lamarck's theories. The struggle
for life is a problem unchangeable for
me except by admitting it as an action
resulting from external circumstances, as
Lamarck will have it. But I am
probably somewhat obtuse in this
matter, as in many others and in any
case it is no worth while discussing
my meaning just now. Let me assure

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you that I have followed your explanation or examination page after page not only with the greatest interest but with great pleasure. Your argumentation is deep, ingenious and witty.

But you know already the value of your contributions to science. Don't you?

It appears certain that the chalk banks of the Mississippi and all the strata containing fossil plants in Tennessee and Mississippi belong to different stages of the tertiary. Now, I have already twelve plates of these fossil plants and all except one *Quercus* and one *Sabineux* belong to genera (and perhaps some of them to species) of our time and of our North America flora. There are ~~many~~ species of *Magnolia* with apparently the same characters as some species of our time. This extraordinary likeness contrast with the great difference of the European tertiary when compared with the ^{actual} flora of the same country. But

the comparison can be established mostly on the flora of Switzerland, ^{and} the peculiar topography of that country may explain the difference. I do not know when I can go to Cambridge. But if you wish to see the plates and compare them yourself with living species, I can send them to you at any time.

I send you a report on Arkansas. It is just out. Perhaps the botanical table may interest you. I am perfectly satisfied of its insufficiency as a matter of science; but perhaps the plan might be followed for other catalogues of this kind and thus by comparison we could by and by fix the geological relation of living plants, if there is any??

W. Gullivant is well and works hard at the Cuban mosses.

Sincerely yours
Geo. Lesqueren



Lesquereux, Léo. 1861. "Lesquereux, Léo Feb. 25, 1861." *Leo Lesquereux letters to Asa Gray*

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