My dear Colonel,

Our friendly as well as our official intercourse has suffered somewhat since the Atlantic separates us, and I have not known whether the fault lies entirely at my door, though I confess that I am too far from the need to blame. I received your letter of Jan 20th in due time, and ought one would have answered it had and expected further news from your engraver to whom I wrote about your design. I was delayed by them, then did not hear from you in answer to mine of Jan 19th and it got into these bad ways of which I hope it is not too late now to redress by this remittance.

Now let me tell you that I and my engraver have done these 6 months.

The number of plates is 75, I have left at St. Louis, one of which was finished last fall, of the other one I have not heard.

2 plates were missing at the time I was in Washington, but you had the others, done in New York, and would use them in case of necessity.

1 plate was in the hands of Longuel and almost finished by him in November last.

4 plates were left by me in your office for Longuel.
36 plates I took with me to Europe.

75 plates.

Grandpapa the best botanical engravers here, Mlle. Tasselé has been employed by Prof. Pyck. I am sure you will now see how I could not conveniently undertake another job through the first botanist and editor of the first history here (W.M.) have become acquainted with several engravers have been recommended to me, two of which undertook my work as I wrote to you in December last. The two brothers Pirain have been the most industrious faithful but altogether the most moderate in their charge.

Mr. Schmelt has neglected me somewhat; the latter only 4, in Berlin I found a very good engraver Mr. Weber, who has been busy; a second has promised for the 8 single plates - a second hand promised for the first week in July 1, but has not come to hand yet.

I have since found 2 other engravers here willing to undertake our work, Mr. Davesne and Mr. Rebron. To each of these I have given two plates.

We therefore stand now thus...
Pisart has finished 8 plates
Schmutz 4
Weber 1

13 plates finished
of which I send you proof sheet.

Pisart has now in his hand 4 plates.
Schmutz 3 plates
Weber 1 almost done
Javesne 2
Rebuffet 2

15 plates
which leaves are my hand 8

36 plates.

The plates in the hands of the engravers will do they promise me be finished in 3 months the remaining 8 plates could be finished in 6 weeks to 2 months more.

Now if you can obtain your permission I will hand them over these remaining plates also.

I would not have ventured to have returned the whole business in my hands, and still less to ask for a further delay at a further trust in the advice of men of science, and still better the proofs of which have been accomplished thus far.
I send you herewith the proofs of 18 engraving plates, which I trust will be found by you as well as by all who are judges of their superior merit, and fully equal to the beautiful drawings of Mr. Cochran. The work executed in this style will rank among the first in its line, as it will be an honor to the country and highly commendable to the few which it contains.

In answer to your letter of Jan. 20th I believe I have a right to construe it as asking if there was any argument on your part, especially when it is taken in connection with the superior engraving are to those of Longacre and with all that the proof does not reach his price and to his usual limit.
2) I have to pay for the 6 first plates for the 2 other steel plates.

I am charged for this 4 plates $8.50.

2 plates double steel plate.

Wolfe for his 2 plates: 100 pounds. Then

375

25.75

9.00 for 14 plates or for each 75/2

Then will be added the expense of transporting of lettering and my expenses.

You have recommended me to make contracts legally binding with the engravers. My intercourse with them, and my eagerness among men of standing here, who are fair men with them has proved to me the impossibility of proceeding with them in that way; they consider themselves as artists and as such they are. It will not bind themselves by contracts who would consider themselves dishonored by such bonds, and whom you will have to take just as they take your word about the payment. Not one of them has asked me for a security — and so I consider myself bound to pay them from my own pocket, as I have, through my own negligence, no funds from you for that purpose. I have advanced the above amount, with the exception of 50 pounds, which
shall pay as soon as the money for the second plate is delivered to me.

You ask me how to send the draft and the vouchers.

Please send me a duplicate or triplicate bill of exchange (in Frankfurt on the Maine which you will get at Cornoan’s payable there at sight or soon after for the above amount and send it directed to Mr. George Engelmann, Frankfurt on the Maine, Germany. And it will safely reach me. By the next mail you may send a duplicate of the 2nd you may retain till you again hear from me. Have the bill made payable to my order.

The vouchers please to send through Judge Mason to Mr. Fleischman, Soule, Des Haliers No. 27, whom I will instruct what to do with them, after I have left him please to send along a “form” on which they must be filled. We will attend to that business, and return them to the judge.
Now to another business. Heavy as the expense of the drawing and engraving is, by far the heavier expense will be the printing.

