

Rec^d - May 10th
Ans - 11

F
T. H. M.

Santa Barbara

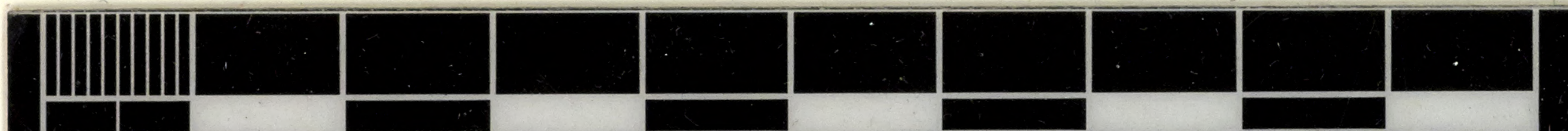
April 29th 1876

My dear uncle

The season of fog, of congressional elections, platforms and consequent legislative virtue which saves at the picket & lets out at the lung remanded me to this loveliest of lovely spots to make my computations & my report.

In pursuance of the model retrenchment policy inaugurated in Washington I went to San Francisco to discharge my men & to settle my accounts, & to see my friends and their spring bonnets on Easter Sunday. It is but lately that I returned and therefore your letter of the 9th has remained unanswered like all others which I found on my return.

Let me first unburden my mind about that wretched *Phyllospadix*. Sash



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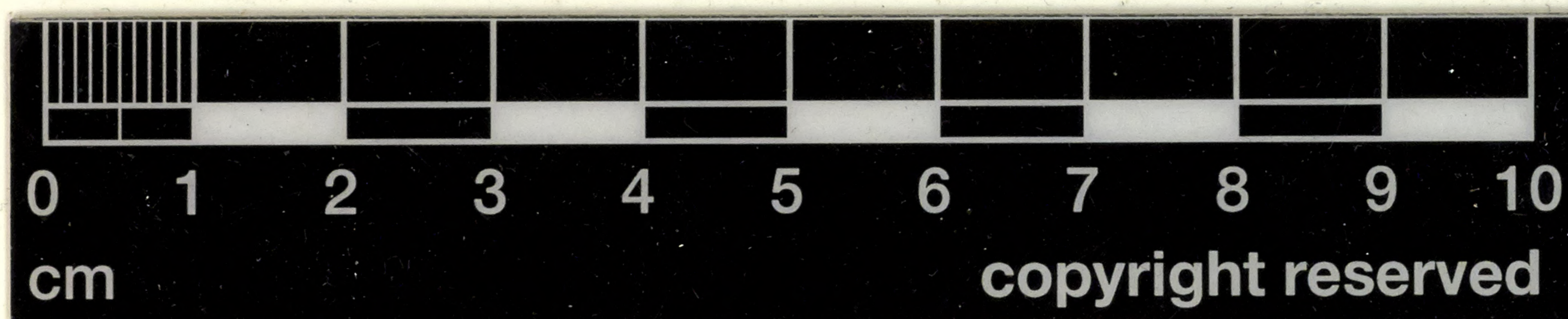
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MISSOURI
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mouth I was encamped at Scorpion Harbor
Santa Cruz Island & found plenty of the sea
grass of which you now have a specimen. It
was without flower for the mouth was the same
in which my specimen was gathered 2 years
ago. Floating in deep water & occasionally
on the beach I found fragments of the
Phyllospadix, but never a complete stem
& leaf, those two leaves which I found must
have been torn up with large bunches of
Kelp & then become separated. I have never
seen it growing in the water & believe that the
shore of the islands is too exposed to rough
seas to allow it to grow in accessible depths; no where
in fact down here, except in the friendly shelter
of the Kelp.

And now as regards the oaks, I believe
since you give its height as from 5-8 feet
that I have classified and appreciated it



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many a time as "cussed" chaparral & I will
do my best to procure you the desired specimen
from the Tahiguas Ranch about 30 miles from
here. The oak which grows on the mesa near the
town & in it must be familiar to botanists.

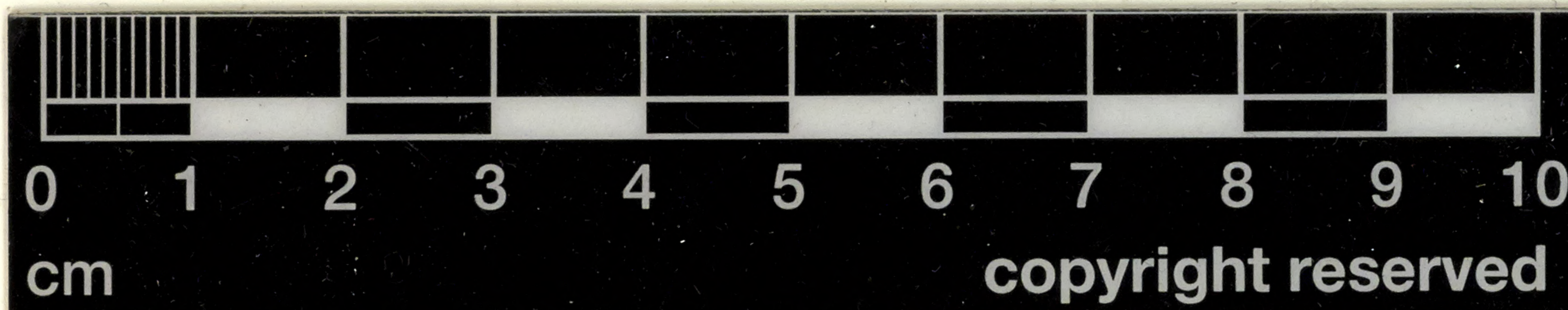
Would you like some seeds of the Yucca
plant & do you know the tree which is called
by the vulgar Malva tree? It grows in gardens
here, wild on San Miguel Island & I have seen
it in San Francisco & Angel Island in S.F. Bay.

