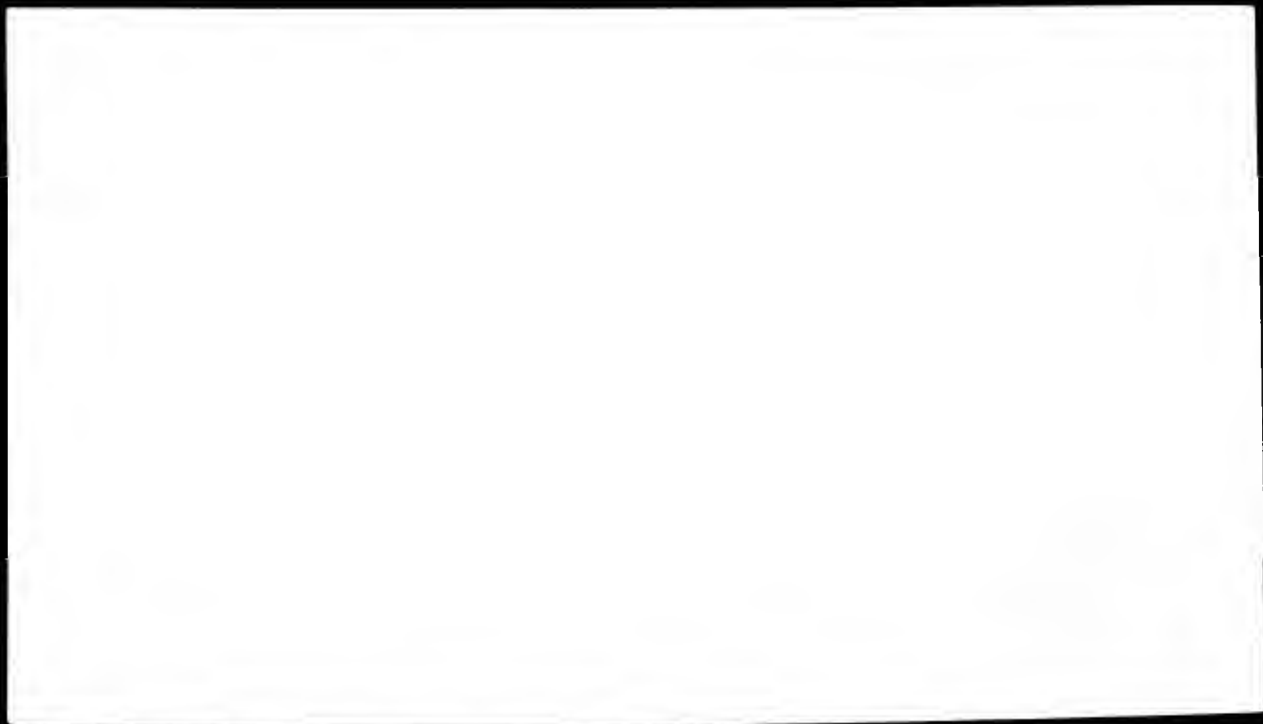


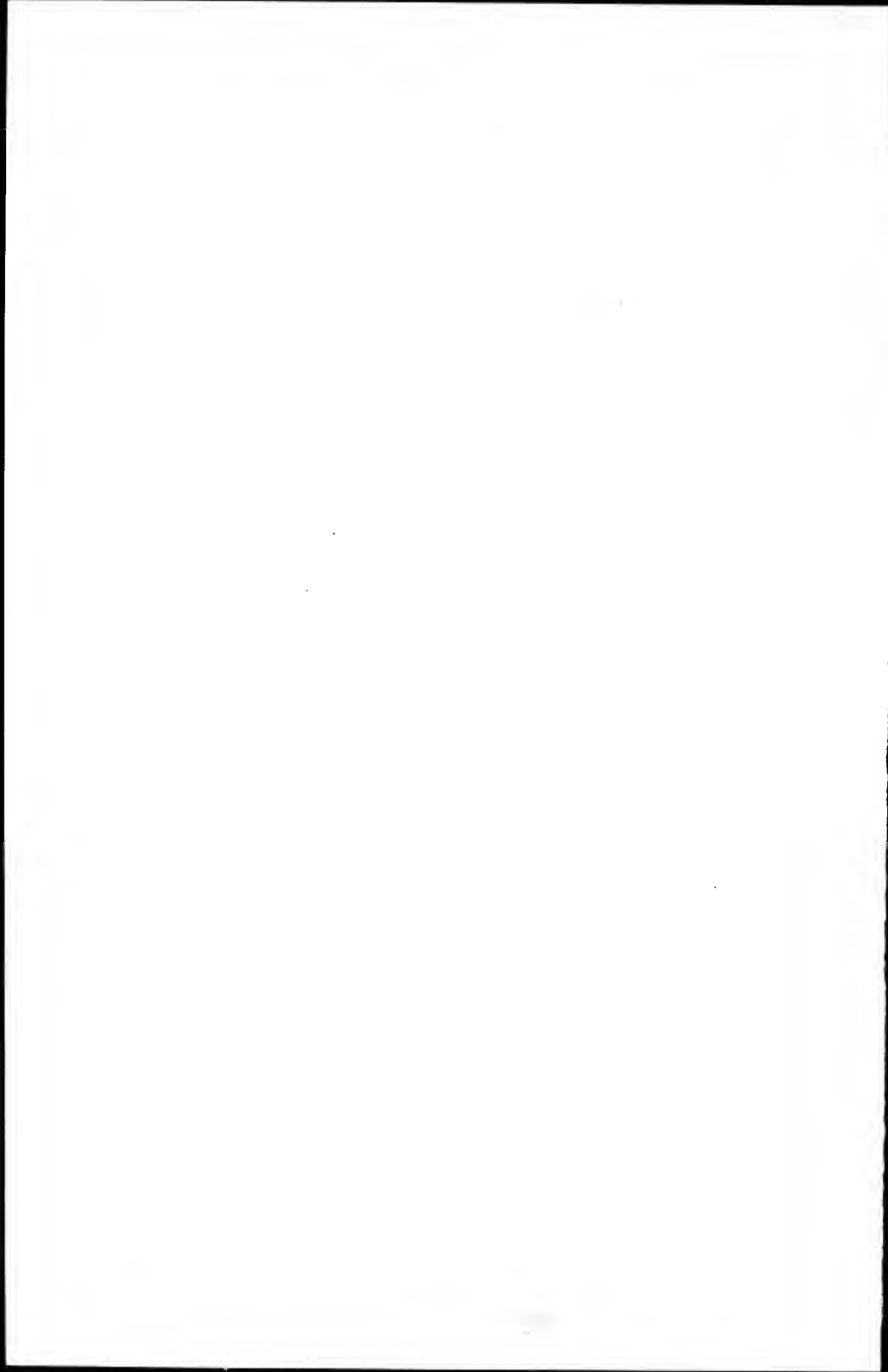
Asa Gray.

There are nearly 300
collection. They were 1
when she was editing Dr.
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order in which she place
cilled dates are in Mrs.



Letters of Dr. Asa Gray
to Dr. John Torrey.

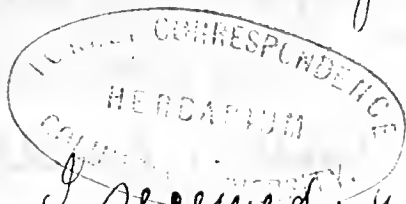
In the order in which they
were arranged by Wm. A. S.
Gray. The signed
(f.d.?) pencil notes are
hers. The unsigned
ones are those of Wm.
Britton.





Bridgewater (Orinda Co) N.Y. Jan 1st 1851

Dr. Sir.



