Philad. Feb 15th 1833

Dear Sir

I did not receive your letter till yesterday, and then too late for the Northern Mail, and am doubtful whether this will be in New York before your departure. As you keep an account of debts & credit, I suppose you have chalked me down as one letter in your debt already, but you must give me leave to bring in a much heavier bill against you, viz. for one visit — While abroad I hope you will not confine yourself to England, but at least endeavour to make an examination of Michaux's herbarium; to which, Mr. Cooper informed me, there is no difficulty of access. Unless I am much mistaken you will find in it several of Pursh's & Nuttal's new species. I have no time, neither have I attended enough to the subject, to make out a critical list of queries, but one or two suggestions now occur to me. Pray, examine whether Nuttal's new Sarracenia be not the real S. psittacina of Mx — whether your Trisetum palustre be not the Avena striata of Mx — Michaux's Canadian plants ought to be carefully examined — I hope you will seek the acquaintance of ~~La Pla~~ La Pilaye who is publishing a Flora of Newfoundland. — While with Hooker, perhaps you may ascertain whether the White mountain Arenaria, A. Groenlandica (Stellaria Groenlandica of the Flora Danica) is not to be found once or oftener under the various new species of Stellaria & Arenaria which have been ushered into the world by R. Brown, Hooker, Schlechtendal &c &c.

The collection of Gates, of which you spoke in your former letter has not come to hand. — I have a number of species of Willow, collected in New England, which I should be exceedingly happy to submit to Dr. Barratt if he will make a visit to Philadelphia, or to spare him any which he may not have in his possession, I very much regret that you have not made us a visit previous to your departure as there are several doubtful plants here, of which we are I believe the sole depositaries

yours,
C. Pickering

Recd Oct. 17th.
Ans. Feby 14th.

Philad Oct 13th 1833.

Dear Sir

I have received your letter apprising me of your safe arrival in New York, and congratulate you upon your pleasant voyage. I am glad to learn that you have made such good use of your time while there, and anticipate that much doubt and confusion among our plants will be cleared up by your visit. You mention a good many clever fellows whom you have seen, but do not say any thing of La Pilaye, and his Flora of Newfoundland, a man who appears to be one of the right sort, and who made a pretty full examination of that island.

I was disappointed in not seeing Dr. Gray, having been informed by letter from Dewey that he would call on me. — I am glad to learn that he has got more of that Evolvulus plant, which certainly does not belong to that genus — It comes nearer to Convolvulus trichosanthes that to any plant I am acquainted with, but differs in the form of the calyx. — When I showed the plant to Le Conte some years ago, he declared it to be the Evolvulus of Elliot, but on speaking to him on the subject a few days since (after he had seen Gray's specimens) I found he had doubts. The species of Evolvulus that I have seen differ altogether in habit. — I have a Eupatorium from Quaker bridge, for which falcatum would not be an unappropriate name, but whether it is identical with the species so called in the books, I have not determined: it grew in high ground & has almost linear leaves — the E. linearifolium is not uncommon there in the marshes. — The Artemisia I did not meet with there, but suppose it is the same with the caudata? of the sea-coast of New England — An Isnardia is common there, which has a fifty production about the lower part of the stem, and much smaller flowers than

P. macrocarpa, and which has been made a new species by Nuttal in his herbarium, under the name of P. floccosa — Dr. Green found the same in the vicinity of Boston — P. pilosa is also found there, but these are the only ones I met with. — The Lythrum lineare, I did not find, but Nuttal has it, I think, from Delaware. — Quercus imbricaria, I never heard of before from N. Jersey, and should be much surprised if it so turns out — The Yellow Oak, Q. castanea, grows there, and has not hitherto been correctly described. — I have a Habenaria which may well be the flava, but Nuttall has I believe also published it under the name of integra. — Erianthus alopec. I have from Delaware. — I have seen it stated somewhere, perhaps in Muhlenberg's letters, that Whittlow found at Quaker bridge Laurus Carolinensis & one of the species of Calycanthus, neither of which, that I am aware of has been seen there in modern times. — Nuttal has several undescribed plants from New Jersey.

