

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 11 1884

Dear Doctor May

We have been left alone - my dear good father has gone - We did not think of it - a possibility for years - I little dreamt that the possibility he had would come so true - Last summer - speaking to me on my birthday - July 8th - on the steamer - he said that he had always had the feeling that he would live to the same age and enjoy the same span of life as had been granted my beloved mother - and so Heaven willed it - he granted the wish and father has

regained his voice perfectly - expectorates but little - and that easily - brother without difficulty - when last it happened - that all the he observed and felt that he was improving - when Dr. Robinson came at 10. & received him with a bright smile as the words - "Dr. you were at a time of the night - I never visit -" This was after what I called his worst change - wife and I sat by him all night - expectant death very imminent - occasionally he would utter a "my dear you not gone to bed yet?" - Sunday he sat up all day in a large easy chair - whilst the entire family sat near him terrified - phony - death - rising - this evening was a much

joined that noble mother when
he so adored -

He was taken sick Monday -
Two weeks ago "only one of
those colds which" would pass
off" - he had so often weathered
them - would not listen to our
extraneous for care - and with
Tuesday Jan. 29. was the anniversary
of mother's death - 5 years ago. she
died - shortly before her 75th
birth day - father was unwell -
broken & spirit of sad memories -
yet he would none of our care
and attention. so he worried on
until Friday ev. - after writing
his last letter - to Dr. Perry
and Harard - he told us - to our
great relief - that he would
remain & bed Saturday - that
was Feb. 2. his 75th birth day -

He was like - experiencing fairly - heavy sleep. his
breathing was oppressed - he spoke with difficulty - and
could not sleep & he had not up much of the

night - on the edge of the bed
Saturday am. He seems uncomfortable - he remains in
his room - not & has - sitting up during part of the
time in a chair -

Toward 9 P.M. when preparing to go to bed
he was seized with an intense oppression - struggling
for air - it was a terrible day here - mother -
suffering but with all his good - air - in the
crisis - on night of a panic of mother in because to
assist him - and he was taken care for the first day -

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glorious day - clear and bright
 as day can be - and so was he
 sitting all day in his easy chair
 he ~~shared~~ conversed with friends
 and relatives - cheerful and happy -
 even with Capt. Beudin - who was
 en route for the Smithsonian
 This dying man spoke of his work -
 of the fauna and flora of the
 regions he had left - of his birds
 and eggs - so that he - like all
 others - told me that I was nervous -
 mistaken etc -

The memory of that day - I can
 assure you - is a treasure to us -
 the bright moment when some
 have before the darkness of death
 was a bright day with him -
 But since that day - a gloomy
 mist has hung over us - a

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perfect dense fog - Toward Ten
o'clock in the evening he went
to bed - arranging everything as he
was wont to do. Lamp - water
etc by his bed - directed me to
take his observations - round the
clock etc - some papers which
we could not find he said
"he would hunt up himself
Tomorrow"

From Sunday night at
10 - he lay in his bed - unconscious -
breathing heavy - the redness
rising - and on his bed
side - expecting death every
moment - until dark finally
came to his relief Monday after-
noon at 5.30 after a brief
struggle for "air and light" -
For that he called - God knows -
if there is light - it has come

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to him. And if there is a
coming together in a mother
world. The wish of his heart
is gratified and he has
joined my mother.

Now dear Doctor. I know
that you will be a friend
to me and I beg a little of your
time to advise me as regards
Jathen herbarium.

Did he express his wishes
to you? - please tell me what
he said to you about it.
and what your ideas are.

I have asked some of Dr
Perry. and begged him to come
here. and advise me.

Please confer with him and

Give me your opinion.

Father hesitates between Shaw's
- the Washington University and
Academy of Science - the latter was
his choice. by it did not find aid
sufficient from others -

He left no will - but I knew
his wishes - to further the Academy -
if deserving of an equal amount
is raised by others -

But what shall I do at
present with the Herbarium.

Dad father speak to you of any
one to arrange it?

Pardon me - I have asked enough.
you can appreciate my feelings -

My wife joins me in expressing
of respect and begs to be kindly
remembered to Mrs. Fry -

So, adieu - dear -

Sincerely yours

Geop Engelmann



Engelmann, George. 1884. "Engelmann, George J. Feb. 11, 1884." *George Engelmann letters to Asa Gray*

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