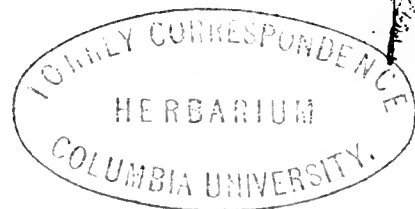
I received your letter, through Prof. Hadley a few weeks since, and I embrace the earliest opportunity of transmitting a few specimens of those plants, of which you wished a further supply. I regret that the state of my herbarium will not admit of my sending as many specimens of each as I could wish ~~or~~ as would be desirable to you. I shall be able to obtain an additional supply of most of them during the ensuing summer, when it will give me pleasure to supply you with those, or any other interesting plants which I may meet with. I ~~send~~ send you a few Grasses numbered, also, a few Mosses, &c. When you have leisure, you will oblige me, by sending the names of those numbered, & rectify any errors in those labelled. If you should be desirous of additional specimens, please let me know it, & I will supply you in the course of next summer.

You ask me whether I am desirous of obtaining the plants peculiar to N.Y. New Jersey &c. or of European plants. I should be highly gratified by receiving any plants you think proper to send me, and will ^{the} repay you, so far as in my power, by transmitting specimens of all interesting plants I discover - I know little of Exotic Botany, having no foreign specimens. I am particularly attached to the study of the Grasses, Ferns, &c. - If you have any specimens to transmit to me, please leave them with - Mr. Franklin Brown Atty. at Law. Kings of Court, Beekman St. who will forward them to me by the earliest opportunity -

During the next summer. I intend to visit the western part of this state - also Ohio & Michigan. I shall devote a large portion of my time to the collection of the plants &c of the places I visit. If you know of any interesting localities, or where any interesting plants could be procured, - please inform me, and I will endeavour to obtain them for you -

Respectfully Yours

Asa Gray



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Toa

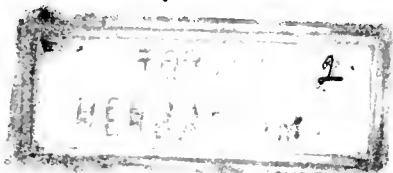
Young

Aug 1. 1831.

Received Aug 13th

Prof. John Torrey

New York



Bridge Water April 6th 1832



Dear Sir

Having a convenient opportunity of sending to you. I improve it to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Oct. 6th and of the very interesting & valuable Package of Plants. which was duly received a few weeks afterwards.

In the course of the ensuing summer, I shall be able to supply you with an additional supply of most of the Plants mentioned in your list.

Many of these were collected during an excursion to the western part of the state, and are not found in this section of the country.

I have given a copy of this list to my friend Dr. N. W. Holmell of Seneca Co., an industrious collector, who is situated in a section, rich in plants, and requested him to transmit specimens of these & other interesting plants to you. I think he will be able to furnish you with many interesting plants, from that section of country and I shall be grateful for any favours you may have in your power to confer upon him

I shall be engaged, the ensuing summer at Fairfield, and at Galina, where I hope to make some interesting collections, in Natural History.

If it is not too much trouble and the specimen is within your reach, may I

ask further information. with regard to No 34, viz
my last package to you. It is a Carex,
from the shore of lake Erie. - growing with C.
lupulina but flowering later. You named it
"Carex - aff. lupulina - but ♀ of hystericina? N. Sp.? Collins"
Is it not a var. of C. lupulina? from which it appears
to differ principally in its pedunculate spikes.
It flowers a month later than C. lupulina. (Aug. 15th)

Will you excuse me for troubling you on an-
other subject? I shall not be able
to remain much longer in this place, unless
I engage in the practice of medicine, under
circumstances which will altogether preclude
me from paying any further attention to
Natural History. My friends advise me to spend
a few years in a milder climate, our family, being
predisposed to Phthisis, although I am perfectly
healthy & robust, and such a course would be very
agreeable to me, as I could combine the study of Nat.
History with ^{the} professional business, which will be
necessary for my support. I have thought of the
Southern states, but I have for some time been
inclined to prefer Mexico, both on account of the
salubrity of ~~its~~ climate, and, of its botanical and
mineralogical riches, which so far as I know, have
never been very thoroughly explored. My object in
troubling you with all this, is merely to obtain some
information with regard to the Nat. Hist. of that country

Has this Country been explored by any Botanist since Humboldt in 1803? And is there still room enough in that branch to repay one for devoting a few years to its investigation?

I am young (22) without any engagements to confine me to this section of Country, and prefer the study of Botany &c. to any thing else. Although I have not arrived at any positive determination, I have commenced the study of Spanish language. & find it (with the aid of Latin & French) quite easy.

I should be pleased to have your advice on this subject. as you have ~~access~~ ^{many} sources of information. ~~to~~ which are beyond my reach.---

I should be highly gratified if you would state to me what you think of the prospects in Mexico for a person under my circumstances, and whether any other section of Country ^{or any other situation} presents greater inducements.

Under whatever circumstances I may be placed it will be gratifying to me to continue a correspondence which has thus far been so useful to me. and I shall always wish to do all in my power to render it interesting to you.

I shall be ready to leave this place, by 1st of Sept. ^{or} next, at which time I shall probably visit N. Y.

Will you write me, on this subject as soon as convenient. & very much oblige

Yours truly
A. Gray

Dr. J. Torrey
N. Y.



to yourself, or to the Lyceum. Nat. Hist. N.Y. ? and can they be named, so that I can label my collection from them? They may few of them be of any interest, but if you wish it you shall have a suit containing specimens of all I find - A. G.

Ada Gray

April 6th 1832

Recd. Apr. 18th

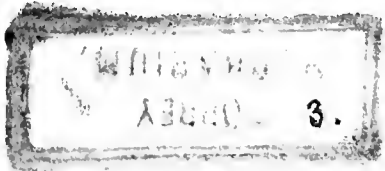
For Mr. Woodruff

New York

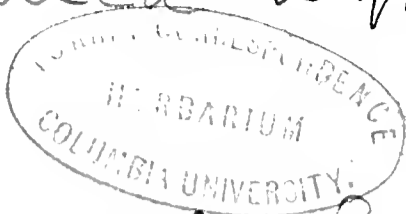
No. 30 Mc Donough St
Corner of Princee

For John Torrey

There is, within a circuit of some miles, and at this place a great variety of fossil. Organic remains & I am collecting them as extensively as possible. We find Trilobites (Asaphus - & occasionally Calymene) - a variety of bivalve, & a few univalve shells, &c &c. both in Lime Rock & Grey Wacke. The celebrated locality of Trenton Falls, you are, of course, acquainted with - - - Would a suit of them be acceptable



Attica N.Y. Nov. 15th 1832



Dear Sir

Your's of Sept. 14th giving an account of an excursion to the Newerank hills, was duly received. - *Poa monspeliensis*, which you found there, I collected at Hoboken. *Gnaphalium germanicum* I found a few specimens of a *Gna*^m at Bethlehem Pa. wh. I suppose to be that species. I send a spec that you may judge.

I should like very much to explore the pines, next summer. & as I now know of nothing to prevent me from devoting the latter part of the summer to that purpose, I think we may very easily make an arrangement.

I have borne in mind your suggestion as to drawing plants, but, so far, I have been too much engaged to make the attempt, - I will try to do something at it.

I avail myself of a good opportunity of sending to you. - although I have received no plants, since my return except a small package collected in Michigan &c. &c. I send some specimens from this collection, although Dr. Fernald may send you a complete ^{set} of all he collected, but, for fear he may not I send a few, of which he has duplicates. The following were also received, but not in sufficient quantity to enable me to supply you *Phlox aristata* Th. *Antennaria canescens*. *Buchnera americana*. *Potentilla confertiflora* For. *Achillea aurea*? (*Houstonia tenuifolia* Nutt? fr. Zanesville Ohio) the others from Michigan. - *Botrychium obliquum* Lodi Seneca co

I send all on my memorandum except that Scleria
Dr. Sartwell wrote me 2 months since, that he
had collected a considerable quantity for me & or^d. send very
soon, but I have not as yet received anything.
I will send you whatever I receive by the first
good opportunity, I or^d. keep this back, but it is uncertain
when another opportunity presents.

That Scleria must be undescribed, I think. It comes
nearer S. verticillata Muhl than any other description
I can refer to. - but the sheath is not pilose - the
glomerules not verticillate &c - The fruit is mucro-
nate, "globosa undique papillata" as in the description of
Muhlenberg.

