

at San Francisco, but it strikes  
me that many of the new species  
described there have been described  
on entirely insufficient data -

Species have been made most  
liberally, certainly - but the reader  
has on hand still a considerable  
amount of undescribed or at  
least undetermined material

We shall move south soon,  
and then go north next spring.

Prof. Whitney is in excellent  
health, and wishes to be  
remembered.

I remain

Yours truly

Wm. H. Brewer  
Address care of Prof. J. D. Whitney  
State Geological Survey  
San Francisco  
Cal.

P.S.

Please tell me which  
you consider the two best  
journals Botanical Journals,  
published in English, French, or  
German - I have ordered some <sup>one</sup> this year

In Camp near San  
Gabriel, S. California Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 81  
Prof. A. Gray

My dear friend

We arrived here  
safely and commenced field  
work about a month ago.

We commenced at Los Angeles,  
and have been there, in the  
Mts of Sierra Monica, and here  
at the base of the Sierra Madre  
near San Gabriel Mission.

This is by far the most  
interesting botanical region  
I have ever seen - the fruits of  
both tropical and temperate  
climes grow in cultivation -  
Apples, pears, apricots, peaches,  
plums, prunes, cherries,  
oranges, lemons, limes, citrons,  
olives, figs, grapes &c - the three  
latter grow peculiarly well.



the grapes finer than I  
have ever seen before. The date  
palm grows, but does not bring  
its fruit to perfection, also  
~~though~~ another palm (*Brachia*  
*dulcis*, Mart. - of the Cape of Rep. on the  
forest trees). A great number  
of introduced plants occur  
around these old Missions,  
(San Gabriel, Los Angeles &c) many  
probably of Spanish origin.

The native vegetation, as  
you know is still more  
interesting. I have collected  
probably 500 or more species in  
flower, some might be called  
late fall species, as composite  
*Solanum* &c - other early  
spring as *Ribes* &c species, *Willow*,  
*Alder* &c - It is the early spring  
time of vegetation, the rains  
have been in progress about  
a month, and this dry region

is fast becoming greener.  
I find more species of  
Ferns than I anticipated in  
such dry places, scarcely any  
Mosses, about 3 or 5 species of  
Cactus (family) about three  
oaks, but two Conifers - This  
of course applies to the region  
actually visited (about 30 to  
40 miles)

These precipitous mountains  
are singularly barren of useful  
species, and not rich in number  
of species I think - but probably  
the number will appear  
much greater on closer  
examination at other seasons.  
April and May probably have the  
largest number of species in  
flower.

I have been looking over (very  
superficially I admit) the  
Reports of the Cal. Acad. of Nat. Sciences



Brewer, William Henry. 1861. "Brewer, William H. Jan. 7, 1861." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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