

Recd. Sept 22nd
undoubtedly

Princeton Sept 20th 1834

My dear Friend

can you forgive me for so long
delaying to answer your kind letter
of Aug. 15th. It came to hand at a
time when I was ~~much~~ engaged
in some experiments and when I
expected to see you in New York
in a few days. I have however
passed twice through your city
to and from Albany without being
able to call at your house.

Do not condemn me when I
will endeavor to plead my cause
when you come to Princeton.

I returned from Albany with my
family the beginning of this week and
on account of my being obliged
to attend the examination & I have
only to day (Saturday) and Monday left
to make some hurried preparations in
the way of experiments with my battery
which as you may recollect is to be
exhibited on Tuesday at 4 o'clock and
to be followed in the evening with your
display of fire-works. Do not fail to
come! The class expect to see you & will

be disarranged if the fine works be
not exhibited. There are no checks
prepared to address the societies or
the Alumni. The persons chosen in
both cases have failed. Mr McLean
has endeavored to get Mr Biddle of
the Bank but owing to the invitation
being so late he was unable to accept.

Your books have all been paid for
but if the persons owing for these will
be here at commencement & I will
see them at that time.

In Great haste from
your sincere friend

Dr. Torrey

Jos. Henry



P.S. Do not forget to bring Mrs Torrey
and the chickens with you to Commencement
it will be a pleasure just for them
as the temperature is now most agreeable
for travelling ~~and~~

I do

And. Sed. M
Recd Nov 22. 1834

Princeton Tuesday Morning
Nov 18th 1834 —

My dear Dr.

I have closed your book of
with Mr Baker and given the copies
unsold to Prof. Maslem. I intended
to ~~have~~ forwarded the amount due by
him but arrived this morning at his
house just in time to see the stage
convey him around the corner. Below
I give you Baker's statement of the
account and enclose an order on the
Bank of New York for the Balance.

I have commenced my course &
intend to get through this session so
as to leave the field entirely to your
culture. The class thus far have been
very attentive and nearly fill the
seats in the lecture room. My time will
be very much occupied this session
so that you need not expect to hear
from me unless it be to trouble you
in purchasing some articles in the Philos.
line. We are all well - nothing new
- have had a letter from Mr Alexander
dated "off Cape Hatteras; sent by the steam

Packet David Brown. By my stay in
New-York on Monday I have lost the
rate of the Astronomical clock in the Hall
it run down on Tuesday at 12 o'clock
I did not reach home until about
one. too late! I will endeavour to
regain the time but have no very good
instruments Mr. Alexander has taken his
sextant with him. I was anxious to observe
if nothing else the exact duration of the
eclipse at Princeton as this is an element
of some importance to the astronomer -
however insignificant to the chemist
or Natural Philosopher. Give my
Respects to Mrs. Torrey & Dr. Gray

Yr. Assn. John

Farewell

Geo. Henry

To Dr. John Torrey

Prof J Torrey To Moore Barker Dr
1852 May 25th To Turners Chemistry \$2.00

1854 Nov Or By Cash recd for
17 Turners Chemistry 1.37½ } 23.37½
\$21.37½



Prof. J. Torrey

Cornus of Charleston
and Mc Dougall St.

New York

10

I have no intention as yet to leave Athens even with the prospect
before me of falling into the back ground - I know that it is pleasant
to see ones name in Print, a Brevet is a Brevet although there is nothing in it

Recd 25th
and Dec. 30th

My Dear Sir

Princeton Saturday
Monday Dec. 20th 1824

Since my receipt of your kind
letter of the 13th I have been unusually
busy do not smile at the old excuse
I have been in Phil^a and of course was
obliged to do double duty on my return

Besides this Prof. James Alexander had
the misfortune to ~~lose~~ ^{lose} his young little
son the child died on Monday after
an illness of a few hours from a sudden
attack of croup. The family are much
grieved with the loss as the little fellow
was a universal favorite - the name
remin of his Grand father and of the most
interesting age of about 2 years and a half

Owing to this melancholy event I have
heard Prof. Alexanders recitations as well
as my own -

The present senior class I think a
very interesting one and contains many fine
fellows who will enter on the study of your
department with zeal - I am driving them
very steadily in Natural Phil and wish
if possible to finish my winter course before
your arrival - I have given thus far in
the session 3 lectures a week with one
examination or review lecture there with
my recitations keep me well employed -

your intelligence of the acknowledgment of Prof. Willard gave great pleasure to his friends in Princeton

I am besides just now engaged in preparing a paper for the Phil. Society of Phila which I think will be published immediately as the committee inform me that they have put to press every paper on hand and are now waiting for more matter

The Society appears to be awaking from its slumbers and now contains a number of young men who are ardent and industrious ~~and~~ will not I hope be quite as exclusive as their predecessors - I visited Phila about 10 days since in order to have the drawings of my machine corrected & put in proper form for publication - While in the city a meeting of the Club was held and an informal organization effected It is to consist of a few individuals associated for mutual support and instruction The members are Bache Courteny Esq (the Meteorologist) Rodgers yourself myself and Mr Alexander The meetings to be held 3 or 4 times a year at such times ^{and places} as may be convenient. It has no name and must be kept secret so as to excite not jealousy &c -

Mr Alexander has returned and was on the whole much gratified with the result of his tour. He addressed a great number of circulars to the several Post masters along

each side of the path of the dark shadow of
the eclipse in order to determine the effect of
the obscuration on the course of the wind
and other meteorological phenomena, ~~between~~
20 and 30 answers have been received containing
matter which he considers interesting —

With regard to your Pneumatic Trough
I think there can be no ~~hazard~~ ^{hazard} in commencing with
it immediately — In reference to the Medical
School you must ask information of Prof. Marshall
I think ^{however} you have nothing to fear on account of its
operations — I hope you are getting on pleasantly
at your Institution and that it will not suffer
as much as was anticipated by the appointment
of the new Prof. There is quite a blow-up in
Philadelphia University on account of the
unpopularity of Dr. Cox — 300 ~~students~~
students had entered into a covenant not
to attend his course This was about two weeks
ago you have seen in the papers that
much has grown out of the affair, between
two medical students. With regard to
Dr. Blanchard from his & your relation to
the college of Princeton would it not be well
on your part to make the best of the circumstance
and give him no cause of complaint, opposition
will only strengthen him and should he succeed
his triumph would be the more complete

These remarks are made in confidence
& friendship and will be named by you without

x The student who lost his finger in the duel ~~was~~ is a graduate of
Princeton by the name of Wideman. I believe we received through him
that he did not graduate but he left the college about the time of Prof. Vethakes
resignation. The Prof. was his guardian

offense - In reference to your battery I think
the troughs on the plan you propose will
be excellent. I know not if you intend
to introduce the ~~same~~ principle of moveable
connections. I would not advise this
for the whole series but as when there
are many plates it will be inconvenient
but I would divide the battery into sections
say of 10 plates each and arrange them
so with moveable connections as to produce
intensity or quantity - Give me a further
detail of your plan! Your friend
Dr. Torrey Jos. Henry

10
Dr. John Torrey
Corner of Chestnut
& Mc Dougall Sts.
New York



Recd. Feb. 28th

And. Thacker

Princeton Feb. 23rd 1835

My dear Friend

Your letters have been received and I am
not the excuse you were so kind ~~to~~ to be
for me. I will not attempt an apology for
my procrastination but merely state that the present
session has been one of the most laborious periods of my
life. You know that I am preparing on with my course
so as to leave the field wholly to you during the next summer.
I have been twice at Phil^a and on my return have
been obliged to do double duty mostly not to fall behind in
the present course of lectures & recitations. Besides this
I have submitted two papers to the Phil^a Society of which
we were at the same time made members. The first
paper is a description of my battery described as an instrument
of research and to be referred to in my succeeding articles -
My second paper is the second of a series which I intend
to communicate under the head of Contributions to Elect. and
Magnetism; it is an account of my experiments on the shock
be produced by connecting the poles of a battery of a single pair
of plates. I announced the first fact of this phenomenon in
Silliman's Journal for 1832 and in the Nov number of the
Annals of Phil^a. Mr Faraday mentions the same fact without
however noticing my publication. This induced me to arrange
my experiments for publication and in so doing many
new suggestions were presented to my mind which
required immediate testing by direct experiment. The
result was that the subject grew very rapidly
under my investigations and has opened quite a field
or research. I have given to the Society all my labors
up to this time and must dismiss the subject from my
thoughts until the next vacation when if it please provide
I intend resuming my experiments. You will see by the above
that my procrastination in your case has not been from
want of inclination but from the belief that I would
have more leisure in a few days.