I read in the N.Y. papers, extracts fr. the addresses,
delivered at the opening of the N.Y. University & understood
the whole were to be published in pamphlet form.
If so, will you send me a copy?

I sent to N.Y. a few weeks since, 2 packages of plants
of ~~about~~ 400 species each, - one for Soleiroch & the
other for Prof. Lehman.

Will you write as often as you can & send me all
the botanical news.

Yours
Very Respectfully

Prof. J. Torrey

A. Gray

1875
June 10
1875

Dr. F. Gray

Nov 15/75 1832.

Rec'd Dec 24th in a parcel
of plants left for me at the laboratory

and.

New York

Dr. John Torrey

I see
Delin
the r
at

Ans? July 5th

Utica Jan 2^d, 1833.



Dear Sir

I received your letter of Dec 25th & have given the subject, of which you write, a careful consideration. I may say, that I have no objection to the situation you propose, if a proper arrangement can be made.

The terms of my engagement here, are these. This situation became vacant by the death of Mr. Edgerton in April last. I was recommended by some of my friends, and finally made an arrangement for one year, — took charge of ~~the~~ class in Botany & Mineralogy on 20th May — closed July 30th. — Have been at liberty until now — have just commenced a Chemical course — to continue 9 weeks, which, will conclude my duties for the year. The Compensation of Board, Room, washing, fuel, & all other expenses of the kind, — for the whole year, or as much of the year as I choose to remain here., All expenses of the laboratory are defrayed, (which by the way are not like to be heavy) — & in addition I receive \$300. — The advantages of the situation are, leisure & the means of a comfortable support. — The disadvantages — ~~is~~^r the school is not incorporated & though now flourishing may not continue so. — the scholars are too young, — the principal wishes to retain too much of the Eatonian plan, to suit me, & they have not furnished the means, for the Chemical course which I had a right to expect. No arrangement has been made for an other year, but I have reason to think I shall be requested to remain another year. I am confident my leisure time would be employed to greater advantage, if I was situated so as to have access to good libraries and extensive collections.

At present I can be satisfied with a moderate income -
sufficient for a comfortable support. - for the purchase of a
few books &c. - but that income must be sure. - I cannot
^{afford} to run any risks about it. - I would willingly collect
plants the whole summer. - take on my hands the
whole labour of preparing & arranging them. but as
the proceeds would be absolutely necessary for my support.
so they should be certain. - I am now advantageously
situated for the collection of plants &c. as if I choose. I
can travel every year with a class. who will defray my expenses.

If you still desire to make such arrangement. please
to state more explicitly the duties you wish me to perform
- how much time can be given to collecting plants - what
compensation you can afford me. supposing nearly the
whole summer is devoted to making collections. - $\frac{3}{4}$
of the whole to belong to you - - or propose any plan
which would be satisfactory to you. and I will let you
know very shortly whether I will accept it or not. -
I had rather leave it to yourself. than to make any ~~proposition~~
definite proposition at present. - I am confident
we can make an arrangement. which will be
mutually beneficial. -

I need not say that I wish to hear from you again on
this subject as soon as possible - as I must soon make
my arrangements for the ensuing season. -

How large is the class at the Medical College?
I have just returned from a visit at Fairfield. they
have a class of about 190 -

You probably recollect a Carex. of which I gave you

in Sept. & which I surmised was C. livida Wahl.
Are you sure the plant you found in New Jersey is
the same - which you say. Devey calls C. Halseyana
Our plant does not agree the description or fig. of C. Halseyana
in Devey's Caricos. I sent it to Devey. with other
plants, a few weeks ago. He says it is not C. Halseyana
but does not give an opinion. - sent me Wahl's & Willd.
description of C. livida. - Our plant agrees somewhat,
but has not the sub-radical, pist. spike. is a taller plant
&c. - in haste

Yours. very respectfully

A. Gray

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8

Prof. J. Torrey

30. Mc Donough St.

New York

Adm Gray
Jan. 4. and
1833
Rec'd Jan. 7th 1833

Ans? Feb. 5

Utica Jan 23^d 1832.

Dear Sir

Excuse me for troubling you.

I have this day received from Dr. S. C. Beck, a sheet of a work, now publishing, entitled a Flora of the Northern & Middle States, arranged according to the Natural System. I have the sheet commencing the species. — commences with Ranunculaceae — it is in 12^{mo}.

As you mentioned that Beck. has been very secret in all his proceedings, it occurred to me, that very possibly, you have heard nothing of it, — and I thought it right to let you know. — It appears to be after the fashion of See Candolle's prodr. rom., Condensed descriptions & fine print. — He still keeps his Ranunculus lacustris. & has added a new species to that genus, which he calls, R. Clintonii, from Rome, Oneida Co N.Y. — The same as published in 5th Ed. Eaton Man. under the name of R. prostratus. Lamk. I have never seen their specimens, but have little doubt it is form of R. repens, which flowers with us from April to Sept. & assumes many forms.

Dr. Beck, wishes me to send him any undescribed or interesting plants — localities of rare plants &c — I feel somewhat interested in the work as I wish it to supersede Eaton's entirely. (I hear Eaton is coming out with a new Ed. in the spring — I see Beck means to anticipate him). But all the undescribed plants I have, are in your hands, & it would be improper to send him such at

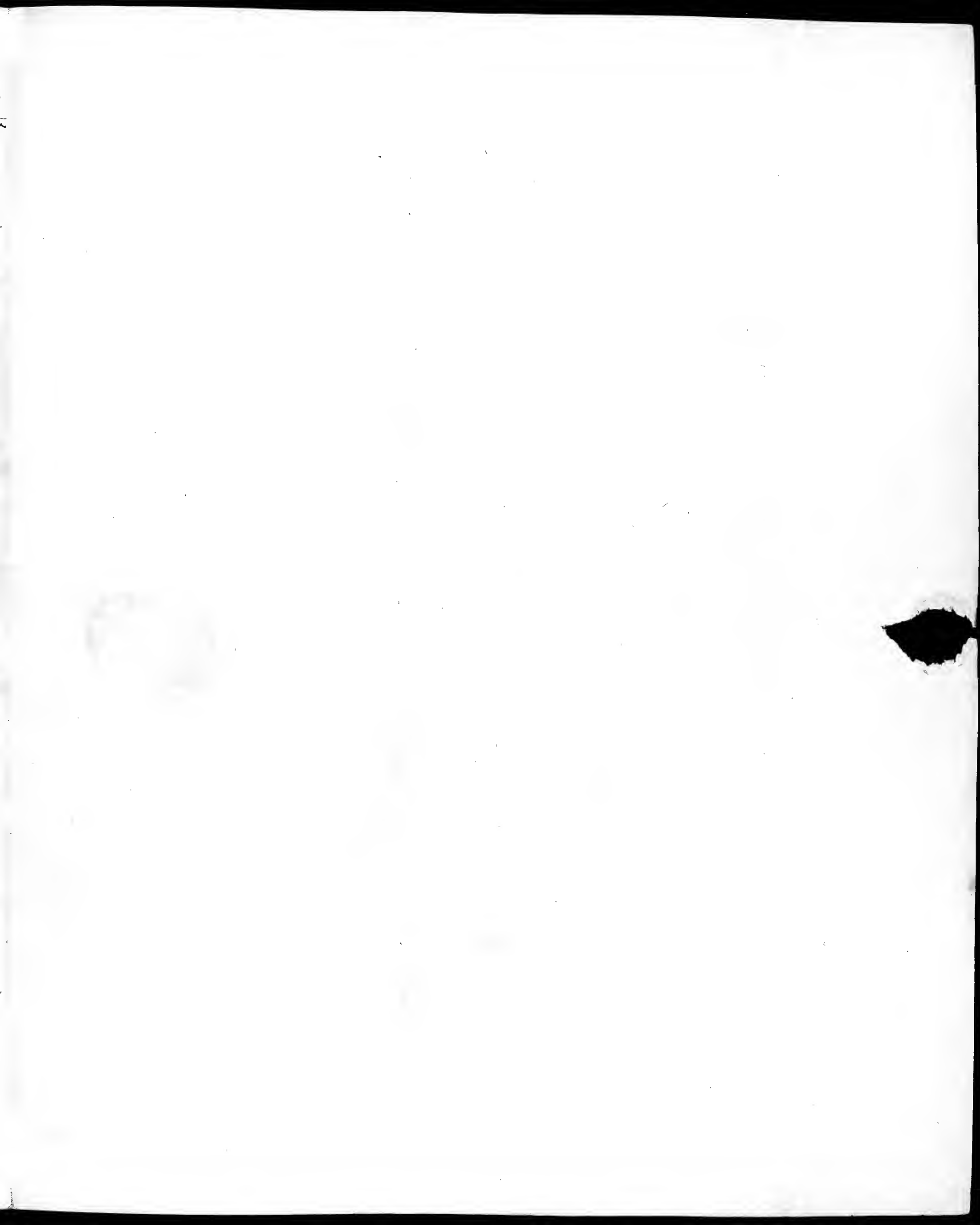
present. He has in his hands an imperfect specimen of Nasturtium natans. See Card. Mr. I sent him 2 years ago. He did not know it. - supposed it N. palustre & I do not know whether he has determined it or no. I will tell him what it is. He has that Ophio-glossum. & probably will publish it. If you please you can publish this - that Scleria & in Silliman i.e. if you think ~~the~~ them new. I will send none of these to Beck. - but will give him the localities. He. of some of our most interesting plants, &c. &c.

