

Rec^d Dec 17th

Am Feb 16

Young my

Doct Engelmann
St Louis

Houston Texas
Dec 19th

My dear Doctor

A severe attack of
illness has prevented my acknowl-
edging the kindness of your letter
& the accompanying paper on
Lactaceae. I don't know that I
shall ever be able to master the
thorny subject but shall try.

Good Doct Watson has sent me a
microscope by whose aid of which
I hope to get along a little better
in the future. Is it the seed
or roots of the white oak that you
want? My father has given a
man in the country an order for
the acorns, but we will send roots
also if you desire them. Will you



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please tell me what Yuccas
you have. We have the aloefolia,
filamentosa, & gloriosa, all of which
I will send you immediately if you
have not got them. There is a
beautiful species in Austin,
growing more like the Tampara grass.
In fact in walking through the
garden & glancing at it carelessly
I thought it some splendid variety
of South American grass. but
found it to be a Yucca. The
leaves are about half an inch
wide & from five to seven feet
long, the edges finely serrated,
caudex not more than half a foot.
I did not see it in bloom but was
told that the scape was some five
or six feet, bearing an immense
number of white waxy flowers.
Do you know this species? The lady
promised to save me some seed. I shall

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GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS



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write to her, if she has preserved
them, will send them to you. If
I fail in getting the seed, will
endeavor to procure you a root.
Our dear old friend Dr Buckley is
living a few miles from Austin, cul-
tivating a small farm, & is, I fear
from appearances, in poverty, which
is a disgrace to Texas. It was a shame
that they passed over such a man to
bestow upon me, a woman, the place
of State Botanist, but a greater shame
that they refuse him compensation for
past services, a debt of several thousands
of dollars, that would be such a help
to him now. We hope better things
from the in coming legislature, & then
I hope the Professor will have justice
done him. I feel unworthy to unlace
his shoe latchet as a botanist, would be
glad to know the things that he has
forgotten, but had I refused the honor

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P.S. Hope you
work on Botany
sent you
the little

they would not have given it to him, &
tho' as I told Dr Watson there was a
"broad gap" in the class" between
me & Dr Buckley, yet a knowledge
of Botany is at such a low ebb in
our state, that I felt without vanity
that I stood next, so when the Governor
asked me if I would have it. I thank-
fully said, yes, & shall try by hard
study, to grow each day more capable.
I have no herbarium. The insects in this
state are so numerous & troublesome that it's
almost an impossibility to preserve specimens.
Dr Linnicum sent me his for inspection,
but it was a sepulcher of dust, scarcely
a bone. A learned German doctor of Berlin
Braunfels to whom I wrote, said his plants
had all met the same fate, that he could do
nothing that would conquer the bugs. Hoping
to hear from you I remain Very Truly
yours
Wm J Young



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