I do not recollect whether any thing passed between us on the subject of L. Collins Herbarium previous to your departure to Europe. You are probably aware that it was offered for sale at auction in June last — Mr. Schweinitz purchased that part consisting of Baldwin's Collection for a little over one hundred dollars, & I have since understood that he is much pleased with his bargain — Mr Collins' private collection was bid in by his Executor, at 150 dolls. — Some weeks since, a letter arrived from Mr. Rich of London, enquiring the price, and it had been offered to him for 200 dols, which it seems to me he will take up, in all probability — In the mean time however, if you were to make an offer of not less than 150, you would be very likely to get it — I have examined the collection carefully and think it well worth $200 to one who wants a collection of the plants of this country. Mr Collins had several correspondents in the Southern States, & Schweinitz told me that he could procure plants from every part of the world more easily than from our Southern districts — Among those I now recollect, that would be most likely to interest you, are the numerous contributions

of Le Conte's brother, from the neighbourhood of Savannah, a complete set of Nuttall's Arkansa plants, and a few of his Missouri, & a collection from Labrador, obtained from the same source as Pursh's from that country, and containing some plants, that are I believe still new to this Continent.

I will forward to you by the first private opportunity the part of the Academy's Journal which Hooker wants — Barton's Flora can be obtained of the publishers (Carey & Lea), for fifteen dollars coloured, or ten, uncoloured — His Medical Botany, for ten dollars — Lea's Unio cannot be obtained separately, but they are contained in two volumes of the Transactions of the Amer. Philosophical Society, which may be purchased for five dollars each. —

The package I shall send, may perhaps be left at Ward's, the bird-stuffer, or at Cooper's, or at Dr. Jay's, as I have forgotten the name of the street & number of your residence. — If you think of it, when you write next, give me your direction.

Yours truly.

Charles Pickering.

Hilp
Fox
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John Torrey M. D.
Professor of Chemistry in the University of
New York.

Recd. Apr. 7th —
Ans. Apr. 10th

Philadelphia, March 30th 1836.

Dear Sir,

I have managed to steal a point, and send you a fragment of nearly all that is contained in the Ugethian Collection. Mr. Nuttall left them in my charge, without any directions as to the duplicates, and there were some plants he set such store by that he would not spare them even for the Academy. — At the same time he did not forget to direct the forwarding of a copy of his paper to Hooker. — I have no doubt however that he intended one set of duplicates for you, and have accordingly taken out one wherever there have been three specimens, and in other instances, fragments, though I am afraid you will hardly consider them such. — As Hooker is describing the same plants, it may be important that the fuller set should be sent to him; but perhaps you can get Nuttall on his return to make up the complement of your set, out of the remainder. — I think it important there should be two Herbaria of American Plants, as one might be destroyed by fire.

I see as I suspected the larger spikelet from Surinam, belongs to a smaller plant, though perhaps still of the genus Diplasia — I return you a leaf, as there is but a single specimen, contained in Scheveinitz's herbarium under the name of "Carex Indica", from Surinam, by Hering. — I do not consider myself competent to give an opinion as to the structure of the flowers, not having made it a study, in the Cyperaceæ.

Two species of Cyperus, constitute all of the Family in La Sagra's plants — and indeed the Monocotyledoneæ were very scarce, compared with the Surinam Collection. — I am not at all surprised at there being so many undescribed plants found in Cuba — more no doubt remain behind, particularly towards the Eastern end of the Island. — In the Tropicks everything grows up into trees, which you know are the aversion of most botanists. — That part of Mexico bordering on the Gulf must be even less known, as Mr. Dickebut of the State of Vera Cruz, (where the vegetation must be as rich as in Brasil) told me, there were several species of the Aurantiaceæ wild there, some very singular.