With regard to Mr Jager I have heard nothing about
his leaving Princeton he is now married and I think has learned

That is the use of a friend unless you can use him says an old proverb. I have given you
a commission which I fear will afford you much trouble yet my wife wishes me
to make a further draught on you kindly & to request that you will bring her a few
quarts of the dried cherries which she had last summer from your city.

I forgot to state as an item of intelligence that we have an extra servant about college he is a carpenter and has been of great assistance in my lecturing in making wood articles, he works better than any carpenter in the village. We will keep him if possible for your use the next summer.

Conveyance and thus he would retain it until I sent for it or would dispose of it as I should direct - I first sent to the No directed, by one of the students who found the house of a Mr Hart as directed in South street but could hear nothing of a package for me he did not however mention the name of John Turnbull. I next wrote to Mr Hart requesting him to leave it at Jacksons bookstore Maiden Lane and then sent to Jacksons by Prof Dool and gave him Harb's letter the package had not been received at Jacksons & unfortunately Prof Dool gave me the letter in a moment of hurry at the rail road just as I was ^{starting} in an opposite direction to him for Phil^a I lost the letter & do not recollect the address of Hart and am unacquainted with his person. He says in his letter that he had an introduction to me some time since but that I probably do not recollect him. I think I could find Mr Hart by calling on some of the friends of Turnbull or at his late boarding house. Turnbull is a young Scotchman who resided some time in Albany and afterwards kept a lottery office in New York. He ~~is~~ ^{was} last summer for Edinburgh and took a package for me to Prof. Forbes - He was intimate at Random Knight & engravers in the exchange building and it is probable that some one in that establishment can tell where Mr Hart is to be found. The student with whom I first sent states that the house he called at was a grocery in South street not a very respectable looking place & on that account he did not make as many inquiries as he might have done. He did not ask for a package from John Turnbull but merely for one for Prof Henry. I am somewhat vexed to have a package lying for 3 months in a city so near without being able to get it. I have lately sent by Mr Phillips but he

returned to Loomis will without give me any information
 relation to his researches - If it be not asking too
 much will you make some inquiries of Rawdon &
 endeavor to find the said Hawk. I wrote for him
 to send it by mail - Perhaps it may have been left
 at Jacksons - Should you be so fortunate as to find
 the article bring it with you when you come to
 Princeton. P.S. I will send this letter by the bookseller Mr
 D'Hart if you can make a search for the package he will take charge
 [of it]

Dr John Torrey -

Corner of Charlton & N. 4th
 Street

New York

Forward by Mr D'Hart
 Princeton



I will make some inquiries respecting a house
 Mrs Policans is about to remove to the Pavilion in
 Ligtown the house which you & Mrs. Tinspired last summer
 The House which she leaves will probably be vacant
 you would not perhaps be pleased with that location
 although I think it is pleasant one
 Dr Carnahan has purchased
 the farm on which you lived last summer he will rent you the house
 and garden for 130 dollars a year also I am informed that the
 house occupied by Carnes White will be to let in a few weeks I will
 further inquiry
 your friend Jos. Henry

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Rec? March 9th

Princeton March 7th 1835

Dear Friend

Your letter was received on Wednesday
last - We expect to see you next
week and I will then ~~have~~ ^{be} ~~some business~~ ^{have} to talk with you
on all the affairs of the college
&c &c. I now write to request that
you will call at Jacksons Maiden
Lane and bring with you a package
of books which is there waiting for
an opportunity. I am much in want
of them. I have not ~~mentioned~~ ^{mentioned} the package
and therefore conclude that you
will bring it with you

I would like very much to commence
a series of experiments on electricity with
you particularly on electricity developed
by pressure freezing contact ammonia
action atmosphere electricity &c &c
Also the subject of experiments in different
gases. For these experiments we could

easily fit into a room and dry it perfectly by strong sulphuric acid or some other absorbent of vapour.

I have been studying with some view to the art of manipulation in delicate experiments of the kind in my present course on electricity.

We could soon cut out the labour of years -

There is some prospect of having an addition to the rear of the Phil. Hall in the way of a porch - some rooms might be made which would be admirable for expt. & study. Come on and urge the expediency of the project and help to plan for the improvement of the whole affair.

Nothing very lately has been heard from Newell. He remains a subscriber of about 2 thousand dollars in

Washington - He is now in Phila

Mr. Mallam intended to go to N.Y.
this week but has been prevented
by a swollen jaw. He suffers much
with bad teeth. You do not
say anything about the Dr's House.
He has not let it yet and wishes
to know what your intention
is in reference to it.

I have a class to meet in
a few minutes and must
hurry.

Yours sincerely

Dr J. Torrey

Jos. Haring

P.S. You will not be expected to
lecture more often than before. I wish
to complete my course so there will
may have no double lecturing at
or towards the close of the session
as in the case of last year.
J H.

May 10

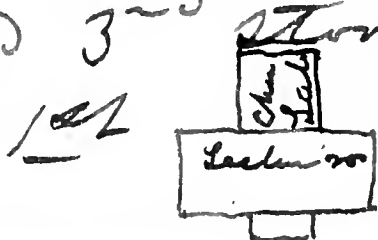
Dr John Torrey
Corner 7 Chestnut &
Madison Street
New-York

Recd. & answered April 24th Pomfret April 23rd 1833
My Dear Dr.

The Trustees have passed a law authorizing the building of the projection to the Phil. Socy Hall and operations are to commence as soon as the materials can be procured which will be I suppose about the commencement of the next session of college or about the time when you will begin your lectures.

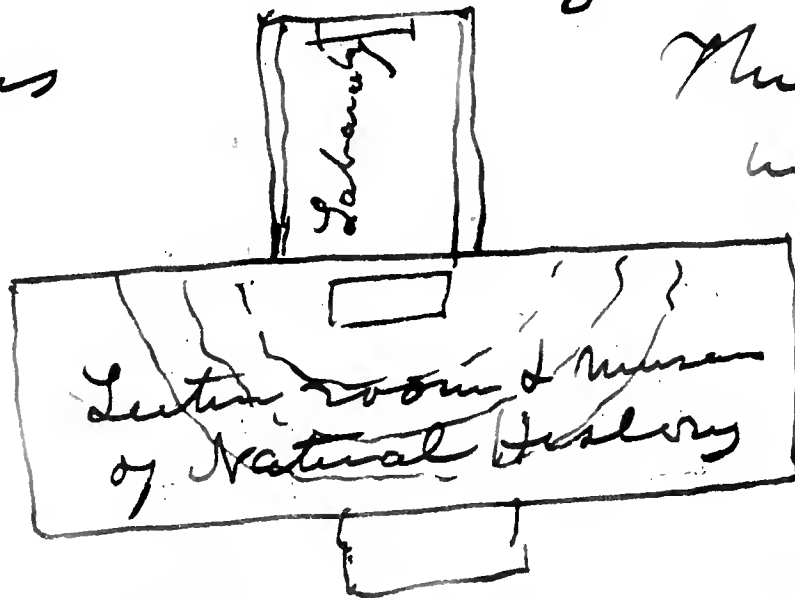
It is necessary however before the stone & wood be purchased that the dimensions and general plan of the structure should be settled.