I do not know at what it will cost in Washington or New York, but I know for all I can learn that a very expert and careful printer and very good paper is necessary to make the large number of impressions even from steel plates, that is required. Rougher paper or a less expert printer would ruin a steel plate with 4 or 5,000 impressions, while a good one could take 20,000. To Jan first Prof. Osborn recommended a printer to me,—Mr. J. G. Gros, who has made the following offer:

1,000 sheets of one plate, 12 x 18, of two plates each.

Paper No. 1. The lightest kind of paper which would weigh about 56 #

1,000 sheets of 2 plates each would weigh about 56 #

and would cost 50 paces $9.50

0.95

printing 100 = 9.50

1,000 sheets of 2000 plates $28.50

Missouri Botanical Garden
George Engelmann Papers

56.50

Weight of paper Cost of paper + printing together

No. 1. about 40 # 100 = 1.25 paces 19.00 19.00 19.00 19.00 28.50

2. 56 50 = 9.50 100 19.00 155 28.50

3. 64 10.45 100 19.00 155 29.45

He has also submitted to me a print in brown with the same size as the black if desired, at the same price as the black print. You will observe that the steel plates are all double, so that the printing is heavier.
expense of all is reduced to nearly one half.

I have no doubt that the printing and paper is
so good dead cheaper here than in the U.S. States.

In all our presses are assured of business, it
would be done much more expeditiously there.

Suggesting therefore the possibility of your considering
adopting this course. I have the plates here
in Paris, prepared for a sea voyage if
you desire order it so, or ready to be printed
here if you prefer it. In that case however they
would have to be lettered first, which I would
have done at no great expense. The engravers
themselves never do this here. I understood

I shall leave them in the safe of Mr. Fleischmann
who is well acquainted with such things. I
will take good care of them. I propose him
to these changes, who is able to be recalled
for other things, to engrave his name and to
Consult. I learned he has just resigned and gone
home.

There will be about the payment of painting and
dying expenses to about $500 per plate, and the printing of 4000
plates (best paper) or 4000 (of the inferior kind)
plates will not cost $1 as much. As can
make your calculations, you see that paper
will still more the printing is the main item in a
large edition, and not the engraving, even the
best.
I believe, my dear Colonel, that I have made up my mind to my report and the minuteness of my details. I hope you will send me soon and I hope to get good news for you by next mail.

And now permit me to ask a few questions. How does the other part of my work progress? How does the second model plate stand? Is the printing of my report done? How is your depot general program? How is your Map History part? I have so much identified with the whole detail survey that I feel a natural interest — all these questions. And how do their maps progress? The four first which you gave me some copies to take along have created general attention among men of science, especially as works of art as an account of their value for the knowledge of that part of the globe's surface. I have left copies with the geographical societies of Frankfurt, Berlin, other places and with Baron von Humboldt, who expressed...
asking further with your name and am highly pleased with the work. Will you send me copies of the maps? I desire to distribute them to the same bodies - or do you prefer to send the sheet?

And do me the favor to send me a copy of my Report and of the engravings as far as they are out - also of the other scientific Report.

Any thing directed to me at Frankfurt - the maine will reach me. You may send it there or enclose to the change here. Give my respects to Mr Schott. I shall write to him shortly.

Very sincerely yours,

J. Englemann
Washington July 28, 1857

My dear Mr. Engelmann,

Your welcome letter of the 8th July reached me today, with a package containing proofs of the impressions of the Paris engravings, which are truly beautiful, excelling those done in the same place for Dorsey, and excelling those done by Duygel in Georgetown. How are we to pay for them and to whom? With those done for Dorsey we have had everlasting trouble. In the first place the money has been advanced according to the suggestion of Dorsey, but I have to account for this at the Treasury of the U.S. I have yet received no vouchers which will be acceptable in liquidation of my advances. Yet worse! The plates themselves which it is averred were placed in the hands of M. Bailleure, Merchant in Paris have never been received by you. You must therefore not be surprised to see I am a little nervous upon the subject of having work done at such a distance. Trust however...
in your business habits not to bring me into the same intrigue. I now suffer with Sonnys Parris ease.

Your report has long since been printed and some dozen copies sent you through the Dept of State directed to you at Frankfurt on the Maine.

I also gave two copies of yr report to Baron Crofl, who sailed for Europe about the time it was completed. Gray corrected the second proof—ever page passing through his hands to the Printer, so I hope you will find it done to yr entire satisfaction.

In a few days Donnal will finish his 36 plates, and I have directed M. Nichler to send you proofs.

The failure to receive the teipt which was forwarded a short time after you sailed gives me little hope, however, that you will receive promptly any package larger than a letter.

