

the absurdity of it.

A young Frenchman M. Bureau has just published as a thesis for his degree of doctor - a detailed paper on *Loganiaceae* with very careful details as to the genera he could examine. He follows you in rejecting most of them into *Rubiaceae* - I have no objection provided you leave none behind and suppress the order altogether.

A half vol of *J.C. Prod* is to appear very soon with *Polygonum*, *Proteaceae* and *Mypsiaceae*.

I have been very hard at work of late - Spurr's plants give me a great deal of trouble. I only wish I had time to describe some of the very curious things he has sent. *Optandra* *stilis* is *Raietaria* of which one species is *Heisteria tubicola* Popp. - *Erismus* (among *Boehmeria*) has a large winged fruit like a *Dipterocarpaceae*. The tree *Leguminosae* of the upper Rio Negro, one very numerous and beautiful.

I have had to work up the *S. American* *Demodia* I am afraid ^{one or two} ~~some~~ of your *West* *American* ones are more varietal specimens tropical only.

With kindest remembrances to Mr. Gray
I remain ever yours most sincerely
George Engelmann
at the end of the month but remain in England all the summer & come to work again in

And -

91 Victoria Street 74
Westminster
July 2 1858

My dear Gray

It is a very long while since I have written to you but in addition to the lagging in correspondence which has grown upon me since I left Portia, I have an additional difficulty this time in writing to you - which is that I must confess my new the discovery of which has most intensely disgusted me - so I may as well begin at once and make a clean breast of it. If there was one thing I thought myself more certain of than any other botanical investigation it was about the structure of the flowers of *Arachis* and *Styloranthus* and so much so that I have been led into some sharp observations about those who differed from me - and now I find that I am all wrong! On the occasion of doing the *Leguminosae* for Martius, Horst Braconier & soaked and examined an immense number of gills of *Styloranthus* from their earliest stage of development and although I always found fecundated ovaries very different in the shape of their short style from the

base of the style in the unopened or
just expanded flowers yet after some time
I succeeded in tracing as Mr. Wender has
done in Anacardis the change from the
one to the other - the moment the style
breaks off the lower fragment curves
back and forms at the end of it what I
always took for a thickened *cobla stigmatis*
papilla but which is a mere callus
which examined under the microscope
shows no stigmatic papilla and I
as I am to be convinced of my gross error
I must gulp it down and beg of you to
do amends honorable ^{forme} to Mr. Wender in
any way and in my publication you
may think proper - It will be a lesson
for me never to be positive again.

You will have received long ago
this the second part of the Linnean
Journal - the third is printing I
have nothing to do with the editing
which is all in Bennett's hands but
now that once the thing is settled
he has taken to it zealously. As it is
as it were a child of mine and Mr. Hooker
and myself had much hard work to get
it established I feel very anxious for
its success. I have got a few copies
taken on the Continent and I take reviews
myself which I give to some who can't
buy but still as they give to all the
subscribing fellows of the Society

(which I did not contemplate) the col-
is as yet but small and I sincerely hope
you will get a few more taken on
your side of the water. I have
paid for the year for those copies
you ordered and will send you the
account with that for a set of
proven plants I am now distributing
The Linnean Society has just
made a move in obtaining rooms
in Muttonington House Piccadilly from
Government. We shall be there in
so much better a situation that that
alone independently of the being new
free well I hope be of great importance
to us.

You may have observed that
I have in various publications
strongly supported Sabais views on
to wheat being a cultivated form
of *Egilops ovata* - this has just
had a further confirmation by
Professor Henslow's experiments. He
has been carefully sowing *Egilops*
ovata and now the third year
two stalks have shot up assuming
the *tritium* form - notwithstanding
the contrary (and often contradictory)
arguments by which Godron and
others and now Jordan demonstrate



Bentham, George. 1856. "Bentham, George July 2, 1856." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/226393>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/261122>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.