There are several plans proposed and I wish you were here to give in your views with those which have been offered. Mr. Luce has gone to Cammerburgh so that the planning now devolves on Mr. Allen the Dr. and myself. There are principally two plans for the arrangement of the 2nd and 3rd stories which are as follows



To convert the projection on the 2nd floor into a laboratory with cases for chemicals &c.

and to use the large room (now dining room) as a lecture room with the cases for the Museum of Animals Minerals &c around the walls. The seats to be placed circular before the large door leading to the Laboratory thus



The whole story devoted entirely to Natural Phil. and a work shop for the carpenter or other mechanics.

The other plan is to use the large room entirely for a museum with cases around the wall and floor cases in the centre. It is supposed that nearly the whole room may be thus occupied as the minerals from the other building will be brought over and also one person has subscribed to the Alumni fund \$500 worth of minerals besides. This Mr. Vandoren of this place has lately become possessed of the cabinet formerly owned by Nuttal which he will sell very cheaply. & which Mr. Menden intends to have purchased.

According to this plan the whole
story will be used for N P and
Chemistry. The proposition for a
laboratory & work shop and
the new Museum for a Phil
cabinet. In this arrangement the
two departments will not be entirely
separated and as long as we two
are in the chairs all things I trust
will go on pleasantly ~~but it might~~
be otherwise should any change occur.

I am anxious that such an arrangement
should be made as will be best
all things considered, for the interests
of the college. If you cannot come
to conversation before the plan is decided
on give us your opinion by letter.
I wish to go to Philadelphia this
beginning of next week - Write this
week.

Your Friend
Jos. Henry

Dr. Torrey



10

Dr. John Torrey
Comer of Charlton
& McDougall Sts.
New-York.

Recd? Apr 29th.

My Dear Sir

Cambridge Monday 18 Oct
H.M. April 1835

I am just about to start for Philadelphia this morning and having received your letter and the following as a hasty answer.

The Trustees passed an order for the payment of your bill with the usual appropriation in the whole \$150.

The committee on the new building met on Saturday last and decided that the projection should be 30 feet long and 20 wide on the outside the internal arrangements to be settled hereafter. Mr. Maden however is much in favour of seating the President's room as a lecture room with the Museum cases around the walls.

Let the arrangements be what they may we will all be much better accommodated than at present and the appearance of things about the establishment much improved. There is a very fair prospect

at present of a good addition to our
number of students at the beginning of the next
term. I know not ~~and~~ what to answer with
regard to the class book. Our bookseller
in this respect is a great trouble - I was
obliged to purchase a ~~set~~ of Brewster's
optics for the class just before the end
of the term and was not able to collect
more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the purchase money; the
remainder will be paid, I hope at the
beginning of the next term.

I regret to learn that Mrs Torrey is unwell.
I hope a residence in the country during the
summer will be favourable to her health.

Mr Blackwell has given up his house
to a person from Trenton, Illinois, who is said
to keep a good table and to manage the establishment
very well. The bar keeper informed me this morning
that yourself and family can be accommodated
with boarding at a moderate rate but could
not give me the price per week. The proprietor
is not at present at home. I intend
stopping in Philadelphia about a week
in order to post up the contents of the journals &c

Give my respects to Mrs. Torrey and Dr. Gray
Mrs. Henry wishes to be remembered to Mrs. Torrey
the little girls & yours of

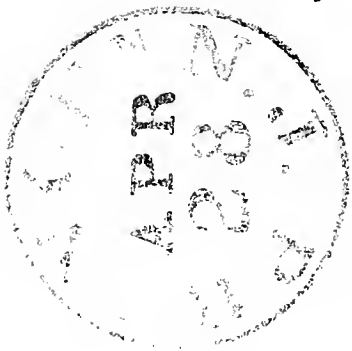
From your friend

Joseph Henry

Dr. Torrey



18



Dr. John Torrey

Corner of Charlton
and Mc Dougall St

~~St. Louis~~

New-York

Sho.

Recd. Aug. 28th

Princeton Aug. 26th 1835

My Dear Friend

Your kind letter came to hand the day before yesterday. The senior examination closed on the Monday after your departure. The next day the ^{COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE HERBARIUM} grades were read out and the class dismissed. The first name on the list was McClure the 2nd Jenover & the 3rd Nelson who was appointed to deliver the valedictory.

Mrs. Henry and myself talk of visiting your city in a few weeks but when I cannot precisely tell we will certainly make you hospitable manner our home. Mrs. H will not however take her chickens with her.

I have done nothing severely since you left but attend to some account business and read miscellaneous works.

The Phil. Hall remains as in the same state in which you left it, with the usual promiscuous of action in Princeton the carpenters have been obliged to wait for more than 3 weeks for lumber. They had ceased work except on some small time before your return & have not again commenced I am

informed however that operations will begin again as soon as the present rain stops.

I have spoken to Dr Carnahan relative to your proposition of an iron bar in the upper room of the nose he appears to agree to the plan and says that it can be secured in that way without much difficulty I will check to the carpenter so that the thing may be done as it should be.

Send on the chemical bills I will draw the money & send you a draft. The Trustees at their last meeting as you probably recollect appropriated \$150 to the chemical department you can therefore draw at any time to that amount.

I am happy to learn that Chilton has returned and that he has enjoyed good health during his tour. I am anxious to have a long crack with him as the Scotch men say. Do you know that I have your copy of Thompson's journal and also that you left you best specimen of Iceland

then in the drawer of the table in the Hall.

Have you procured the book from Hobbes
which you mentioned to me some time since
I would like to look at it for a short time
when I come to the city.

That principle of amalgamated zinc is
one of great practical importance. I intend
to use it in some experiments relative to the
size of wire required to transmit the electric
current which can be generated by a given quantity
of zinc & copper. For this purpose a number of
of zinc & copper plates of the same size but
marked by wires of different thicknesses
may be plunged into the same solution of
acid if the zinc be amalgamated the whole
action will alone be due to the conduction
of the wire which unites ^{the zinc} the copper
by weighing the different plates we can
determine how much zinc has been deposited
in a given time & thus estimate the amount
of galvanic action.

With the highest
estimation

Yours sincerely
Jos. Henry

Dr J. Torrey



10

Dr. John Tenney

Comman of Charter
& the Bridge St

New York

Recd March 23rd

Promotion Monday
March 28th 1836

My dear Sir

Your letter of the 23 was received
on Saturday I now answer it by
the mail of Monday. I am not
intimately acquainted with Gen Dix
but am on tolerably intimate terms
with the Governor. The Surveyor
General Dr Campbell is one of my
oldest and warmest friends and
will do much to oblige me. He
is also on very intimate and friendly
terms with Gen. Dix. I will write
to him and urge him to exert his influence
to have none but good men appointed
on the Survey and will mention
what you request relative to Dr
Gray and yourself. That I may
act more efficiently in this matter
I will leave Promotion for Albany
immediately on the close of our term.
I have business at Athens on the

Hudson and also in Schorham Co. and
away as well all the way to the north as at an
other time. The term closes on Monday
after the next and I will probably start
for N.Y. on Tuesday. As the room men
not be open before that time we will
go together — I understand something
of the art of managing in such matters
and you may be assured I will do
all I can to assist in forwarding your
wishes.

The affairs of Princeton I must
leave until we meet — I have never
worked as hard as I have for this
winter have been in very bad health
and worn shenits. The mail I
can well close if I before I
can get this to the office if I
scramble away.