I have not heard from you since I wrote you on the subject of your letter. but hope you will write me soon. If we can make any arrangement for a year. by its expiration. you will know. whether or not. I shall be of any use to you. I wish to be situated in such a manner as will enable me to advance most rapidly in science - in Botany especially. -

I succeeded. some days ago, in making the Chloro-Chromic acid of Dr. Thomson (of which you spoke to me when at your house). with Chromate of Lead. instead of Bi Chromate Potash. which I was unable to obtain. It set alcohol, Ether. Spts. Turpentine &c. on fire - I did not try it upon Phosphorus. - shall prepare it again in a few weeks for class experiments. -

I am -
Yours Respectfully

A. Gray



J. J.

Prof. J. Torrey

30 Mc Dougall St.

New York

And. March 25th

5A.

Utica March 22nd 1834

Dear Sir I thankfully acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. and am delighted to learn that you contemplate giving a course of botanical lectures before you leave the city. I hope the plan will succeed & that you will have a large and very fashionable class. My journey was as tedious as rain and bad roads could make it. The first night, being alone in the coach, I was upset by the carelessness of a ~~drunken~~ drunken driver. The top of the coach, striking against a stone wall, was broken in, but I escaped, narrowly indeed, without any injury, excepting a few rents in my clothes. At the end of the route, I had the satisfaction of seeing the driver dismissed from his employment. On my arrival at Bridgewater I found a child of my friend & former Medical Preceptor, a favourite little daughter, — dangerously — almost hopelessly sick with inflammation of the brain. I was consequently detained several days, & before I left, had the satisfaction of seeing the little patient convalescent. — I am now in fine working order and busily engaged in my chemical course.

Dr. Hadley called upon me yesterday and I gave him the little "motions" you sent by me. He was much pleased, but was especially delighted with the condensed Sulphurous & anhydrous Sulphuric acids.

The principal object of this letter is to consult you in regard to some propositions made me by Prof. Hadley. Besides his situation in the Med. College, you are aware that he holds the professorship of Chemistry & Natural Science in Hamilton College. — He has just concluded his chemical course in that institution, but in early part of summer he lectures to the senior class upon Botany & Mineralogy. As they are about to make some alterations in the college buildings at Fairfield, his presence will be required there, & he wishes me to take his place, for the ensuing term at Hamilton College. I ought also to state, that Dr. H. accepted that situation, with the ~~view~~

intention of holding it but a few years, until the college should have surmounted the troubles in which it was (and is) involved, and from which we have pretty good reason to hope from the exertions now being made, it will soon be extricated, so that the professorships may be properly endowed.

He has given notice of his intention to resign about a year hence by which time, if ever, the college will be able to place several professorships upon a substantial foundation.

Dr H. has expressed to me a strong desire that I should be considered a candidate for the place, & I strongly suspect, that to further that object, is one reason for his wishing me to act as his substitute during the ensuing summer. My presence there would be necessary from the 1st of June to the middle of July. — Dr H. has been acting under a nominal salary of \$500. — being engaged there but 13 or 14 weeks.

Dr H. insists me \$100. immediately, even if he has to advance it himself — & the whole if funds are in the hands of the treasurer. — if not, the whole would be received quite certainly within the year. I have only to say further,

that the college has now 100 students — is situated in a beautiful village 9 miles from Utica. has the best college building of any in the state, has a good faculty &c. I urged the promise I had made of the visit to Georgia, which this plan would entirely frustrate, but promised to give him a definite answer within a fortnight.

I can scarcely think of postponing my southern tour for another season, but the question comes to this, whether, in the present state of my finances I had better expend \$100. in that visit or earn \$200 in the same time. I could also, I think,

continue my engagements here in July & August, by which a little more of the trash might be pocketed, and return to New York, in time to make a September excursion to the dearly beloved pine barrens of New-Jersey, and spend the early part of fall in botanical work — & the winter in your laboratory.

The term closes here the 23^d of April, a little earlier than I supposed, so if the original plan is pursued I shall be in New York by the 26th of that month — if not I shall be disengaged for a month, a portion of which I should like to devote, with my friend Dr Crane — to the minerals of St. Lawrence County. So rests the case. I told Dr H. that I should write immediately to you, & be governed in a good degree by your answer. —

I have such a dislike to the appearance of vacillation, which results from changing ones plans when fully formed, that, were it not for certain ulterior advantages, and that I wish to comply with the wishes, as far as may be, of a person to whom I am much obliged. — I should promptly decline Dr. H.'s offer. —

An idea just this moment strikes me which, in its crude shape I will communicate. In 8 or 10 days I can get to the metals. Suppose I could then get excused, & finish my course here next summer, in connexion with mineralogy, which for these youngsters would do pretty well. — reach N.Y. early next month, — set out immediately for Georgia & remain there until the latter part of May, — return via Charleston — examine Elliot's Herbs, & return here by the 1st of June. I may be quite sure that April & May would be healthy, but could there be plants enough collected, especially Gramineae to make it an object. Please say what you think of it, — if you think it will do, I see no insuperable objections to carrying it into effect.

A few days ago a letter reached me from Prof. Lehmann, in answer to my communication 18 months ago. — He is quite desirous of continuing the correspondence. — He is now particularly engaged with Urticaceae and is anxious to obtain our species and especially original specimens of those described by the Mr. Schweinitz. — He has sent a box (which by this time I hope has arrived in New York) containing about 500 species of plants & several botanical books. He also writes that he has applied to Nees von Esenbeck for dried specimens of all the species of Aster cultivated in his garden in order to transmit them with the monography by that author, but not having arrived in time they will be sent with his next package. I wish to be particularly remembered to Mrs. Torrey & to Mr. Shaw, — not forgetting my lively little friends Janie, Eliza & Margaret, whom I very much long to see. I had intended long before this to have written to Mr. Shaw, but have not yet had leisure. Please say to him that I am much obliged for the papers he has been so good as to send me. I wish to know whether he has yet apostatized from the anti-tea-drinking Society, of which of which Mr. S. & myself were ("par nobile fratrum") such promising members. Please say to him that I have not yet drunk tea, but am doing penance upon Coffee, Milk & Water. May I trouble you for the very earliest possible answer to this, which will much oblige

Yours very Respectfully
A. Gray

187

Mr. John Torrey
31. McDougal St.
New York

90

And. May 13th

Bridgewater, May 8th 1834.

