

Philadelphia, June 9th 1827



Respected Friend

Dr. John Torrey
Your letter of the 10th ult. -
was duly rec^d & I have only delayed
answering it from the expectation of being
able to inform thee respecting the ~~Electro~~ ^{Electro} ~~meter~~ ^{meter}
which is not yet sent. Soon after I wrote
last - Wm Mason was attacked with severe
rheumatism in his hands & legs which
disabled him from work during the
past winter & which has till within a
short time afflicted him. The graduation
of the Electrometer was to be done by
him & I learn that the instrument
is now in his hands & will be finished
in a few days - I will send it when
ready to Stacy B Collins with instructions
to forward it to West Point. I have
never had any bill of the cost of
the 6 glasses which were sent to me.
The maker of the dry pile says that
he is often troubled with the columns
in the way thou hast been; & that he
finds that wiping them with a wet
rag to take off grease & dust & then very
carefully with a dry cloth will almost
always restore the vibration of the pen -

obulum — although the pendulum appears to be upside down, it is really not so as the lower end is much the heavier —

Professor Hance says he will send copies of his late work to New York & forward one to thee —

I have been much gratified in looking over thy two works on Botany & hope the large one will be soon completed.

What is the reason there are so few here for sale?

The chief if not the only defect of the Linnaean system as a Dictionary of plants is the numerous anomalies in which species vary from the Genus in the number of Stamens & Pistils as *Euonymus*, *Rhododendron* &c — Pursh has a catalogue of the genera which have anomalous species — It in the ~~Genera~~ *Species Plantarum* there is a list at the end of each class of the plants which actually belong there but are classed differently — Allow me to suggest the advantage in the next edition of the Compend of such a catalogue with^{or} reference to the page where the plant is described — Would it not

add to the usefulness of the book if
a sheets ^{containing such a list} were printed, & fast pasted at the
end of the book —

Your new Review is attracting much
attention here — Would not the history
of the progress of Botanical science in
the U. S., & the contributions of Americans
thereto & a biographical sketch of em-
inent native or naturalized Botanists
be a fine subject for an article? The
course of study would enable this
to do this con amore —

respectfully

Edw. B. Smith



Miss
Genl. B. Smith

May 9th 1827.

Recd May 13th

W.P.

Miss
Mrs. Parry
New York

MADE
IN
ENGLAND

Germananton Nov. 17th 1865

Respected Friend

Dr John Torrey

I enclose a specimen
of a ^{small} plant which is quite a favourite
with our gardeners - but which has not yet
been named. I think it is clearly a
Helianthus, but the species is not in
DeCandolle as far as I can make out.

Be so kind as to excuse the liberty
I take in thus troubling thee, but it is
one of the paralytics that view of super-
ior attainments pay for distractions
to be thus pestered by the ignorant. The
plant has fairly puzzled me & I only
like to be puzzled when I can solve the
problem - I hope thy California trip
repaired thee in increased knowledge &
regained health for its vigour & annoy-
ances -

Respectfully thy friend
Dawson Smith

