Notes of a military reconnoissance, from Fort Leavenworth, in Missouri, to San Diego, in California, including part of the Arkansas, Del Norte, and Gila rivers [House Report: Ex. doc. no.: 41] /By Lieut. Col. W. H. Emory. made in 1846-7, with the advanced guard of the "Army of the "West"

Washington :Wendell and Van Benthuysen,1848.
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last, but forming 'low wide spreading bushes.'" Joints more slender, only about 4 or 5 lines in diameter, alternating (not opposite nor verticillate,) forming with the stem an acute angle, suberect, tubercles more prominent, ærolæ whitish at their lower edge, with 3 dusky deflexed spines; fruit clavate, tuberculate, pale yellow, 1 inch long, 4 lines in diameter.

I believe this to be an undescribed species, and would propose the name for it of O. Californica.

12. *Opuntia.* "October 10th, 1846, abundant," 3 feet high, with spreading branches, the same in circumference.

I can see no difference between this figure and a plant which I have received from El Passo, by Dr. Wislizenus, and which I have described in his report under the name of *O. vaginata.*

Nos. 13—15 are no cacti. In 13 I recognise the *Kœberlinia zuccarini,* a shrub common in the chaparals of northern Mexico, which has been collected in flower about Parras and Saltillo, by Drs. Wislizenus and Gregg. The fruit is unknown so far; the specimen figured is however in fruit; the berry (?) is globose, $\frac{3}{4}$—1 line in diameter, crowned with the rudiment of the style. It was collected October 23d, 1846, and is described as a shrub 3 feet high, with low spreading boughs.

14. Collected "November 15, 1846. 4 feet high, rare," is perhaps another species of the same genus, but the entire absence of flower or fruit make it impossible to decide.

Branches similar, straight, leafless, ending in robust dark spines; but much elongated and sub-erect, not horizontal, as in No. 13.

15. "October 22d. Very abundant, 3 feet high, fruit 5 inches long." It is entirely unknown to me, perhaps an agave? at least some amaryllidaceous plant, if the fruit is correctly represented, with large radical leaves, and a ribbed or angular inferior fruit crowned with the remains of the flower.

In your letter you figure and describe a cactus plant, of which you have before sent me the seeds, if I am correct about this from your notes, I would describe it in the following manner:

Stem tall, erect, simple, or with a few erect branches, below without spines; ribs about 20, oblique or spiral; fruit large, edible; seeds small (0.7 lines long,) obovate, obliquely truncate at base, black, smooth, shining, embryo hooked, no albumen; cotyledons foliaceous incumbent.

Stems 2—5 feet in circumference, and 25 to 60 feet high.

The only true *cereus* approaching this in size is *cereus* Peruvianus; but this is vastly different. The question then arises whether our species is not one of the few arranged now under the genus *pilocereus;* but if it is a constant fact that the cotyledons of *pilocereus* are thick and globose, our species cannot belong here; the cotyledons are absolutely those of a true *cereus.* It is called in California *pitahaya,* but it appears that the Mexicans call by that name all large columnar cacti, the fruit of which is edible. The plant which is commonly called *cereus variabilis,* is widely different from this California giant.

I propose for it the name *cereus gigantens.*