Dear Sir



My friend the bearer of this will call upon you for my microscope, and my copy of Beck, Eaton & Lindley. I want them very much by the 25th of May, when I commence my lectures at Hamilton College. I sent a few weeks ago 2 copies of my *Annals*, & *Cyp.* (all I had not subscribed for) and a letter. Were they received?

I have been detained here two weeks by the very alarming sickness of my former preceptor Dr. Frowbridge which has interrupted my Northern expedition. -

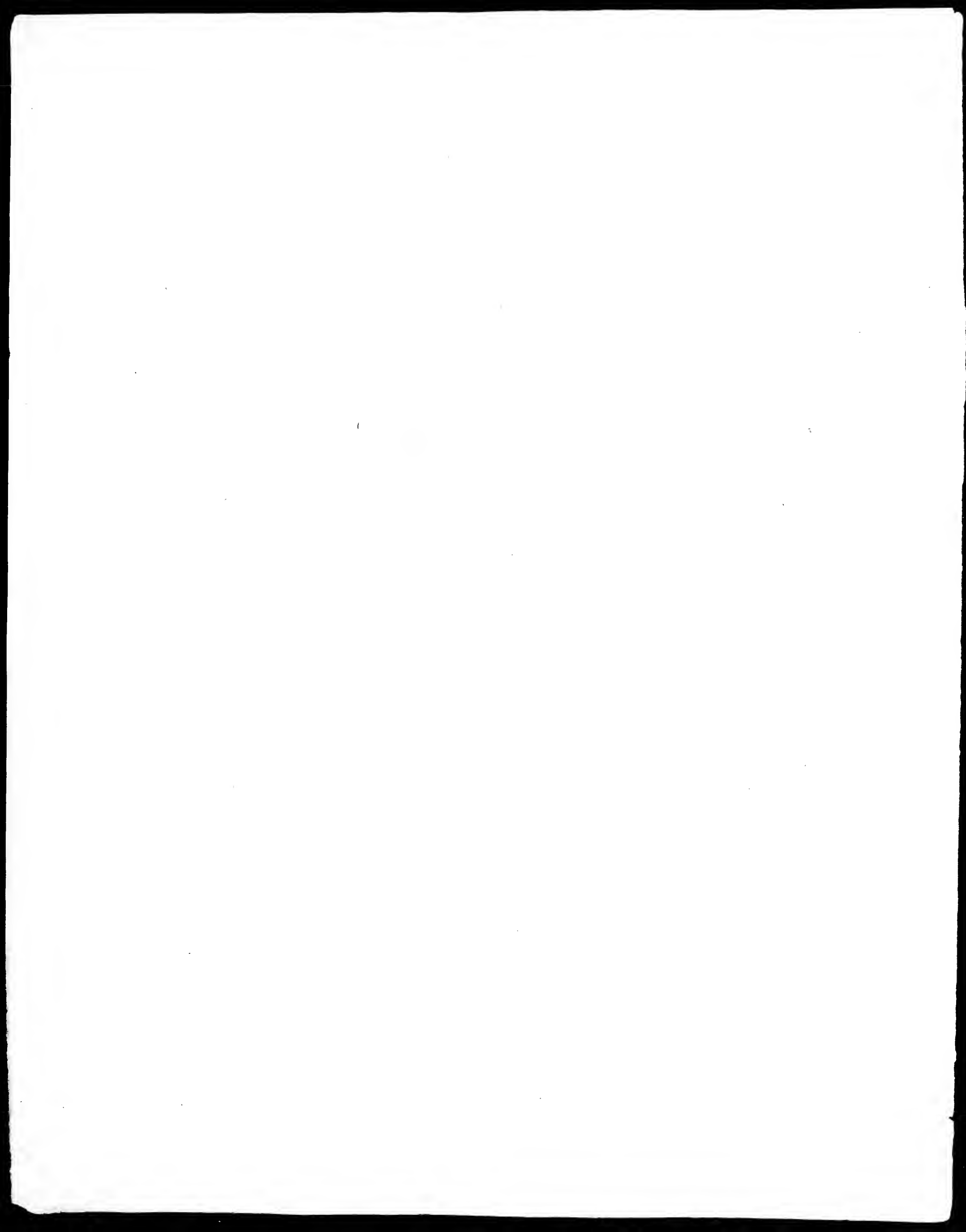
It must be either given up entirely or postponed until August. I am anxious to hear from you, to learn whether your course of lectures ~~was~~ well attended, - when you leave for Princeton, and at what time you will return again to New York.

I think I had best remain in the interior until Sept., and collect plants very largely. I have already commenced the botanical campaign with more than usual zeal.

Please remember me to Mrs. J. and Mr. Shaw, and let me have a line from you, and very much oblige

Yours truly

A. Gray



Recd. July 15th

Hamilton College June 9th 1834.

7.

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 13th ult. with the bundle of books was, in due time, received. Yours of the 2nd ult. was received at the same time. I can send you no more copies of Gram, &c. - all I brought up are subscribed for and delivered. "Maj. Downing" who subscribes for two copies (one for himself, and one for his friend the General I suppose) as well as the other subscribers must wait until fall. I am lecturing here to a small, but quite intelligent senior class, 26 in number, just enough to fill three sides of a large table. - and time passes very pleasantly. The small fund for the support of this institution will I think be secured, but the trustees do not act in concert with the faculty, and it is rumoured, quarrel among themselves, so that, unless some changes are effected in the board, I fear the college will not be sustained. I shall remain here 5 weeks longer, and then have a short engagement at Utica. I have promised to make a visit to the North in August. I wish very much that I was able to remain there 6 or 7 weeks, to examine with attention, the vegetation of the primitive region in St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties. I can not doubt that the mountains, and the banks of the large streams of that region would furnish a rich harvest of plants. That range is an extension of one from the far north, which passing between the great Lakes and Hudson's Bay, crosses

It will be best, by all means, not to trouble yourself in preparing the 2 copies of Gram, & Gyp, left with you. I will have them, with several others bound up early in the fall.

the St. Lawrence at the Thousand Islands, and passed through St. Lawrence, Franklin & Clinton Counties. Consequently many sub alpine plants such as *Anemone hudsonica*, *Trisetum molle*, *Scum triflorum* &c are found in this region farther south than elsewhere. The Mineralogy of the region also, needs to be farther explored. The expense of such a tour, divided between Dr. Crane and myself, ~~and~~ travelling in a conveyance of our own, will be comparatively trifling.

I find, however that a further supplies of several New-Jersey grasses, are absolutely required to enable me to make out the necessary number of suites, this fall, of the first part of my herbaria. I see also by the list before me that they (with few exceptions) are in good state as late as the 8th or 10th of Sept. and that they can all be obtained without proceeding farther south than Tom's River. - So that I have no alternative but to hasten back to New York, and make a flying trip to Tom's river, (or Howell works at least) early in Sept. If you meet with *Panicum agrostoides* *Poa obtusa* Muhl. & *Poa Eragrostis*, I shall be much obliged if you will secure for me the needful quantity of specimens. I am making arrangements for securing the bulbs, tubers & seeds of the rarer plants for Lehmann. I shall take great pleasure in complying with your desire of securing as many as possible for your little garden. Bulbs & tubers I take up, after flowering and place in dry sand. Can you give some instructions as to the best manner of preserving other perennial roots, such as *Aster's*, &c &c. If you will give me the necessary instructions, I promise you to spare no exertions to carry them into effect. -

I have nearly finished De Candolle's Théorie Élémentaire. I have devoured it like a novel. It ought to be translated, that it may be more generally read in this country, where something of the kind is much needed. By the way, as soon as you receive Lindley's new elementary work, I hope you will set about preparing an American edition.

