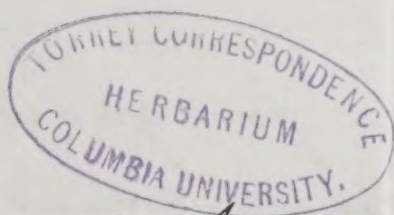


Newark Jan 20th 1855,

To Torrey,

Dear Sir,



I have made application for the Department of Chemistry in the University of Wisconsin, which has lately become vacant by the decease of the Professor. I wrote to Mr J. H. Lathrop Chancellor of the University, and he requested me to send on my testimonials, and they would consider ^{upon} the case. I called at your house to day, & at the Assay Office about 3 minutes after you left. I wished to show you the letters which I have from Mr Starr, the Principal of the Institute where I now am, and from Dr Kitchell of Geological Survey of this state, both of whom have known me as a teacher and lecturer, and whose letters could not easily be more satisfactory on the point of my capabilities as a teacher. My success as an instructor may be considered good, since I can, not only say, I have the warm affection of the pupils, but after leaving here, ~~and not~~ I was constantly sought to return; and I would not leave now except for a Professorship under greater advantages for private study and improvement. Mr Starr says, "Flattering as ^{were} his testimonials to us he has more than answered our expectations." "I would not disdain to say a

single word that would eventuate in his resignation of his present post, but must say, that no Institution having engaged his services, would regret the step.

In lecturing his manner and matter an unexceptionable &c". Excuse me for quoting this; for I desired that you might have some assurance of my ability as an instructor in the Department of Chemistry & Nat Science, which I have in this Institute, since you have known me only in reference to Botany.

I should be happy, and much obliged, to have you give me a letter of recommendation so far as you are able.

You may be surprised to learn that I am here again, ~~as~~ ^{not} was encouraged in P. Yan with even a hour to teach in, though I had a full school, and at a repeated request I returned here last spring, but have scarcely been in New York since till to day.

I have cut open that supposed ^{petrified (coal)} nut which I took to you for examination about a year ago, and for reasons which I will give you hereafter, feel confident that it is a *Carya* of some kind. I have read ^{at the meeting of the N. A. Nat. Hist. Socy.} two parts of a paper upon the geology of Baldwin Co (when I collected the plants you have seen) and the probability of its being the ancient ^(first Monday in February) delta of the Miss; and next meeting, shall read the third upon the age of it, the probable position of the Gulf stream at that time, and its effect on the ~~the~~ climate, & showing that the coast belt of sand & clay from N. J. to Tampico Mexico is of the same epoch, In this formation the nut was found Yours &c.
Artemas Bigelow

