

Rec^d March 10th
Clear sunny day

U. S. Engineer Office.

(EXPLORATIONS WEST OF THE 100th MERIDIAN.)

P. O. Lock Box No. 93.

Washington M. D. C., 1873.

Dr Geo Engelmann

Dear Sir, I in the

course of travel in Arizona in 1871 my attention was attracted to the mistletoes that so abound there, and as it appears likely that I shall visit New Mexico and Arizona this year it has occurred to me that I might, if I knew the present state of knowledge in regard to them, make some observations and collections that would be useful. My own special work is in geology, but I think that by confining myself to one family I may ^{find time to} perhaps accomplish a little as a layman in botany. Dr. Vasey of the Agricultural Bureau tells me that you have special interest in these parasites & I am hence emboldened, though a stranger, to apply to you for information as to the questions to be solved in regard to the mistletoes. Perhaps you can answer one question that has presented itself to me



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already. The type which I find labelled in
herbaria Arceuthobium appears to attach to
conifers exclusively, while Phoradendron I never
saw on them. In like manner each genus —
Juniperus, Pinus, Abies, Quercus, Populus
Prosopis, Cercocarpus — appeared to bear a
distinct kind of Mistletoe, and I asked myself,
~~was~~ in vain, whether these differing forms
were really distinct species or races, or whether
one or two species exhibited constant individual
variation dependent on the stock upon which
they engrafted themselves.

Begging the favor of a response at
your convenience — I am

Yours truly

W. N. Gilbert

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