A box from Lehmann has been received here. It contained his Potentilliacae, Pessing's Synopsis Gen. Compositarum, Nees at Esenbeck's Gen. & Sp. Aster, and Kunth's Enum. Plantarum, Vol II, which comprises the grasses (by the way he has made stray work with N. Am. grasses) and some smaller matters. — Some good dried plants &c. —

This immediate neighborhood is very poor for botany. Excepting Cyperaceae it furnishes nothing of interest. I shall, soon, however, make more distant excursions, so as to include Oneida Lake, and the "pine plains". When I return I shall bring with me a huge bundle of plants, which will show that I have not been idle. —

The Rev. Mr. Lemur I have seen. He has very decided vagabonding propensities, and is I think intemperate. He was caught by Eaton, last year, who kept him some time, and exhibited him to his cubs as a great German savant.

I hope you will not forget to write me very soon and give me useful hints for preserving roots &c. — If there are any particular plants, or Genera, which you wish to cultivate, please mention them, and the matter shall be most punctually attended to.

Yours very truly
A. Gray

PRINCETON
JUN 10 1874

1874

Dr. John Torrey
Princeton
New Jersey

And
Dear Doctor

Monday, 11th July,
1834

Since your departure, several memoranda of more or less consequence have accumulated around me, and (having not yet heard from you) I will now communicate them together with whatever intelligence I think will interest you. To begin with the most important, I have now (5 P.M.) just returned from your house where I found a parcel for you (received by mail from Philadelphia, postage the mere trifle of \$1.14½) with the Hamburg seal and the handwriting of our old correspondent Prof. Lehmann, suspecting it to contain advices of packages of Plants or Books took the liberty to open it, I found 2 diplomas in high Dutch. I shudder of Leopoldina-Carolinae Carol. acad. naturae curiosorum — hide your diminished head, and give way to the Königliche Botanische Gesellschaft in Regensburg! which being interpreted means, I imagine, the Royal Botanical Society of Regensburg. Now I know as little of Regensburg and the Regensburg people who have done us such honor as a certain old lady did of the famous King of Prussia; but I rather think it means Statisbon. Well, what is of much greater consequence a note enclosed from Lehmann states that since he has heard from you he has sent — I copy verbatim
"1. Diplomas of the Leopold. Carol. acad. for you and Dr. Gray
2. A complete set of the Linnaea, in two different sendings.
3. The most recent Volume of the Acta Acad. Leopold. Carol. Nat. Cur.
together with Flora Brasiliensis & Bees at Caebeck ~~over~~ Groenmann =
=gen ~~den~~ Pis and den Riesengebirge* &c. All of which I
hope will have safely reached you." Now what has become of these
* which I translate "Reminiscences of the great chain of mountains!"

things? No name of vessel given. What steps can I take here towards finding them? Had you not best have enquiries made in Philad^a. about the vessel that brought the letter, if perchance they may have come in the same, though it seems not probable.

Your book on Palenque, so long lost, has returned, and Drummond's letters with it. A notice arrived stating that a box from Glasgow was at Public Stores in Washington St. and if not called for would be sold. - George Shaw offered to look after it. Croon has been quite unwell; called to-day for first time; goes to Saratoga tomorrow. Box of plants & box of bones are here - the plants certainly look the more antediluvian of the two. The specimens are scratched and mostly devoid of interest. The bones will be served up at the Lyceum this evening. If you have not received your papers as early as may be, blame the carrier who has only until to-day been able to find the Lyceum, so I have gone to the office for them myself. - Now, however, all is right. Say to Mrs. T. that Mr. Abbott & lady regret ~~that they~~ their absence when you called. Mr. A. has got a white hat, which makes him look very genteel. I sent my book to him sometime ago, for which I got thanks & compliments from Mr. A. and a gracious smile from his lady.

On the same day last week I received a letter from Denny & another from Carey, and according to both their accounts they must have been in raptures with each other. Denny sends love to friend Torrey, and Carey kind regards to Dr. & Mrs. T. Denny says Carey is rather saffix upon species, and what Carey has given him a favorable opinion upon any it would amuse you to see how Denny has detailed them to me, in order if possible to save the poor creatures lives. Denny has a good spirit and is altogether a most estimable man, and I am sorry that we have to pull down any of his work. I must write him a few things, that it may not come upon him all at once. As usual, he tells us for the 99th time all about Coniidea & tetania.

A good part of last week I was engaged with the snakes & toads, but of late I have attacked the barices with as much vigour as the extreme heat would allow. I will trouble you with the more important matters only. - I have called the new Texan one (like gracillima) C. oxylepis. Will it do. There is no C. acuminata. You are somehow mistaken about the new one of James being C. atrata of Rocky Mountain plants, since there are in herb. genuine specimens of that species collected by Dr. James. I think Schwenke called it nigra, and you, fearing, did not publish it at all. - C. nigromarginata is not C. pedunculata, but a good one, belonging to the Varia group. - Dewey asks that his Darvii be named after Emmons if you think best. Shall I? C. Novae angliae has 3 stigmas! Dewey's repeated assertion to the contrary notwithstanding. I got them out by soaking this morning & showed them to Croom (C. collecta is the same). I want to write the name Novanglia. Ask your classical people if it is not right to drop one of the vowels and write as one word. E.g. Novaboracensis. I follow Sprengel in reducing C. Schkuhrii & Supina to one species; the reasons I have not room to give. I have corrected two first proofs but no revise is yet ready for me. When they are I will send you. A new number of the North American has come in. It possesses more than ordinary interest. Everything is safe at 30. MacDougal St. Mr. Wm Torrey remained until Friday or Saturday, and Geo. Shaw has slept there since, to keep off evil spirits. I was with him after church until dark when we both went to Dr. Skinner's Sunday school concert. We thought how pleasant it would be if we had the little girls at home to sing their accustomed hymns. At twilight, George is a good fellow, and what is better a warmer hearted Christian. When will you return? Kind regards to Mrs. T. and love to the little girls.

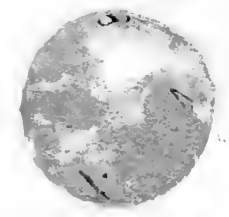
Yours truly
A Gray

11

Dr. John Torrey

Princeton

New Jersey



Rec^d July 16th

9.
Saugport N.Y. 9th July, 1835.

Dear Sir

I am sorry to inform you that the promised letter from yourself has not yet reached me though it has been looked for for some time. I wish gently to jog your memory in this respect and to ask the favour of a line from you in case your time is not wholly occupied by your duties at Princeton, which, I doubt not, are quite laborious.

I am progressing a little with my rather formidable task, in fact I am making haste quite slowly and am now discussing the mysteries of Exogenous & Endogenous stems. I have studied little this week, for I found that close confinement was spoiling my health, so I have been taking quite severe exercise almost constantly, by which I am considerably improved already, although my bones ache prodigiously! I have not yet botanized largely. When at Bridgewater I secured all I could find of the new Carex - also *C. chondroliza*, which by the way Crane has found in his region. I hope soon to collect more extensively but in this vicinity there are no plants of especial interest. I have just now a mania for examining and preserving the roots and fruits of our plants (I make notes of every thing in a copy of your Compendium) and I hope to bring you a collection in this way which will interest, and perhaps be of some use to you. Fruits and ripe seeds are not often to be obtained, at least in a proper state, in our herbaria. I have been examining our *Smilax rotundifolia*. It is a regular Endogenous shrub although it sometimes dies nearly to the ground, but always sends out a branch from the uppermost node which survives the winter. Its branches, just as any Endogen would, because the

terminal bud is killed, — the branches are cylindrical and increase very little in diameter after their production. A cross-section shows the same structure as the rattan, i.e. the vascular & woody bundles are arranged equally throughout the stem. But a great part of the stem is prostrate beneath the surface and it may be traced back, alive and dead, for several years growth. In fact I have not yet succeeded in tracing the stem back to the true root: all I have seen are adventitious roots sent off by the nodes of the stem. This is the only Endogenous shrub, I presume, in the Northern states. By the way the term Rhizoma must be used much in descriptive botany and be extended so as to include all subterranean, nearly horizontal stems, or portions of the stem, which produce roots from any part of their surface and buds from their extremity. It occurs in a great part of herbaceous perennials, and can always in practice be distinguished from the root although it is still described as root in all the books: witness, Hydrophyllum, Actaea, Caulophyllum, Trillium, Cavallaria, and so on to infinity.