The first Vol of my report is finished and
a few copies round up for distribution without
the maps which will be completed till the end
of October. When the whole edition will be issued.
My present expectation is to join my Rst in Acto,
and every thing not finished by that time must
be left to blind charies, so you see how anxious
I am to put the house in order by that time.
If ever had been as prompt and business like as I trust
yourself, I should be able to leave things states
perfectly.

But I fear I am digressing without answering
all your queries. The printing of the Report is not
in my hands, it is done by the Pub. Printer, under
an order of Congress. And if the Care Printers prefer
to do the work for nothing, still the plates must come
here and pass into the hands of the printer of Pub. Off.
before they can be touched, except for the purpose of
taking the necessary proofs. Therefore it is not necessary
to entertain the subject of printing abroad.

As regard to the eight plates yet to be placed in
hand, please put them out at once and notify
me into whose hands they go.
If Mader will send you by the same mail which carries this, a check on Paris for the plates already done. Please obtain the plates when paid for and send them by Adams & Co Prep or any other reliable prep Co, and give the office notice by letter.

Sincerely that you should receive this letter without fail I direct a copy to be made out and sent to Paris to the care of our Consul. By the way, I sent on the 1st of this month to W. Duncan R. McRae, our Consul in Paris, a check in favor of Attorneys for 887 frs. And Bouchers for him to sign which Bouchers also covered other payments for which no Receipts Could be obtained amounting to 3187 frs. A few days since W. McRae arrived here.

Should you hear in Paris when the duplicates of this reaches you, please call on W. P. Waiters who is acting in McRae’s place and ask him to give it his attention.

With great regard,

F. E. Emory
Frankfort on the Maine
Dec 15th 1857

My dear Colonel,

Five months have elapsed since I have told you that a number of plates (I believe it was 10) were finished, with a good deal of mortification I add that only 5 more have been finished by this time though I have employed additional force.

I have kept these plates in Paris with the hope of sending them together with a few others, then in a state of forwardness about the end of August or beginning of September but repeated corrections to be made distance from the engravers delay by them etc have deferred these till now.

They have now been sent from Paris by Mr. Heischmann, whose kind assistance I have had and hope will arrive soon after this letter.

They are the following:
Note 7. 14. 16. 28. 70. 71. 74. 75 by Piart

2. 43. 44. 45 by Schmel

32. 33 by Lavesne

51. 52 by Weber.

16 plates on 8 steelplates are yet in the hands of the engravers, as I am assured, partly finished. I feel bad about them. I must confess, if they have finished 16 only within one year, how will they get along with 18 in a few months? for the first six months, to be sure, I had only 2 engravers, but they have done those in that time, than they have completed since.

I have again thought of your first instruction in regard to written contract. But on further inquiry I am assured that in such works of art it is next to impossible to force a contract, I must confess that I am at a loss to know how to proceed. I write oftener to go and see those men personally, they report progress, speak of delay, sickness, ask further time etc.

I have sent you in July last some impressions of plates they finished,
lettering with the existing marks in pencil, for your engravers, who should do all the lettering in an uniform manner. I give now to the Consul General here impressions of the plates since finished with the lettering in pencil, to be sent to you. I hope they are all correct and complete — so that no delay may occur from this cause.

The other day I got a letter from Mr. A. Connors, the engraver at St. Louis (which had been laying in Washington, P.O., for me, nearly one year) referring to the plate then nearly finished in his hands. Some friendly hand put the letter on train to reach me. I have requested Mr. Connors to send the plate at once to you, and hope you have got it. It is plate 36. Cercus viridiflorus.

I forgot to say that since I wrote you last I got two copies of the letterpress of my Report sent by you in spring. I believe, I found them here both the Consul General, Mr. Ricker, The other and larger parcel has never come to hand, now have I seen any copies of my report in Capt. Whipple's N.A. expedition, which I understand is out long since.

I have sold about 1000 pairs
for the Cash plates 32. 33. 34. 35 and cost on your draft - exchange, commission &c. also some 2500 francs paid for transportation packing etc. something like 40 or 50.

I pay these amounts from my own funds hoping to be reimbursed without difficulty - as you did in regard to those 2,580 francs - only.

But I would ask whether it would not be better to open a credit for me, or send me some amount from which I could pay the engravers? If this is not feared, the however, I am willing to continue in the present way.

The copy of your letter of 1st Dec reached me only in November, while the letter sent direct by mail was in my hands by the middle of August! No search for causes and diplomatic ways!

My letter of Sept 1st have no doubt reached you and Lord Muckler I trust.

Give my respects to Lord Muckler who I hope continues well and active in the boundary office and with his means? Do you need with more expeditions work there, with your engravers?

Very respectfully and truly yours,

J. Engelmann