Yours as ever
Jos Henry

P.S. I close my course of lectures this
week and am therefore unusually
hurry.

Recd. Aug 29
And Sept 26

Amston Aug 17th 1836

My dear Dr.

Your kind letter and liberal presents were received a few days since I accept with much pleasure the articles and hope long to preserve them as ^{an} interesting memento of your friendship.

The senior class was dismissed yesterday after a very tedious examination of eight days - Baird stood first I Miller (the younger of the two Brothers) second Kendall third and McCulloch fourth.

I have done double duty since you left in the way of examination and lectures on Architecture to the Senior class after I finish my course with the Juniors I do not intend to do anything more in the way of instruction this session.

I received a letter a few days since from Bache. He requested me to procure some letters for him to men of science in Europe - You of course will furnish him with some to London Edinburgh or Paris which will be serviceable to him.

Cannot you send them to him by mail or put them in a package and direct them to me. I do not know when he sails but am under the impression that he

informed me when in Philadelphia that he intended to start in September. He will be pleased to carry any package for you which may serve as a letter of introduction and if you have anything of the kind which you wish to put under his charge you may send the articles to me and I will deliver it to him. I write to you thus on the supposition that you will be in the Western part of the State and not meet with Bauche before he sails.

I have done nothing as yet in regard to the Philadelphia affairs but have received a letter from Dr Patterson requesting my answer this week. I would that the election could be postponed until after the meeting of the Trustees of Princeton. I could then give an unhesitating answer.

I hope you are enjoying yourself with your amiable family in your Western excursion and that all the anticipations they and you have formed of its pleasures may be more than realized.

With the highest respects
Yours Truly

Dr J. Torrey

Jos. Henry

P.S.

Mr Maclean has returned from Saratoga where he has been for about a week past - I know not if he intends to stop at home the remainder of the session - The faculty have a meeting tomorrow which has been called at my request to take into consideration the moral state of the College - I wish something done in this matter before I refuse to be a candidate for the Chair in the University of Pennsylvania

Holles has failed and left Princeton with a character as dark as his deeds -

I H

Mr Whiggen is still an inmate of the Hall - he is as great a recluse as ever but has somewhat changed his views in reference to knowledge and has actually become interested in Architecture. He has besides bought a new book and is considerably improved in appearance. He is very obliging and does every thing I ask with apparent cheerfulness.

I L

Gift



Dr John Torrey
Corner of Charlton
& McDougal Street
New-York

10

Pennetone Feb 4th 1887

My dear Dr

I received Chute's letter with your letter and have conferred with Professor Macdon on the subject. He has promised to have the Resolution made at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees which takes place at the end of the session the 15th of April.

I have just finished my arduous course of instruction and am now arranging my affairs preparatory to my starting for Europe - I intend if possible to sail in the packet of the 20th for London. If however the passage to Liverpool is safer and quicker I would wait for the packet of the 24th. I wish to get to London as soon as practicable in order to be there in time at least for the close of the scientific lectures of the season. You are no doubt very much engaged in your lectures but you will I hope find time to take my passage as you proposed. I am to have a companion de voyage in Lord Dr Pitt & a young gentleman

who goes under my charge - as there will probably be but few passengers at this season or the year I presume we can each have a state room or a separate sleeping box -

Nothing new at Princeton the present college session has seen a remarkable gain - one all the students being confined to the college the chance of irregularity has not been as great as usual

I hope Mrs T. has entirely recovered. We are all well at present but came very near losing our youngest child she was so ill about 8 days ago that I was called from my sleep with the expectation that she would survive but a few minutes - She however revived and has since recovered her strength astonishingly although she is quite weak

I will give you a list of the chemicals deficient in the case as far as I can make them out - I received a letter a few days since from James D Forbes of Edinburgh in which he wishes to know

If you will permit him to direct packages
to your care not only for me but for
the Philostemal Society, Albany Institute
and Dr Beebe. I directed him to send
his packages for me to your care in
New-York to obviate the difficulties I
have before had in getting them from
the city when they happen to arrive in
the winter.

Mr Clow will give you the same
accommodation you received when you
were here last summer but as
weather in March will be cold
there is no stove in the lower room
it will be perhaps more comfortable for you
to lodge in the upper room and use my
library for your study I will have
the outer room as well as the others
well cleaned and you can then put
your table in one corner.

I have made a visit to Washington
and have procured letters from Mr Van
Buren to the ministers at London & Paris

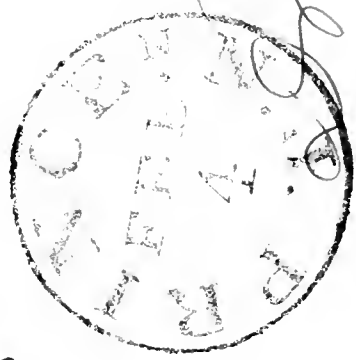
Most Sincerely

Yours obliged
Friend

Dr J. Torrey

PS Joseph the carpenter's shop is
just now sitting up some furniture
on the side of the large stove

and



10

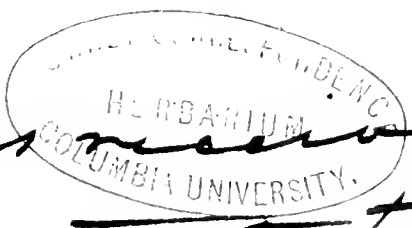
Mr. Torrey

Corner 5th Avenue
and McDougal

St.
New York

Pennetun April Monday
18th 1838

My dear Dr

Your letter was  received this morning Mr. Goodrich starts tomorrow morning at 4 o'clock. We are very sorry to learn that Mrs. Torrey has not yet recovered but hope she will not long be confined. She must have been very anxious to see you and it was well that you hurried off as soon as you did.

I have been very much engaged since you left in experimenting. It took me at first about a week to get started and I almost began to fear that I had lost the power of interrogating nature with any effect. I have since however found no cause of complaint on that account and have been as successful as I could hope to be with the labors bestowed.

I have found Mr. Goodrich a very excellent assistant. He possesses some good traits for a situation of the kind.

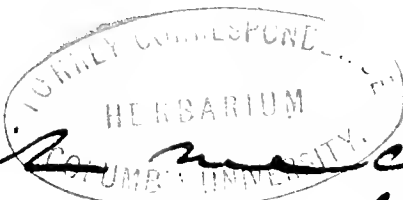
intelligence sufficient to take a lively interest
in the experiments and modesty enough to prevent
all ostentatiousness - He appeared perfectly
willing to do anything however humble
it may be - I find it of great
importance in experimenting to have
some person with whom I can talk on
the subject in the way of sharpening
myself - In the act of communicating
my half formed conceptions to others
they insensibly take a more definite
shape in my own mind. Mr J. will
inform you concerning our experiments
which I intend immediately to place
before the Phil. Society. Until they
are published I do not wish them to
be ~~spoken of~~ mentioned

The college is not yet in funds but
the Treasury will be replenished in a few
days when I will attend to your money
affairs as you directed

Saxton Promised to visit me during
the vacation - if he does so I will
recollect the affair of the Gallery

To Dr Torrey

Your Friend
Jos. Henry



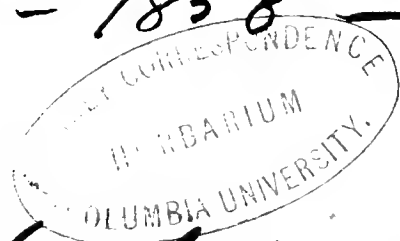
J.W. I intend to write to Chilton in a few
days - perhaps tomorrow, and will
then request him to send the package
you mention by some person I may
find going to the city -



Dr Torrey
1730 McDougal

Forwarded by
A. Goodrich
New York

Pennsylvania May
18th - 1838



My dear Dr

I have been absent on a
visit to Philadelphia and therefore
did not answer your last letter but
one. The last came to hand yesterday
and I would have sent you the above
check immediately but the money
could not be drawn until to day.
One of the New York Banks has
lately declared a dividend otherwise
we would not yet have been in
funds. I have only to day drawn
my own salary - The prospect
of full classes is now as favourable

as could be expected for the times
but the great difficulty of getting
money from the South will consid-
erably affect the interest of the
College during the present year.

