

whether go west again, to these
tempting Arizona Mountains
or east, to Europe! My
time of life is getting short and
my strength and ability to work
will not last very long — therefore
I thought to be used to the very
best purpose — the ever true
story of the Sibylline books!

Could you get in Europe
good material for the Catalpa study?
We want flower and fruit of
Catalpa Bungei — Kaempferi you
cultivate yourself — of the other
we want good specimens.

I shall make a little package of
Quercus Castanea and Vitis & Quercus
seeds for Dr Hooker, though I suppose
Sargent may have sent the latter;
please remember me to him
and especially to Mrs Gray,
who will be pleased (?) to recognize
your New England snow storm in Old
England!

yours ever
G Engelmann

St Louis Jan 31 1880

Dear Gray

How it was possible not to
write you in 6 months can only be
accounted for by the tamale skin,
Sargent's restless rest and energy put
us under; he perhaps told you himself
that he rarely took or allowed us
more than "5 minutes" for any
thing; but he begins to feel the con-
sequences — says himself that being
"demonized" about the things
left undone, the too great hurry and
the unsatisfactory outcome. But I
am afraid, indeed I knew it, that
you and Hooker would have been
worse travelling companions — the
"5 minutes" of Sargent would have
been reduced to 2 or 3, I fear.

Well, with all that, we had a
glorious time; all the little incon-
veniences, troubles and mischances
are forgotten long since and the satis-
faction and after enjoyment only remain,
tempered however, very naturally with the
regret that not all that might have
been done, was accomplished!

My health has improved wonderfully
and I stand this cold and miserable

writer better than any writer
since 10 years, I must add, however,
that I am more careful than I
used to be in younger years.

Your kind letter, written before you
left, was received in San Francisco,
but the one which "you hoped to
write soon" never came. I have
however seen a letter you wrote to
Sargent lately and heard also through
Hooker of your doings in Spain
and France.

You have heard of our doings
through Sargent. He left about
the middle of October and I remained
about six weeks longer, partly in the
rich vineyards (not forgetting the
wine presses and wine cellars)
north of San Francisco, often
with my cousin H. Gaud, and
partly in the southern part of the
State, with Perry, often indulging
in my Cactus fancies, not rarely
to the detriment of clothes and outside.

I am home now since 2 months,
but am still unsettled - Things not
fully arranged yet - Time partly
taken up by patients, who will
not forget me - a pleasant satis-
faction, but sometimes inconvenient.

I hope soon now to be able to begin
the study of some of the more important
of our collections, especially the
Conifers and the oaks, which will
give ^{the} more trouble the more I
see of them; the simplicity of the
former arrangements would hold
out - as you probably have also
found in Aster and Solidagos. By
the way I have collated a lot of
them, which I hope will be useful
to you when you come back.

So you are going to visit
Italy with Hooker. I wish I
could be with you! And I
am not sure that such a thing
is impossible - I hesitate
between remaining here and working
in a killing summer heat, or
travelling - and if travelling,



Engelmann, George. 1880. "Engelmann, George Jan. 31, 1880." *George Engelmann letters to Asa Gray*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/227886>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/255822>

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

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>.