I am not yet perfectly satisfied about our Actaea's — thus the red-berried one is now perfectly ripe, while the berries of the white one are but half-grown: all the red ones so far as I have seen have slender pedicels also, yet the leaves and the rhizomata are exactly alike!. By the way, while I was botanizing this afternoon I met with great quantities of Orchis spectabilis, by far the largest and finest I ever saw: their leaves emulating Habenaria orbiculata. If you care for them in the slightest degree I will secure a sufficient quantity to fill your garden. O. spectabilis will, while in flower, be a very pretty spectacle. I have just received a letter from Dr. Short inclosing a list of his desiderata

of the Northern States, He informs me that he has already prepared for me sufficient quantities of the new Carices and several other plants.

I hope very soon to be able to visit the interesting localities about Oneida Lake. I do not expect to find any thing new in that region - it has been very thoroughly explored. But I can secure a good quantity of very desirable specimens. If you are not yet discouraged in your attempts to cultivate interesting native plants. I can with very little trouble supply you with a great many desirable and pretty plants from that region, as it borders immediately on the canal and boxes filled with roots & bulbs would reach New York, perfectly fresh, in less than a week from the time they are taken from the ground. If you desire it I will visit the ground with that intention and will postpone my visit until a short time before I return (that is if I am again to be allowed to partake of your hospitality) so that I may reach New York in time to put them in the ground. Please write me, my dear friend very soon for I am indeed anxious to hear from you. Present my kind regards to Mrs. T. when you see her, and say if you please that I shall be highly delighted to hear from her, whenever she has leisure to write.

I remain -

Cordially & truly Yours

P.S. Please direct to Bridgewater. }

A. Gray

At the ...
New York, ... 1840.

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August 11
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Prof. John Torrey

Princeton

New Jersey

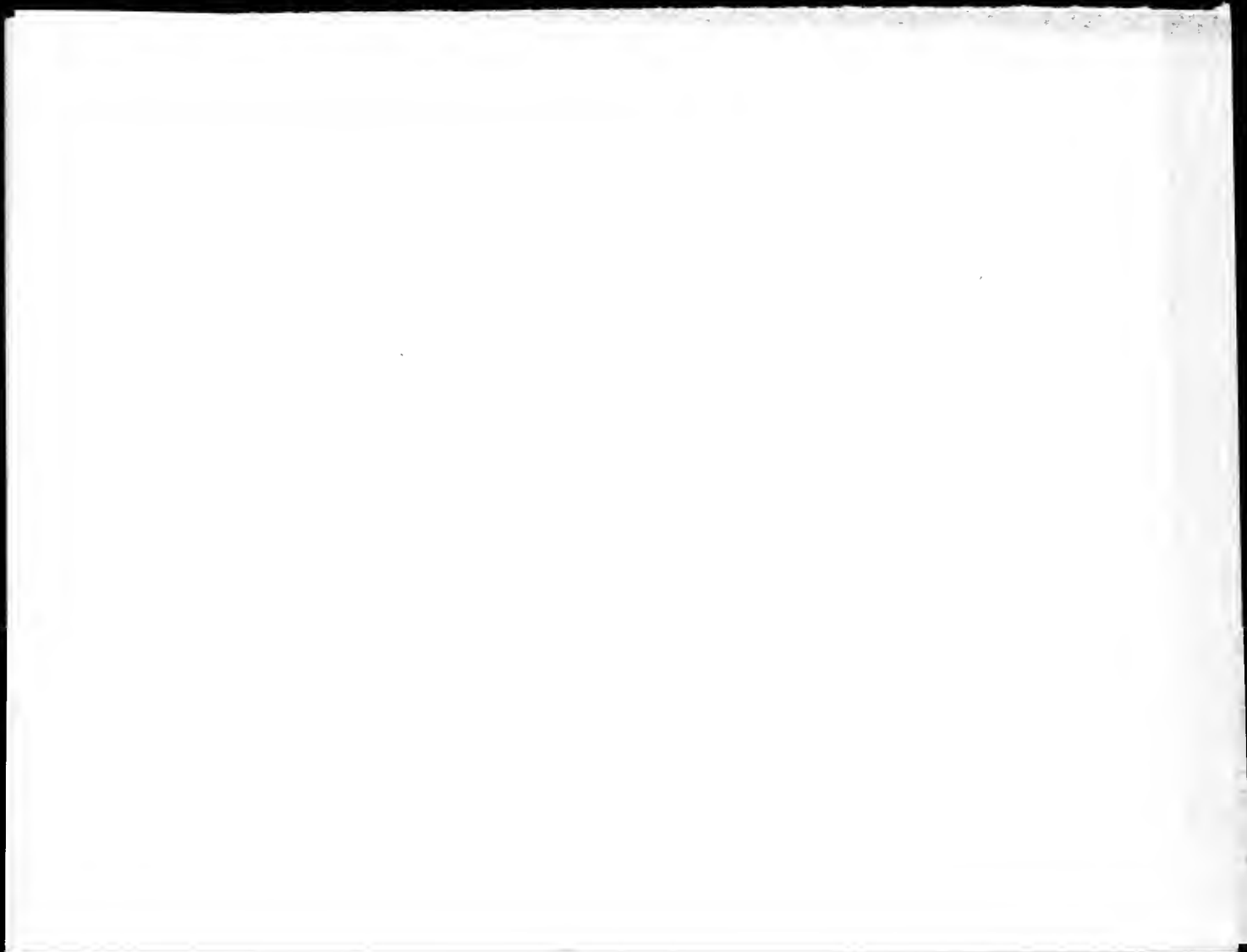
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Wai

Letter from
John Adams
in 1776
concerning

MLA

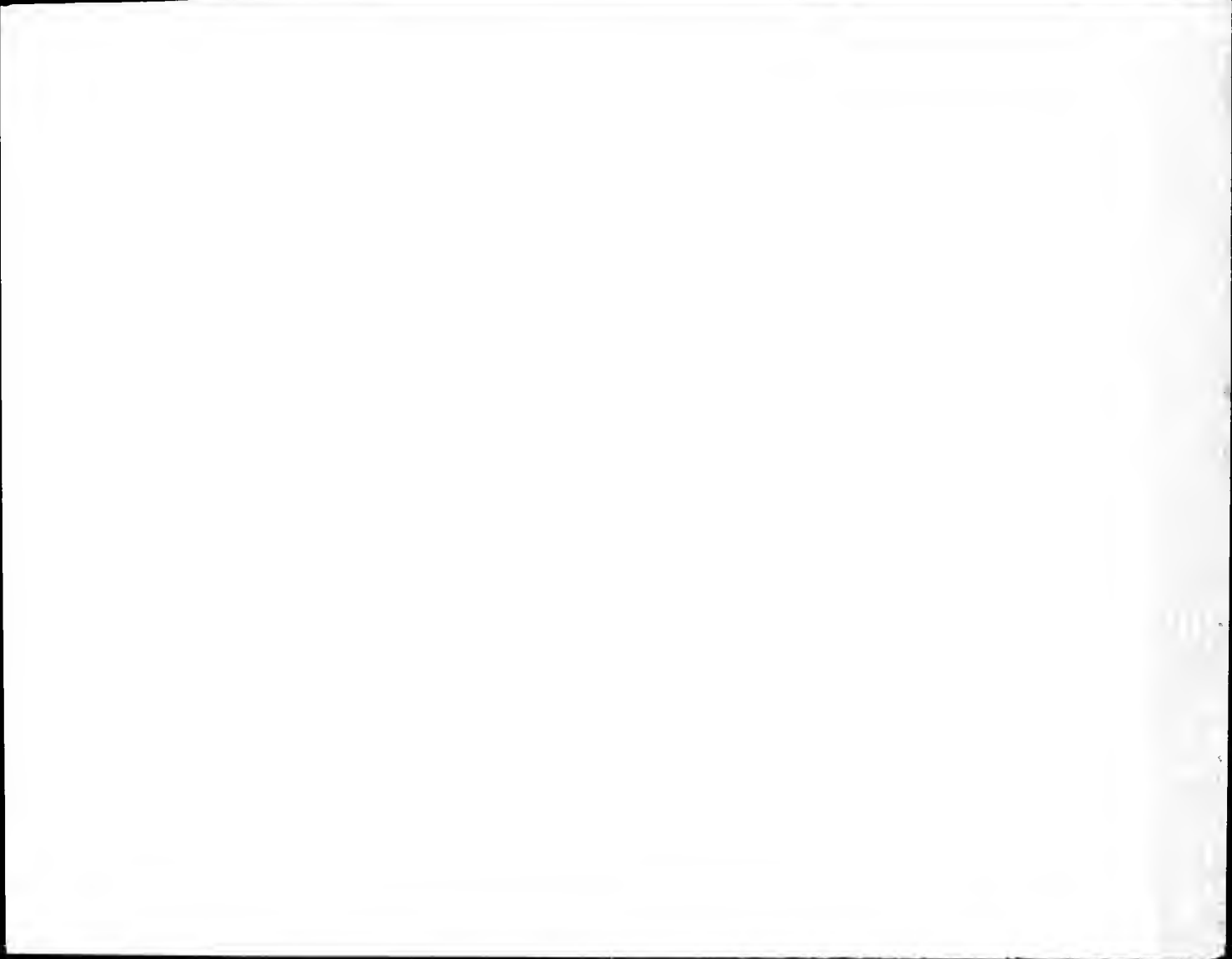
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16 vol.

