



Olympia, Puget Sound, Washington  
Friday Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1854

My Dear Doctor

Enclosed I take the liberty of sending you ~~the leaf~~  
\* and a few seed vessels of an odoriferous shrub which grows in  
this neighborhood, but is said to be rare even here. It preserves  
its leaves in winter, though from their shrivelling somewhat  
during the coldest weather I imagine it is not quite at home ~~etc~~  
in this latitude. Its flowers I have not seen, they are said to be white.  
The man who brought me the plant, a Mr Quincy A Brooks, was  
very anxious to know its name and whether described or not. It grows  
on the edge of the prairie, to about a man's height - its twigs are  
straight & not much branched, the leaves alternate, hard green.  
He states that the glutinous gum which covers the leaves and which  
I suppose to be honey dew is invariably formed upon them. The  
shrub may for aught I know be ~~used~~ a common one, but I  
have not before noticed it, though familiar so far as veget. goes  
with most of the plants of this country. The odor is much like  
that of a species of Juglans growing in California near the river  
& known there as the bay, wild olive, sweet laurel &c.

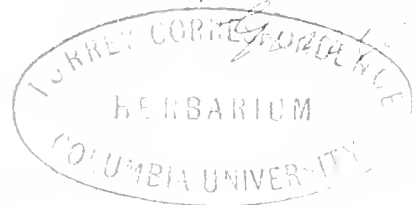
If you will take the trouble to drop me a line directed  
to Astoria, Oregon, I shall be much obliged to you.

With great respect

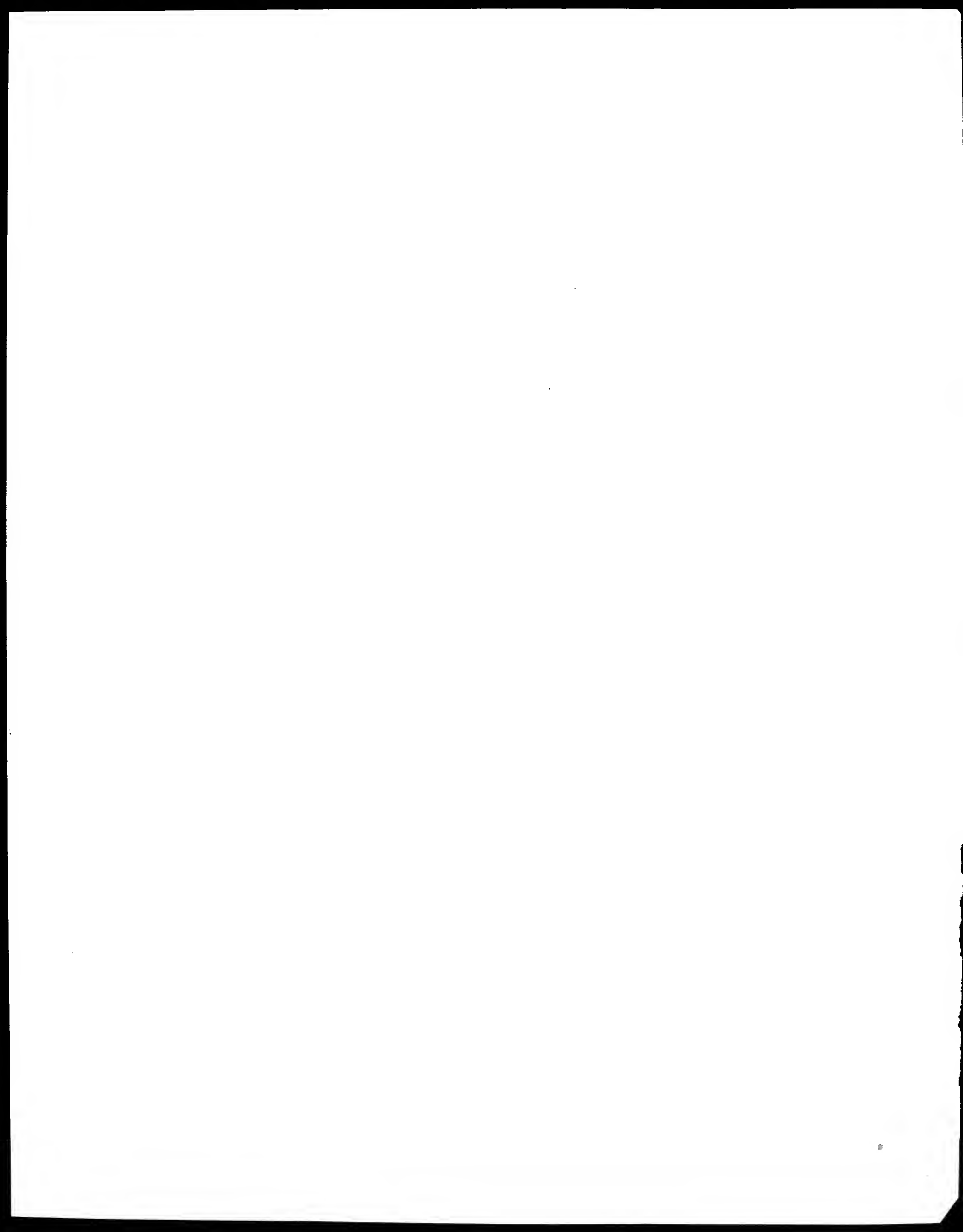
Yours very truly

x [Ceanothus velutinus, Hook.

E. 45.



Dr John Torrey



Recd. Feby. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Steilacoom, Washington Terr.  
Dec. 12. 1854.

My dear Doctor

Your favor of March 23<sup>d</sup> & "accompanying documents" as the papers attached to the Post's message are called, reached me only yesterday, having performed some of the circuitous journeys which form the shortest mail routes of the federal government. I have during the past season assisted Dr Suckley somewhat in his zoological collections, but not obtained many plants, although I was for ~~some~~ weeks in the mountains around Mt Rainier; but being engaged in surveying, & much of the time on foot, I could not pursue specimens. My immediate neighborhood is not rich in plants, but there are however occasional opportunities of collecting, & now that at last I have a house of my own, I shall perhaps be better able to serve you. I have taken up my residence near Fort Steilacoom, in the neighborhood of Puget's Sound, and have a farm in embryo, but as much of my occupation consists in travelling with government parties, I am ~~much~~ oftener absent than its interests require. So much the better chance however to collect. I will send the ~~plant~~ name of the plant to the gentleman who found it & shall make him get me one for my door yard. I lost one quite extensive collection of plants which I made in crossing the plains by

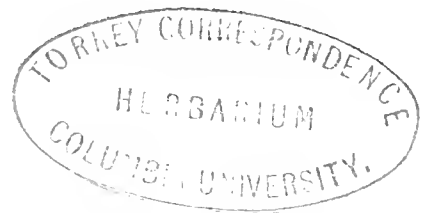
the accidental overturning of my wagon & the team  
etc being I presume glad to get rid of the weight - my  
mineralogical specimens being in the same box, left  
the whole on the ground. It is most likely that next  
summer I shall be in the field again & I will then  
try & make up an herbar, as at home I have ~~the~~  
facilities for keeping them.

I presume you see my brother frequently. He  
has made more of a figure in the religious than  
in the scientific world of late, & was not of his own  
seeking either. Wishing you health & long life of  
pleasant labor

I am

Very respectfully yours

George Gibbs



Dr John Torrey