

Came back from Washington Jan 21st

St Louis Jan 12 1868

J^r E Palmer

Dear Sir

Your welcome
letter dated Dec 25 was received
a week ago, and a few days after
both boxes arrived in good con-
dition. You have surprised
me by the richness of your
collection - pity that there are
mostly only single specimens of
the dried plants. Most of them
are not new, having been
described in Plante Therberiense
and in the Boundary Botany,
but nevertheless very valuable.
I was much pleased with my
first and hasty look at them.

The Cacti, you will have
noticed are mostly dead.
Some of the living ones have been
sprouting in the box (coming
through the tropics, I suppose)
which will also kill them; but
some will survive, I hope.
The Cactus seeds and some other



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

cm

copyright reserved



MO

are valuable and have
pleased me much — they will
be distributed here and in Europe.

The case of *C. giganteus* you
mentions in your letter, I failed
to get.

Please give me an idea of
the geography or rather topography
of the country, you made your
collections in.

And when were they made?
all in 1867? Or any also
in 1866.

Where and what is Wallen
often mentioned — where camp
Grant — What are the principal
localities you collected in, and
what their geographical position

I was delighted to find print
of that Yucca called Sete,
which is often mentioned in the
boundary report and figured repeatedly.
Does the figure (e.g. on sketch
N. 42 of Dr. Schott's in first vol
of Boundary Commission Report —
or that in Capt Whipple's Pacif. Rail
R. report vol III pag 121) correspond



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

cm

copyright reserved



MO

with what you have seen? Unfortunately
the leaf and flower of which you speak
in your note, attached to the fruit, is
not in the collection. — Well, we will
be able to cultivate your plant from
your seed, though it will take 20
years at least, to make any thing
of it. ^{how long the leaves? serrate, smooth edged, or}
^{fibrous on edge?}

Do judge, from your letter, that
many plants have been injured
by moisture — pity! but
send them on — after drying — never
theless, there may be important
things among them.

I am arranging & classifying
your plants presently. I probably
will take them, and the old collection
of 1865 with me to Cambridge
where I expect to be in April
and work them up — finally —
with the aid of Prof Gray's ^{aiding} herbarium
and library.

Let me know at once, if
there are more (the wet)
specimens coming — for I
want to have labels printed
— so that I may the number of labels



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

cm

copyright reserved



MO

necessary.

You do not give me your direction
I therefore send to Prof. Board
because I expect he will know
your whereabouts.

Did you get my letter in
Arizona last Spring and
Summer?

What are you after now?
I shall be much pleased
to see you here, and question
you a good deal about all
these plants.

Very truly yours

J. Engelman

How is it that no Pines are
in your collection? Do they not
occur in Southern Arizona?



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

cm

copyright reserved



MO

St Louis Jan 8 1870

My dear Doctor Palmer

I had just returned from an 18-month tour in Europe, when I received from our friend Parry a fine fruit of a Cactus, sent by you, and was thus ^{continued} practically reminded of your zeal, activity and success in botanical and cactological investigations, though I had heard before already of your repeated expeditions into the fertile (fertile in botanical novelty) regions of the south west.

I had taken the seeds sent by you two years ago, with me to Europe and distributed them there, but unfortunately many or most of the most interesting ones were gathered before maturity and would not germinate; but they showed to the lovers of this

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm

copyright reserved



MO

family of plants, what might be expected from that region. Some of the most common ones, that appear blossomed Opuntia growing near the forts, with spiny fruit, was much desired but all the seeds unripe, and so on. *Cereus giganteus* is still a great desideratum, and as to *C. Thurberii* and *Schottii*, they are not any where in cultivation.

The fruit sent to me by Dr Parry bears the number 70 but no notes or memoranda accompanied it.

I wish you would give me as full information about the plant as you can, for I mean to publish it under your name: *Cereus Palmeri*, as it is decidedly distinct from any thing we have heretofore had from that region.

The fruit is oval, over 2 inches long and beset with numerous areoles which bear no scales as far as I can find, but bunches of short stout spines sometimes 6-8 in number. The seed is larger than any of the known Arizona *Cerei*, and the embryo



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

cm

copyright reserved



MO

has strongly hooked cotyledons.

Fruit and seed justify me
in considering the plant a distinct
species.

Where does this *Cereus Palmeri* grow,
how does it grow, what its dimensions,
number of ribs, distance of
branches of spines, number and size
of spines — What the flower —
the time of day when flower is open,
colour, fragrance etc; shape and
size of flower, stigma etc — Fruit
edible? colour? etc etc —

I hope to hear from you
direct or through Dr Parry
to whom I send this letter
as I do not have your direction.

Very truly yours

Engelmann

Letters directed to me at St Louis
reach me safely.



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

cm

copyright reserved



MO

sent to the Parry to
forward till we know
where you are

C. C. Parry



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

cm

copyright reserved



MO