

Enclosed is a letter received lately from the principal of an "Academy". He has been informed where your "Structural & Scientific Botany" can be obtained.

Wilmington Del,
Oct. 5th 1867

Dear Dr. Gray, I have thought somewhat upon the piece of work you ask me to undertake, and while doubting very much my ability to make it what it should be, am willing to try, at least so far as the preliminary observations are concerned. If after this, you or I become convinced that the necessary power is wanting, somebody nearer the mark will have the benefit of my notes and observations so that perhaps the work need not be delayed much. I confess I do not get from your letter exactly the idea

of what is wanted; i.e. whether it is to be strictly scientific or more devoted to the economical uses of our Forest Trees. From what you say about the first chapters I should suppose the former was to be more kept in view. However this can all be arranged in the future. I have first to get matters settled up with M. Lenormand and others with whom I have promised to exchange. I will enter into no more engagements which would be likely to take much time and this will leave me free to make a special study of Forest Trees by which I suppose are ~~meant~~ meant those which are really trees and not shrubs, thus excluding most of the willows

alders, hazels and the like. I am somewhat afraid the Wilmington, N.C. trip will have to be postponed. One thing after another seems to turn up to cause delay. If however the original plan is carried out I will not forget the plants seeds &c wh. you desire.

I notice in new eds of Manual no mention of *Elephantopus tomentosus*, L. If it and *E. Carolinianus*, Willd are forms of the same plant the former name is the oldest and I should suppose thus entitled to the preference.

Ever Truly Yours

Wm M. Canby
over



Canby, William Marriott. 1867. "Canby, William M. Oct. 5, 1867." *William Marriot Canby letters to Asa Gray*

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