I am indeed obliged to you for the Texas plants — they form a very interesting addition to the North American flora. — I perceive among them several of Nuttall's Arkansas plants, which I suppose he will

now loose, as he has never published them. — As to the "Hippocastaneous plant", it has a monstrous Rosaceous look, but our volume of DeCandolle's Rosaceæ is borrowed, a comment on Circulating Libraries. — Should Hooker wish to have any of the plants compared with Nuttall's, I would most cheerfully undertake it, that is, if he would put any confidence in my judgement. — From your caution about keeping the three sets separate, I conclude not to incorporate them in the Herbarium for the present.

I congratulate you on the most liberal appropriation made by your State for a Geological Survey — If it should be productive of nothing farther, it will confer respectability on the profession of the Naturalist. — You & your friend Dr. Gray will no doubt have a glorious time in overhauling the State. — As for myself, I am not yet quite ready for Treasury pap, and the Department of Zoology, in which perchance there would be less rivalry, is not that which would be likely to find most favour in the eyes of the Publick — I do hope however that my whole life may not be made up of neglected opportunities.

Yours, in great haste

Charles Pickering.

Prof. John Torrey

New York.

care of Rev. Mr. Ennis.

Rec'd. Dec. 31st.
Ans'd. Apr. 19th

Philad. Dec. 29th 1836.

Dear Sir,

Having an opportunity of sending by Dr. Carson, I transmit some specimens of a Scirpus about which I wrote formerly as being identical (so far as my memory serves without reference to the Herbarium) with the "S. *alatus" of Nutt. "from the Delaware". — It was found here growing in tide water just above the city, and so different in habit from S. triqueter that I took it for S. lacustris till undeceived by its triangular stem — the leaves were only produced near the base of the stem & were not visible till the plant was uprooted. It seems sub-aquatic if not fairly an aquatic species, & grew in company with S. lacustris. — This tide fresh-water in the Delaware is rather a peculiar situation & there are other plants growing within its reach which require investigation.

I have received three copies of the Monograph, one for Nuttall, one for the Acad. & the other for myself — You ask my opinion respecting the work, but I should not feel competent to give one unless I had studied the Fa. ily. I may however remark that I think the style in which you have got up, as well as that of Dr. G's on Rhododendron, will prove an epoch in the manner of studying our plants. — I was also much pleased with your rejecting the doubtful species into an appendix. — I cannot help thinking however that as this is a great country for rivers & marshes, for Unios, Water-tortoises & Salamanders, and as a majority of the Cyperaceæ seem to be more peculiarly attached to moist places, together with what I have seen myself, the species will turn out more numerous here than almost any where else — perhaps

even you might still find something to do in the Herbarium of the Academy if you will bring on your materials.

Mr. Nuttall will be glad to give what Cuscuteae he collected in his Western tour. They are not numerous but there are some strange looking ones amongst them — Do not forget to enquire about a Seleria he obtained in New England, with a single flower, broad red scales — It is in the same bundle with Byatt's Rocky Mountain plants. — By the way what have you done with the small reticulated one which fills the marsh at Quaker bridge?

We have Baldwin's original specimens of Dalibarda lobata, but they might be better. — Mr. Nuttall found Scolopendrium near Cascadaqua, at Geddis' Farm in a shady wood with Taxus Canadensis. — The plant which N. once proposed to call Boykinia, I think he published in one of his two last papers as "Bryonia Americana" or Plukenet or some old author — at all events I remember his altering the name in the herbarium. — N. has been occupied exclusively for some time past with his collection of shells, but will get them out of his way shortly. — He will probably be saved some trouble by this first part of Decandolle's Compositae, which I see contains a large lot of things from California.

The Academy never received the preceding Number of the Annals of the Lyceum, I mean that containing Troost paper on Reptiles. — I do not know that I have yet had an opportunity of thanking you for Wight's Contributions, which was extremely acceptable.

Yours truly
Charles Pickering

L. Pickering