Besides this the decision of the
new School partly of the Church
to separate from the old will
also probably somewhat depre-
ss our numbers unless the Professors
and directors of the Establishment make
some more vigorous efforts to
raise and sustain the establishment.

I did intend to spend some
days with you in New York but

was induced to go to Phil^d in order to
rehearse some of my experiments on elect
on a large scale with the machine &
battery of Dr Hare - The Dr was very
kind and I was fortunate enough to
produce some interesting results

I found that by sending a discharge
from 32 gallon jars through a
column were 80 feet long $\frac{5}{8}$ of an
inch in diameter that currents were
produced on every side of it to
such an extent that needles
could be magnetised at the
distance of 12 feet. What is
also very remarkable these currents
change their direction with different
distances and when discharges of
different intensities are passed
through the wire - I will
write you more at length soon
my love to the little ones and
respects to Mrs. Torrey

Dr Torrey

In haste yours
Joseph Henry

Professor Maclean is one of the delegates
to the general assembly and will probably
take an active part in the debates. —



Dr John Torrey
corner of Chatham &
Mc Denegal St
New York

Pennetown Oct 30th 1838

My Dear Dr

The receipt of your letter on Friday
last gave us much pleasure Mrs
H. had requested me the day before
to write to you relative to the health
of Mrs J. Your kind letter anticipated
our intentions and we have now the
gratification of congratulating you
and yours on the safe arrival of
the little gentleman long may he
be to be a joy to his parents and
a blessing to his country and the
world — If he be not a Philos
opher in the widest sense of the
term then then will he want much
of that inheritance which should
be his both as to both from
Father and Mother.

We are all well and pleasantly
settled in our new house and shall
be happy to provide you and yours

with comfortable quarters when you come
to Princeton — The mirrors shall be
forth ~~coming~~ the latter part of this
week If I can get Joseph to make
a box for them they will be sent to the
canal tomorrow — As to the price
we will settle that at some time
when it is perfectly convenient to
yourself. — I will certainly respect
the new road but shall take good
care to keep at a respectable distance
during a thunder storm — I have an
idea of being Popes "favoured man
by touch & thermal skin"

I have been laboriously engaged
at my series of experiments since my
return to Princeton and intend to go
to Philadelphia to present them to the
Society on Friday next — I will try
to get my paper published immediately
since I have not been very secret
in regard to the affair and may perhaps

be anticipated I was somewhat uneasy
about the late investigations of Mr Furaday
but I have lately received his papers through
Dr Warren of Boston and find that he is on
entirely a different track - I have with
harder on these experiments - than on any I ever
before engaged in and have overcome more
difficulties and developed more new
facts than were dreamed of when I commenced
the series - I regret that I cannot send
by Dr Gray a lot of my papers I will
however send you a package for
distribution His letters will be precluded
this week before I leave for Philadelphia
I am to lecture in July at the Clinton Hall
two lectures on sound and four on magnetism
- etc &c - I intend to give them a touch
unfamiliar to the patronage of our in this
country - and shall endeavor to do justice
to my friends in the city

In haste as ever
Yours

Joseph Henry

Dr Torrey

Dr John Torrey

Corner of Charlton
and Mc Dougall St

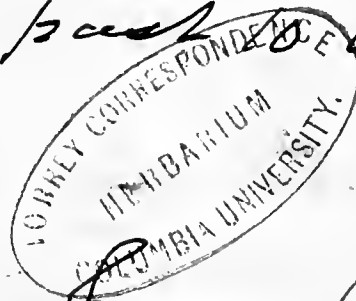
New York

Ans Wm Key

1837

My Dear Dr

Painston Wednesday
night 1/2 past 10 o'clock
P.M.



I regret that you have been
obliged to send for the mirrors
— I have just got back from Phil^d
started at 10 A.M. and arrived here
at about 7 P.M. — I went to the
city to attend a meeting of the Society
and to present my budget of experiments

Saw Bache who is about to
open his new establishment — the grand
college on a small scale — Also
our friend Dr Green and his young
daughter of whom he is excessively
fond — Dined with Dr. Hume and
exhibited to him some of my experiments

— The Phil^d gentlemen are not disposed
to join the Bostonians in the formation of
an association for the promotion of science

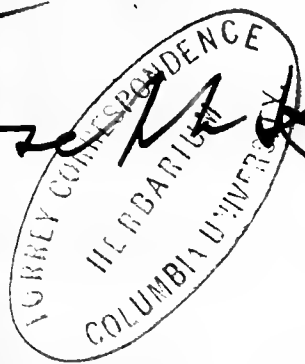
they think that charlatanism would
shock the science — When I returned
I found that little Mary had been
quite sick — She is now however some-
what better — Prospects of a
large class in college — I have
determined that the lower room
shall be put in some kind of order
immediately — The new articles are
quite exposed — I hope to have
my paper out in a few weeks it
has cost me much labor but was
considered in Phil^a as a very
important one —

Mrs. Henry sent a letter by
mail to Chilton containing 62 dollars
intended for Dr. Gray to pay a debt
of mine in London — The packages and
the letter ~~were~~ to be sent by Mr. Van Dine

Who notwithstanding his promise to me went
off without the articles. The affair gave
my wife much trouble and has caused
some risk in the conveyance of the
articles -

We are pleased to hear that
Mrs T is getting on well - I trust
this while your men is getting something
to read.

In great haste
Yours as ever
Joseph Henry



Dr Tony
New-York

Pennycuik Friday evening
Feby 16th 1839

My dear Sir

I embrace the first leisure after my return
to make out a few notes for you on the subject
of electric magnetism. I cannot find those
I formerly prepared for you. My library and
papers have been twice removed since they
were penned - I hope you will be able to
make out something from my scrawl but fear
you will find some difficulty.

I am now much engaged in making up for
lost time with my class and have lectured 5 times
this week besides heard recitations. I am also
superintending the repairs of the upper room of the
Philosophical hall which ^(the hall) is now in a state
of great confusion. I am obliged to prepare my experiments
in the little room and then carry the apparatus
over to the laboratory in the room adjoining which I now
lecture. The room upstairs in the Phil Hall will
be finished before you arrive and it is with a view
to this that I am hurrying on with the work -

I found my family all well when I reached
home - was much rejoiced to have finished my not very

agreeable job - I however was pretty well reconciled to the affair by the pay which I received. The sum was the same as that which you had stated 100 dollars per lecture. The money comes in good time since my expenses in getting into our new house has been quite heavy.

I hope you and Mrs T will forgive me for not calling at your house - I received a scolding from my wife for not doing so but I was sick all the time during my lectures and on Saturday was only just able to get my articles packed and to get off for Providence in the evening train - I will make up for all shortcomings when I next visit the city and will probably stay so long that you will become tired of me.

When you come on in March bring Mrs T and the little ones with you particularly the little chemist Mrs H is anxious to see the little gentleman.

Mr Blaney informs me that James Chilton was quite unwell when he left the city on Tuesday. I hope his illness is not of a serious nature. I have announced to the class that you will exhibit to them the interesting experiment of the solidification of carbonic acid - Mr Blaney informs me that your apparatus succeeds most admirably.