By the way uncle Eugene Hilgard had
just returned from a short botanizing expedition
when last I saw him & he may be able to give
you "points" as they say in stock & board.

Enclosed is a clip from to days local paper
and a photograph for which there is no sale
here.

With my affectionate regards to aunt
I remain
Yours truly
O. Pittman

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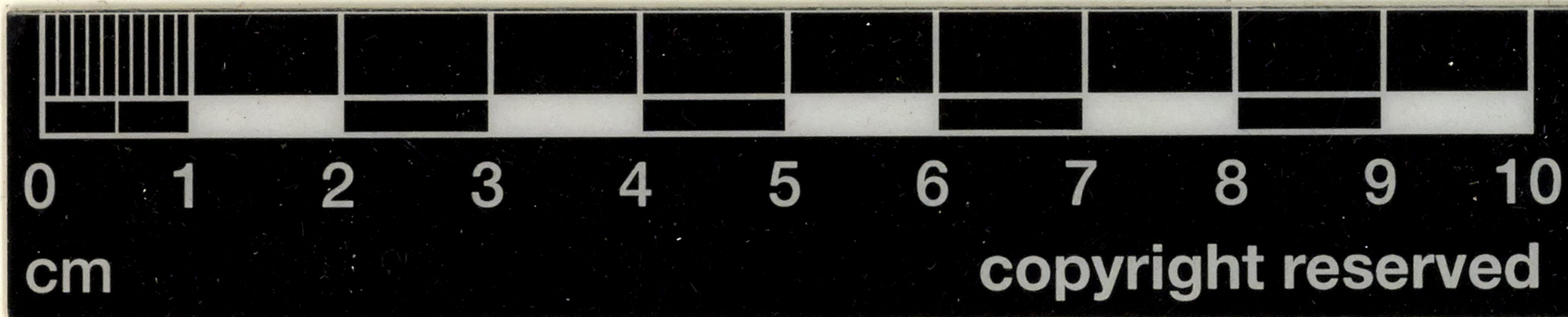


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[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

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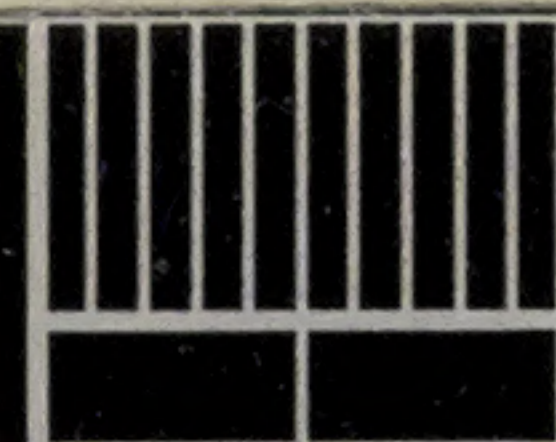
Rec July 1st

Santa Barbara

June 22nd /6

My dear uncle,

Your facetious
letter in reference to to my
little mistake was duly
received. But the consciousness
of having anticipated your
comments by forwarding another
specimen of oak relieved me
somewhat from the imputation
of not knowing an acorn
from a cherry. As for my
"liberal" education the less
said the better. But if you
will address a few questions
to me on the subject of
topography, hydrography or



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geodesic operations you may
find my acquisitions more
creditable.

It will give me great
pleasure to forward the
ripe berries as soon as
I find time to leave the
town for a day.

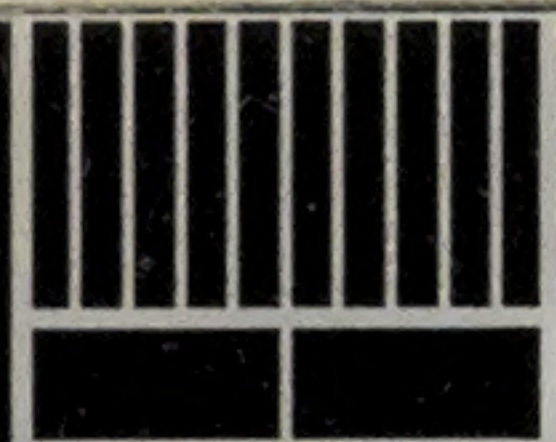
Enclosed I send you
a photograph which may
put the sickly cacti in
your pots, to the blush

Remember me kindly to
your folks

Very truly

O. S. Pittman

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