

36
Pontrilas House Hereford
Sept 17 1849

My dear Sir

I received two days since
your letter of the 26th Nov with
some prospectus of Stanton Field
Lerionae. a parcel of Torrey's
Leguminosae and a copy of your
beautiful General illustration. I
do sincerely wish this truly
valuable work may succeed so as
to enable you to carry it through
and will do anything in my power
to promote it. Unfortunately
things go on but badly for
science in Europe. Revolutions
have wintered with individual
fortunes on the Continent that
no one will buy anything and
in England we have next to
no working botanists. You

see how Hooker has been obliged
to cut down his journals - Every thing
must be cheap and popular - Science
is too dull and won't sell.

Coulter's Mexican POZ appears to me
to all intents congener to many Cape
Hermannia. I have had the species
a long time - a garden specimen given
to me by Delile under the name
of Hermannia brachyloba Delile
identical with Coulter's - but I can
find no record of the name published
free in *Humboldt & Hermannia inflata*
see Lindl & Otto from Mexico but
where published I cannot tell - pro-
bably in some journal of gardening
in Germany. I have not Lindl &
Otto's *Abbildungen* but in the lists
of plants there figured there is
no Hermannia. - The genus of
Oreol is unknown to me authentically
but I believe it to be nothing but
the common S.W. Mexican Melochia
(Riccia) *inflata* figured by HBK
as *Mongotia inflata* which when ripe
has the calyx much inflated. Your

Pezom plant is of course congener to
Coulter's POZ and must be considered
as a Hermannia unless that genus is
modified - At present there is no
positive distinction between Hermannia
& Makheria but an excessive
confusion among the numerous
forms of both - What one calls
Makheria another calls Hermannia
& vice versa without any body
having been at the pains of pointing
more than one or two species.

I have almost done looking
through Torrey's paper and
shall return it in a few days
to the care of Chapman of
the Strand with the three
sheets of St. Hester I have
pointed. I am at a stop now
before so pressed for the
Mexican Flora which I very
unwillingly undertook
to finish

Yours very truly
George Dontham



Bentham, George. 1849. "Bentham, George Jan. 17, 1849." *George Bentham letters to Asa Gray*

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