I learn by the papers that Dr Matthews has resigned his office in the University and that

Thos. Freelingburg of Newark has been appointed to succeed
him. What does this portend? I have been seeing
wood from Mr. Payer's words to settle the amount of his
debt to you good hickory at the rate of 2 dollars per
cord - What a melancholy affair the loss of the
American packets is - Have you as yet heard
from Gray - It is time almost that a letter
should arrive -



I do not intend to visit Philadelphia until
you come on to Pompton. Perhaps you will find
time to accompany me -

July 19th 1839

I have been interrupted every night
for some time past and have not found time to
complete my notes for you until this evening. I
lecture to the class every morning and have recitations
in the afternoon and besides this am engaged in attending
to the workmen who are engaged in the Hall. Your kind
letter came to hand to day and much to my joy did
not give me a scolding for my remissness. The class
are nearly all provided with books and I have noticed
this afternoon that no one should be without one by the
first of March - I hope you will be able to
make out something from the notes I sent you but
I have written them so hastily that I fear it will
be a difficult matter - The college will take
you abhorrent and be much obliged by the opportunity.

The appropriation will be made at the next meeting of the Board in April — I will have my little room put in order for you and strive to make your stay in the Borough agreeable. — I will speak to the Maslani about a boy — you will find no difficulty in getting assistants — There are several who will be glad to come under your direction in that line

3 sheets

Dr Torrey

Corner of Charlton
and Mc Dougall
Street
New York



I have set Mr Blaney at the job of making out a catalogue of the articles on hand with the quantities of each so that you will know what we want by what we have. The office is closing and therefore I must also close and
Wash Yours at once

and -

Apr. 20th

Princeton April 13th 1839

My dear Dr.

Your favour of the 8th was received on the 10th I immediately gave your intelligence to Professor Dod but he had concluded to start for the south as soon as the college business should be adjusted - We are ~~very~~ sorry to learn that Mrs T. has not much enjoyed by her visit to Princeton, she appeared better the 2nd day but probably took too much exercise for her very feeble state. I hope the excursion to the north will produce more decided effects in the way of improvement.

Mrs Henry heard that Standman had an offer for the house from a person from Trenton I know not however how true this is I tried to see Standman to day but learned that he had been for several days in Trenton - Dr George Keulean intends spending the next winter either in the Island of Madeira or in the South of France on account of the delicacy of his wife's health she has had several attacks of spitting of blood - his house will be for sale or to let and is one which perhaps would ^{be} very pleasant to you - It is large and very convenient. Should you come to Princeton this summer

nothing in a formal manner can be done relative to the enlargement of the chemical course except to put it on the old footing since that change can be made without the consent of the board of Trustees —

The affair will come before the Trustees at the next meeting in a proper manner and I will use what influence I possess to have the matter arranged to your satisfaction

Monday April 15th

I have seen Steadman today. He says that he has not definitely let the house but that he will wait a few days until he can hear something definitely from you — It ~~has~~ arrived this afternoon from Hightstown which I have not yet opened but which probably contains my coils &c I will probably commence with them tomorrow — The workmen are engaged in the Philosophical Hall but get along slowly — The Trustees agreed to the proposition of a servant but they neglected to make any special appropriation for the repair, and increase of apparatus. Dr Carnahan thinks however that ^{money} ~~it~~ can be ~~done~~ appropriated for this object without an act of the Board since it was only an oversight which prevented it on their part — Dr Green is now in Princeton relative to his house. He has purchased a lot of ground and intends bringing

I also enclose a copy of my father's Goodrich which I wish you would forward means of answering to him

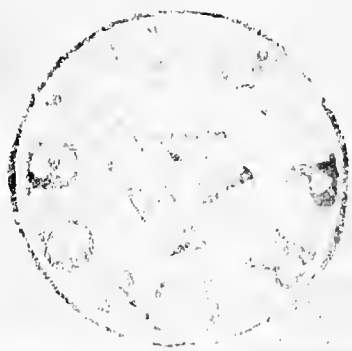
I have enclosed a copy of my paper for Goodrich which I wish you would forward him
of course willing to him

on a house complete with the exception of putting
together by way of the canal — great improvements
are about to be made in the college grounds Matthew
Newkirk of Philadelphia has taken the matter in
hands and the work is to proceed immediately under the
superintendence of an English gardener. The front
and rear campus are to be graded and planted with
an abundance of trees. I sent you through
Chilton a number of copies of my paper which you
will oblige me by sending to Ireland — I will
send you by mail a copy from Dr ^{Robinson} ~~Wasson~~
of Annapolis which I forgot to put into the package
you will please to do it up for me and send it
with the others if it be in good time. The question
is a subject which is at present attracting much
attention Dr Green was much interested in it. Have
you seen Mr Mersch the German who wrote the
article in the New York review on the subject? you
will find him a very intelligent person you can
find him through Sam^l Ward Esq Wall Street lately
elected the president of one of the New Banks — I sent
you umbrella and some articles forgotten by Jane by
the Topping former tutor in college he promised to leave the
whole with our general agent Dr C. — I have not yet
got your money although I have been promised
it tomorrow. The funds are now in the Bank but
the treasurer is not in the village to day he will be
here tomorrow. I have paid Clous account also
got the bill of the carriage hire which is pretty well
charged at ~~stages~~ one dollar per time — on the opposite

~~Here~~ The following is your account and for the balance
I enclose my check which you will probably find
the readiest method of getting the money -

Cr by Amount of salary	3.50
Dr to cash advanced by me	25
" to cash paid down	12
due on mirrors &c	3.50
Balanced \$310. due	\$ 40.50

Dr John Torrey
Corner of Chestnut
and Mc Dougall Sts
New York



The whole amount paid me by Prof Jager was \$31.50 the
French articles are \$35 - I will preserve for you the
French bill and also Jagers account I have been quite
unwell to day with a distressing shortness of breath and have
taken a quantity of lobelia this has relieved the paroxysms
but left me in rather a disagreeable state of depression
Mrs A Jones me in respects to Mrs J. With Yours Truly
Joseph Henry
Dr Torrey

And, May 5th

by Miss Ellet. Princeton April 25th 1839
Dear Dr. sent lamp
& gas-pipe.

The check has been received and accepted at the Princeton Bank. TOBIEY COLLECTION
III. ELIOT
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY As the business is settled with the exception of my getting your order closed by Mr. Vandoren - he was out of town when I called. I am much obliged to you for the hints relative to the putting up of the papers and will endeavour to comply by your directions. I will send you some articles for Scotland by the first opportunity. Henry James has returned from England brings me a communication from Faraday which however has not yet been forwarded to me. Henry was highly gratified with his reception by Faraday and appears from his letter to be much pleased with him as a man.

as soon as I can get Joseph to pack up the articles I will send them to New York to your man Proch although I spoke to Fike about them and he has ought to give him

the job - no bargain however was made and I presume it is an affair of little consequence since the cost of the repairs should not amount to much. I will endeavor to procure the money for your carbence apparatus at the beginning of the college term.

I have spoken to the Dr about his house he says that he would be glad to accommodate you but the house is much out of repair has not been inhabited for some time does not think it would suit. I have also spoken to Steadman informed him that you had concluded not to hire his house - He says you can have it for three or four months if you choose. Perhaps it would answer as well as the Dr's.

I start for Philadelphia tomorrow morning to attend a meeting of the Franklin Institute - The hall is in such confusion with workmen and apparatus that I can do nothing in the way of experiments and intend therefore to take a little recreation.

