

St. Louis, Mo.,

Dec 27

1876

Dear Gray

Notwithstanding your good wishes we had a sad Christmas or none at all. The day after I wrote, George wounded himself in a post mortem examination with a penknife in a peritonitis case, and has been very sick ever since - only today I can say that the danger is - seems to be - passed.

I was of course unable to do any thing else during those 10 days, and am pretty much worn out now. But things will come right again, I hope, in a few days, and then we will talk Conifers again. - What else would you want of sketches of Junip. Virg.? I can send you all the former ones, I have made, of male flowers, leaves etc, and let you select whatever you may have use for.

I have never looked at Cupressus - deferred it till I was done with the others; but your cone is note worthy. A form of Cupressus fastigiata has still stronger knobs. Their evolution, early stages, and of possible monstruities must be studied.

The scale in Taxodium is distinct enough, more so in the allied Agavea, and remarkably so (palmate!) in Cryptomeria; very indistinct in Cunninghamia, though all these evidently belong together.

Tell Mr Wilson, that there 4 weeks
of grace or reprieve are more
than I dared to expect - and that,
des volente, I shall be on hand.

I had a good long letter from Hooker,
thanks to you probably; he must be
terribly over run with work, so that it seems
almost a sin to crowd more on him.
Hooker speaks of coming over again
and of the possibility to make a
trip westward together - but I suppose
that is more a *fagon de parler*, or
perhaps a wish, than a settled purpose.

Yours ever

J. Engelman

I have been once only out of the house,
must be very careful; Mr Trumble
with George set me back some.



Engelmann, George. 1878. "Engelmann, George Dec. 27, 1878." *George Engelmann letters to Asa Gray*

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