

Gray

Washington May 9th - 1849

Dear Sir

Yesterday morning

I received yours of April 25th and hasten to communicate to you the few and unimportant suggestions which have occurred to me concerning the work upon which you are engaged.

I spent my early life almost literally in the woods; a large portion of the territory of Vermont was, within my recollection, covered with the natural forest; and having been personally engaged to a considerable extent in clearing land, and manufacturing, and dealing in lumber, I have had occasion both to observe and to feel the evils resulting from an injudicious system of managing woodland and the products of the forest.

I conceived some years since the idea of writing an essay or a volume on the subject - not an arborescence -