The improvements have commenced in the campus we have now quite a number of

man engaged on the fence and also several
putting down trees and grading the grounds

If it should come in your way I wish you
would make inquiry relation to the expense
of moving Clows house unless this be put in
an other position and the whole enclosed
within a high fence the grounds can never
be kept in good order

Mrs. H. joins me in respects to Mrs
Terry The scamps were greatly ~~reduced~~
Mrs. H bids me ask if Mrs T wishes
baked for her. Yours as ever



Joseph Henry

Dr John Terry

10

Dr. John Torrey

Comer of Charleston

& Moultrie Sts

N. Y.

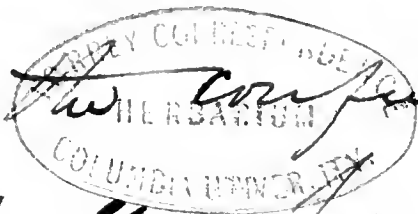
James Alexander lost his oldest child last Saturday you may recollect
that it was a deformed child blind and dumb. The family however was much
attached to him and are deeply afflicted with his death.

Recd. June 30

Princeton May 31st 1839

My dear Dr,

Your kind and very acceptable
present of the lamp and the accompanying
tube came to hand safely I would have
answered ^{you will} before this time but
the commencement of a new College term
and the beginning of my summer course
of lectures amid all the confusion
of apparatus in the Hall has occupied
me more than usual - I have
sent off a recommendation for
Fischer and hope he may succeed
since you think him worthy and
needy - The matter of the tube
is certainly a very curious subject
If a sufficient quantity can be procured
you should by all means stick to the
examination of it and little by little
you will get at the truth - I have



if you have given up the idea of coming to live in Princeton this summer you can at least give us a visit we will be happy to see you and all yours the country in did not I so much good the last week that she had better try it again we have the

not as yet tried its detonating property
the specimen ~~the~~ is carefully preserved
for the present as an article of curiosity
— I regret that in haste opening your
letter the little scale of mica was lost in
the street. — The society you mention was
spoken of ~~when~~ I was in London. Bailey
will do honor to himself and to the country
by his attention to the microscope. He
has zeal and is well grounded in a thorough
scientific education. — I fully agree
with you in the remarks relative to the
importance of good instruments and just
before the receipt of your letter I had
exclaimed in mock heroism. This is the
dipping needle of the college of New Jersey!!

The carpenter work of the upper room
of the Hall is finished and the whole painted
you can scarcely imagine how well the
old affair now appears. The superintendant
has cost me considerable trouble and obliged
me to Princeton during the vacation. The
workmen are now engaged in putting up the

same reconstruction as before and will be as before

same accommodation as before and will be as pleasant to me as all
will except little money she has had an attack of the bilious fever but has
partially recovered from this only to take the roofing work

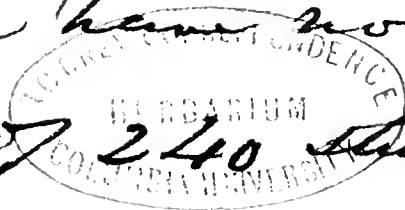
shelves in the cases below they have not yet
commenced to put up the seating - I will
write you again on the subject soon

Professor Dod is much engaged in
fitting up a mathematical room in
the old clio. hall - it is nearly finished
and makes quite a smart appearance

The college has opened with a good
addition to the numbers - we have now
on the ground upwards of 240 students
and will have nearly if not quite 370
on the catalogue - The improvements
now making in the lecture rooms are
of a nature to increase the facilities of instruction
and therefore will probably have a good effect
in adding to the reputation of the college. -

I have lately had several communications
from Crookes a very kind letter from Capt Ross
relative to magnetism and a still better
one from Faraday He wishes my opinion and
private criticism on his new theory of electricity
and in order that I may do him justice I have
been studying the subject with considerable attention

Mr F sends me a copy of his 14th series of researches
and I am much surprised on reading it to find that
although it appears to be on a totally different



track yet it actually crosses the path of my last
paper and what is still more surprising Mr F.
comes to diametrically opposite conclusions to those
given in my paper. Had I received the article
in the early part of the vacation I would have
gone immediately to work on the subject and made
out the cause of our discrepancies as it is I have

Dr John Torrey

Corner of Charlton and

the Buxton St

New York

only been able to make a few hasty experiments
and from these it appears that there is a difference
in the action of induced currents generated by different
means which has not been before suspected and
that Mr Faraday has been led into an error by supposing
an identity where none existed. My results are correct
since they are obtained on too large a scale to admit of doubt
Mrs H sends love to Mrs T and the children Mrs H bids me say that
(margin - 2nd page)

Rec^d. Sep. 6th

Princeton Sept 4th
1839 —

My Dear Dr

Your favour of the 22nd ult came
to hand last week and I have since been
on the look out as far as my time would
permit for such a situation as you mention
I have however not been out in the
direction towards Lawrenceville but there
is a very pleasant spot which can be procured
about a mile and a half from the village
on the New Brunswick road near the
House lately purchased by Dr Rogers of
New York It is on the same farm and
would be disposed of at a moderate
price but you must come and see for
yourself. I hope you will not forget

your promise to be with us at commencement
You will find some improvements have been
made during the summer and that many more
are required In reference to your modest
Friend's L.L.D I have only to say that he cares
but little for the honor and does not intend
to use the title until he conceives himself
somewhat better intitled to it He is however not
unwilling to derive as much advantage as may be

from it in Europe where titles be are not quite as
cheap and more esteemed than here. Your proposition
in reference to synthetic ink is worthy the invention
of the friend of the modest Gentlemen you mention.

I will do what I can for you in the way of
suggestions in reference to lectures but I think
in that line you will want but little assistance.

I would have written to you long since but
learned that you were spending the summer in
the western part of the state and engaged in your
botanical survey. Dr. Carnahan has just
returned from a tour in Virginia and will send
you a draft for the amount of the cost of the carbolic
acid machine. — I have been during the
whole year almost continually since my return
from New York last winter engaged in college
affairs and have not found time nor convenience
for continuing the subject of my last paper although
some new and interesting points have opened to
my view in reference to it since the publication.

Mr. Faraday has sent me his last paper and in
this most strange to say he crosses the path of my investigations
but what is still more strange he brings out results
diametrically opposite to the most important results
of my paper. These results have been incorporated
in the new work of Daniell on Chemistry and
have led Mr. Faraday to modify his theory of electricity.
I have since examined the cause of our

descriptions and in so doing have discovered some new
distinctions in reduced currents not before noticed
Mr. Burdett for one is entirely in the wrong & has drawn
a general conclusion from what is only a particular
case. I have just received a box of
Journals &c from England which came
by the Great Western more than a month
ago. They were forwarded to New Brunswick
by the P.P. News and there carefully put
into a stone house to be kept until called
for!!! Fortunately I received a letter from
London stating that they had been sent and
therefore put our friend Chilton on the
search. I have lately received several

interesting communications from England
and France these I will show you when
you come on. — Did you see the
splendid exhibition of the aurora last night?
I have never seen so good as rather so perfect
a corona as appeared at this place from 1/2
past 8 to 9 o'clock. I made a series of observations
in reference to polarization but could not detect
with the most delicate arrangement the least trace
of polarized light. I am much obliged to you for the
interesting specimens of the instruments of the Montreal museum

They are very curious and made with a perfect knowledge
of the science of sound - Insect music is a very interesting
subject and I would gladly attempt to make some advances
in it but we have no spaces fit for such pursuits -
I can see the organs you mention and am much
interested in the view - You are always very kind
in sending me items of interesting information and I am much
in your debt for the same -

Dr John Torrey

Corner of Charlton
and Mc Dougall St.

