

Rec<sup>d</sup> Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

Am Feb 16

Young Mrs

Doct Engelmann  
St Louis

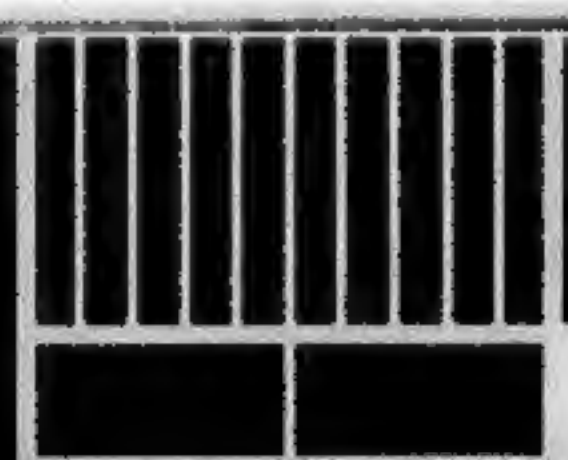
Houston Texas

Dec 19<sup>th</sup>

My dear Doctor

A severe attack of illness has prevented my acknowledging the kindness of your letter & the accompanying paper on *Bactacae*. 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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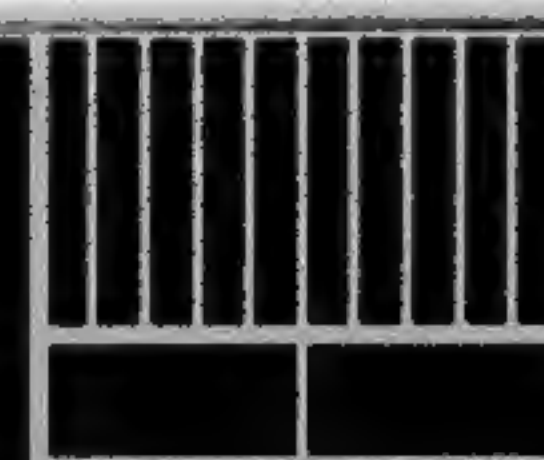


MISSOURI  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN



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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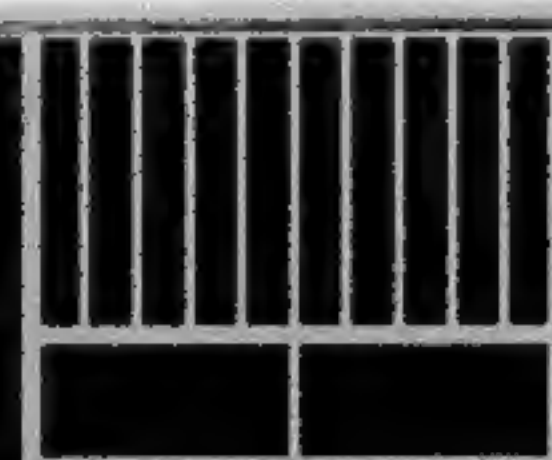
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write to her, if she has preserved  
them, will send them to you. If  
I fail in getting the seed, will  
endeavor to procure you a root.

Our dear old friend Dr Buckley is  
living a few miles from Austin, cul-  
tivating a small farm, viz, I judge  
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 incoming legislature, when  
I hope the Professor will have justice  
done him. I feel unworthy to unloose  
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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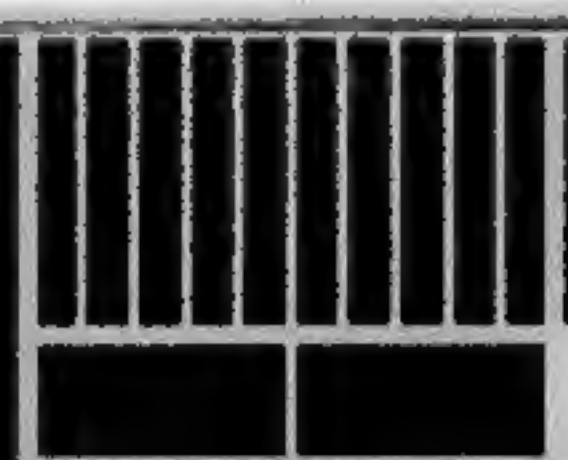


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P.S. Hope you  
work on Botany & send me  
sent you. ~~the little~~

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 Lincicum 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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