

Tower Grove, St Louis Aug: 12th 1861

Dear Sir

Complying most cheerfully with your request I have furnished Dr. Short and Dr. Engelman with copies of the names of my Venezuelan Caesalpinieae & Mimosaceae as given by G. Bentham.

In my present situation I am somewhat removed from the excitement of these mournful times, getting the news only 3 times a week through the newspapers.

Alas for our once great and glorious country heretofore the pride and boast of its citizens, foreign-born as well as native. When adjourning in distant countries I felt proud to point out to the inhabitants of those regions that great and prosperous nation of North America, and saw with pleasure their admiration of "the great Republic" and the American people.

Now shattered into two fragments which, I fear, can never be cemented again, and quaking under the horrors of civil war, the European powers may well exult to have one great rival-power less. It is only another instance of the fact, that when ^{in republics} the interests of different sections are so widely different

union can last only for a limited time, and even the greatest and noblest fabric of the wisdom of man thus reared must fall; and notwithstanding our boasted civilization men and their passions are the same as ever, when once aroused by animosity of and strife.

But there remains, as I think, one great consolation to the North: It has namely on its side, and always will have, the prospect of increase of population and power on account of its greater number of small landholders, while the territory of the South is divided into large estates owned by comparatively few landholders. And indeed if it was not for slave-labor these large estates would present the same desolate spectacle as other similarly circumstanced countries in South America if not divided into small free-holds.

In the Southern States the rough and broken strips of country unfit for plantations and peopled by the hardy sons of toil, or in general all the small property holders, constitute there as in South America the real strength of the country. And as soon as this class of people is made to feel that their rights are

curtailed by the large land- and slave-holders so soon will the strength of the latter be gone.

The North has no such dangerous element within itself and I think will fare much better after all.

These are merely a few simple reflections
that cross my mind in looking at the state
of things in this country.

Please don't mind what I recommended in one of my letters not long ago about the dedication of a new genus. I was mistaken in the man. The reason for the present request I will give you some other time. I myself get along so far pretty well.



Fendler, Augustus. 1861. "Fendler, Augustus Aug. 12, 1861 [Fendler to A. Gray]." *Augustus Fendler letters to Asa Gray*

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