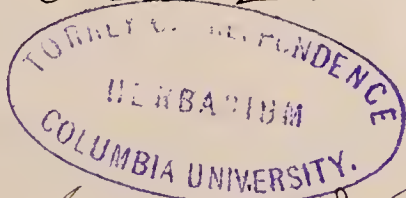


Philad. March 11 1864-



My dear Dr.

I have promised my friend Prof Coppie to write to you in his behalf in connection with your College. He informs me that the Presidency will be or is vacated by Mr King & that he is desirous of obtaining it. Now from my experience in those matters I am well aware of the course of action taken by Boards of Trustees who have a high responsibility on their hands and are directed by a sense of duty. Their object is to obtain the right man & they have a far more extended idea of qualifications than uninterested persons who look simply to the

excitation of an individual. They
are also guided by the exigencies
of the Institution, & the qualities
of the person to be sought for. I have
therefore hesitated in bringing on
any occasion the claims of par-
ticular candidates without a per-
fect knowledge of the ^{services} ~~services~~
those ^{on} whom the selection falls.

Prof Cooper has since 1854 been
active as one of the Professors
of the University. The functions of
his chair, that of General Liter-
ature have been performed with
satisfaction to the public & with
popularity in the Institution. In
social life he is highly esteemed.
His educational training is
based upon a partial course
at Yale College, & the full course

at West Point, where he graduated,
both he & he has acquired a high
reputation for his knowledge of the
method of curing the youthful mind
with firmness, common sense, & con-
stant influence. I have no doubt
that numerous competitors will
spring up and ^{that} you will have only
the difficulty of a choice, which I
am certain will be made delib-
erately, & with prudence & discretion.
Prof Coffey will present his testimo-
nials, & I am certain that you
will give them an impartial &
candid consideration.

Since I had the pleasure of seeing
you my foot has been a constant
visitor. I managed to close the
course of lectures & now with less

laborious work will be able to
recuperate. I mentioned your de-
sire to Dr Rogers by obtaining an
copy of his report upon the ad-
vances of corn, & Mr Barkley's
theory of obstructing it. He said he
thought he had some of them left
& if so, you should have seen
with perseverance in the application.

At last the spring is opening &
the season of flowers is approach-
ing, in which I hope to enjoy my-
self were it not for such un-
pleasantness the humdrum of profes-
sorship would be a dreary waste.
I recollect what you once stated
in my presence years ago, when Prof
of Chemistry that you had to pursue
your Botany "sub rosa".
Very truly yours

Prof John Torrey,
St Marks Place

J. Carson