1851, 1852

1853



[1837]

Sat. 1837

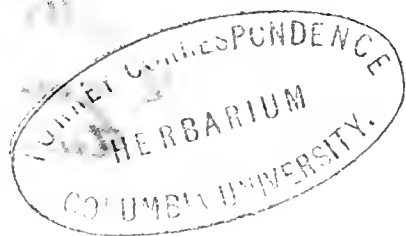
Saturday Evening 7 o'clock
 ST. TORREY
 MERRIMACK

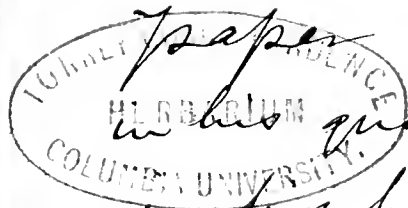
Dear Doctor.

I have just received, through Mrs. T. an intimation of your wishes relative to the Lib. of useful knowledge &c. I write this hurried note this evening to say that it will give me pleasure (in this ~~case~~ ~~every~~ case and always) to attend to such little commissions, or in any way to further your desires. I cannot exchange the nos. until Monday morning, and I fear Mr. Douglass will return too early to take it with him: if so I will send it by mail. - Mr. Shepard, I find has packed up nearly all your apparatus at the Lyceum Lecture-room. I sent the Evening Post containing a flattering notice of the Zoological Reports, I will endeavour to send you the papers as nearly as possible. For the short time that remains it is, I presume, hardly worth while to have the Com. Advertiser forwarded from the office. - A foreign letter arrived for you, I think is from Annot. I hope it contains something about Torrey's! By the way, we shall want copy from the Animals from you very soon, but we will talk of that when you come on. Your Asters have arrived

(by a private hand) from Lindley,
I had intended to write you on
Monday, but this hurried note
will do for the present. As you will
be here so soon I will save up
all the long talks until I see
you. Let me hear from
you when you have leisure.

Yours ever truly
A. Gray





7.41.3.01

paper in order. I find he has been very careless, both in his quotations which are not always correctly copied, and in his historical accounts; thus he has a quotation from Elliott on the method in which insects are imprisoned in ^{the leaves of} Sarracenia, but has not noticed that this is a mere abstract from a detailed paper on the very subject by Dr. Macbride in the *Lin. Trans.* And in referring to the latter, I find that the whole discovery was substantially made by ~~Bartram~~ ^{Bartram}, who correctly describes the process in the *Intro.* to his *Travels*. I have heard again from Washington. The Sec^y has promised Reynolds that a small vessel shall be sent to London in advance, but I place so little confidence in his promises that I shall suspend my belief until I see the order.

I must abandon my quarters here soon, and shall soon begin to pack up my Herb^m, which I find I can arrange so that it will not be very bulky. Indeed if I could now spare a little money for paper band folios, they whole might perhaps remain deposited in the Herb. Case of the Lyceum. As to my heaps of duplicates, now chiefly confined to plants of this state, I now not know you could confer a greater favour, just at present, than by accepting of the whole lot, and employing them in making up your sets of N.Y. state plants. They are mostly good specimens, and in many instances sufficiently numerous to complete your sets. They will save you some trouble, at least, and a little expense, if the State does not pay your bills for transportation.

I took a letter from Mrs. T. to the office yesterday, and I presume there is nothing to add in the way of news from home. I will however call before I close this letter and see. My kindest regards to Jane.

Yours ever, A. Gray

[Faint handwritten notes and markings at the bottom of the page, including "to send to" and "to send to"]

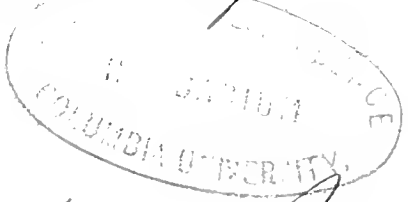
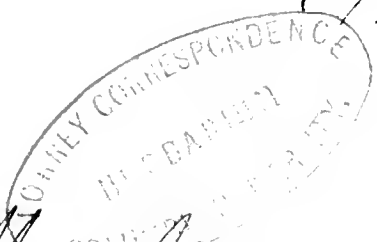
11



Dr. John Torrey
Princeton

New Jersey

Wednesday 5th clock P.M.
38 MacDougal St. 1870!



My Dear Doctor

Coming down here after dinner, I found your letter Princeton postmark, 14th, and returning to the College I was just a moment too late to meet the bearer of your notes for myself and Dr. Knieskern. Then momentarily expecting Dr. K's arrival I came back here. - Finding one of the letters in the box (which came to-day - else I should have sent them by Miss Murphy, who was duly packed and consigned to Brunswick this morning, via Rail Road) with the mark P. D. K. I concluded it best to take the responsibility of opening it to learn when Dr. K. was to be expected. It is well I did so for the Dr. writes that he is delayed, among other things by some illness in his family, and will not be here until Monday evening or Tuesday morning of next week - which will be too late for me to offer him a bed here. I suppose I had best leave ~~them~~ your letter to him, and your two notes to me, (which contain some instructions for him) with Prof. Henderson, at the Medical College.

I do not yet find the map you speak of. Some nice specimens of Clematis ochroleuca are all ready for you. I had the pleasure to see them a week or two ago. I did not

get your letter in time to send ^{the} ~~your~~
books, &c. - for Mrs. Torrey by Mary Murphy;
but will bring them. Should I leave here
Monday morning, I think I may promise to
come on to Princeton. I sent some letters
which had arrived by Mary Murphy.

My draft from Christmas Livingston &c. in
favour of Schlectendal, came back with protest
for non-acceptance; but that from here,
although they have long ago stopped payment,
immediately refunded the ~~whole~~ whole amount,
with cost of protest &c. - which I am about to
sue again to Schlectendal, in the form of a bill of
right on Hamburg. I have a letter from Mr.
Sullivan. He says he was for some days on
the point of packing up to join us in Virginia.
A letter from Mr. D.C. (with respects to you)
gives an unfavourable account of his father's health,
but says he has mended much for the last week
or so, and hopes the approaching summer will
prove favourable.



In case I should not think fit when I see you,
let me say now, that letters, sent within
a day or two (4 at the farthest) after we leave
for the South, should be ~~sent~~ directed to
Jefferson town, Ashe County, N. Carolina.
Afterward to Warm Springs, Brunswick County,
until I direct otherwise. I have to write
with a nasty, scratching steel pen, having
no quill by me. - Yours cordially
A. Gray