New York

Our kind regards to Mrs Torrey please inform her that
we have an addition to our family in the person of a third
daughter The little stranger made her appearance in this
breathing world two weeks ago on Sunday Mrs Henry is quite
sweet and were it not that to day is wet and unpleasant she
would come down to dinner. We will make arrangements
relative to the diversion of apparatus and the purchase
of additional articles when you come on as ever yours
- to Dr Torrey Joseph Henry

and

Pomfret Dec 31st 1839

My Dear Dr

Shortly after our conversation relative to Rud I spoke to Bache in his behalf and requested that an eye might be had to a situation. Also on the receipt of your letter I wrote to Bache on the same subject but as yet have not received a reply.

The carpenters are now busily engaged in seating the lower room. The whole is to be finished by the middle of Feb. I have been occupied in part for a day or two past in adjusting the position of the benches so as to get in the pillars and produce the best appearance with the greatest amount of convenience to speaker and hearer. Since the beginning of the present term my time has been almost exclusively given to my college duties. The anticipation of your year course of lectures before the Clinton Hall association much of course interfere with your private studies - ever respectfully
Yours of the kind always


I am thankful to learn that Dr Gray is with you - his company must be a great comfort to you and Mrs J. I do not at present think of

of any articles I wish to send to London and it be a small package for
the Museum. The Indian Museum. I send a package a

cast this shadows a long way before

I mentioned to you that I had attended
part of a popular course by Dr Faraday
on earth air fire and water my notes of
these lectures are very scanty and I can therefore
only give you some of the general heads -

He gave the size of the earth relative to the
sun and planets - Illustrated the relative
magnitudes of sun and earth by a small ball
for the latter and the dome of St Paul for
the former - explained the methods of weighing
the earth - stated that the crust is formed
principally of but 3 substances lime silex
and aluminum - Geologists not yet agreed on
the condition of the interior - probably in a state
of incandescence - proof of the position all that
is positively known relates to the exterior or
to a thickness of about 100 miles considering the
dip of the strata. A large sectional drawing
was exhibited the same since published in Buckland's
Bridge-water treatise - exhibited the three earths
above mentioned - very different substances although
to the eye they appear the same all white - showed
their different properties - solubility &c &c also
illustrated the composition of these earths by burning the
molecular basis a variety of experiments were
exhibited with large quantities of the materials

On the subject of air the opinion of the ancients was given - a notice of modern discoveries - Pneumatics chemistry - diffusion of gases - quantity of the atmosphere illustrated by a large section of the earth surrounded with a thin band to represent the atmosphere - A number of experiments were given to illustrate the action of air as a supporter of combustion phosphorus ^{burned} on a plate and covered with a shallow bell glass - agency of air in the process of germination small quantity of soil placed in tall glass vessel some wheat planted in this - a candle was extinguished when plunged into the same - also importance of air in respiration - the carbonic acid given off by the lungs shown by an apparatus of this form  when the tube was put in the mouth and the air drawn through no effect, but when the long tube was blown through water became milky - weight of the air shown by the method of Galileo. 12 strokes were given to the piston of a syringe attached to a copper vessel balanced by weights in an S. P. scale pan - the increase of weight was shown by pieces of pith placed in the pans instead of metal weights. Next stated the absolute weight of the air in the lecture room to be about 2 tons. (Suppose room 40 by 40 and 25 height weight of air nearly 4000 lbs)

I find that I only attended two of these lectures and what I have given above is the substance of them. Perhaps

much or two since by the Turnbull of New York - Nothing new or unusual in
Larnerton many of the students have gone home to spend the holidays

Princeton March 2nd
1834

My Dear Dr

Your favour of the 28th ult. came
hand this afternoon and since the next
mail does not leave until 12 o'clock
tomorrow I fear you will not get
this answer before Wednesday I regret
the delay but it is unavoidable

Your proposition in relation to the
delay of your course was quite un-
expected although it has not put us
to any material inconvenience; arrange-
ments have already been made for
the employment of the class for the
remainder of the session - The next
term of college begins on the 10th of
May next and the senior class
continues with us 12 weeks before
they are dismissed Your lectures
should therefore if possible commence
some time in June. I have

conversed with Mr Maclean on the
subject of the increase of compensation
He says that without an action of the
Board the old sum of 500 dollars
could be given but at present
the funds of the Institution are in
such a condition that it will
be impossible to do more and
at the same time live within our
income — more of this however
when we meet — The support
of the college is principally from the
South and from the prospect of the
times we may anticipate a diminution
of our numbers. —

I have just parted with a gentleman
who saw you a few days since at
the Shop of Mr Brosch. He informs me
that he never saw you look so thin
and that the appearance of your face
indicated a diseased liver. The person
is Mr Nelsh the canal engineer goes

did not recognize him — I regret to hear
this and suppose that your kind work
has affected your health and do not
wonder that you wish for a little ~~rest~~
rest — I am glad to learn that
your course at Clinton Hall is well
finished. — Your own arrival
in the cars at 12 o'clock was something
of a disappointment I had made
my bow to the class after a course
of 60 lectures — The carpenters had been
driven to get all finished before
^{your} appearance — a rumor had got
afloat that you were to exhibit
the degumotype and in short expectation
was on the tip of ~~the tongue~~ — I have
made arrangements to visit Phil^a
and intend to leave for that city
on Thursday or Friday — I will
ask Saxton about the construction
of the valve of the steam gun and give
you the information when we next meet

I do not know of any situation at present
which would be acceptable to young
McCullough. He has written to me
himself on the subject - Our family

Dr. John Torrey
Corner of Charlton &
McDugall St -
New York

is at present in good health. Ann and
mother-in-law have been almost
miraculously saved from the brink of the
grave. Professor God has been quite
ill but is now much better. Love
from mine to thine. In haste Yours as ever
Joseph Henry

Given my respects to Mr T and Dr G. We are all tolerably well at present but my sister has been very sick with a bilious fever and although recovering is still very feeble. Her life was despaired of for some time.

And

Princeton May 18th 1860

My dear Dr

I have deferred answering your several letters so long that I am now almost ashamed to write - Almost all my time since you left Princeton has been devoted to a series of researches which are intended to form the 4th number of my Contributions - I have resolved every week of the vacation to break off and give you a visit of a few days but something has constantly prevented and with the exception of two days spent in Phil^a I have remained at home. The college term begins this week on Thursday and I shall therefore be obliged to postpone indefinitely my visit although it would give me much pleasure to do with you for a short time. Believe

Her exchange was on course of my not going to New York - indeed I was to have escorted her to the city on her way to Albany the week she was taken sick

did not give us his promised visit. The affairs of the Grand College prevented his leaving the city — The affairs of that Institution are just now in a very disagreeable condition — Political influences are at work — great dissatisfaction exists relative to the expenditure of the money — The school according to the opinion of the Phil^a Lawyers cannot go into operation until the main building is complete and this according to the opinion of the architect cannot be effected even with the expenditure of from 3 to 4 hundred thousand dollars annually in less than five or six years — A resolution was passed by one branch of the Legislature of the city to withhold the salary of the President until such time as the Institution should go into

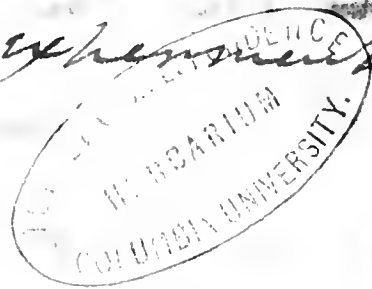
The Daniel battery has done me good service and led me to a whole
new of new results. I have completed a set of 30 elements.

operation This resolution was shocked
in the upper branch of the legislature but it
is the opinion of some of Beecher's friends that
he will be forced by the acts of the council
eventually to resign. I did not have
an opportunity of speaking with Beecher
~~at~~ on the subject when I was in the
city since I saw him in company with
several other persons and he was just
on the point of starting for Washington
to attend the great Education convention.

I have spoken to Dr Carnahan
~~re~~ to your money he has placed
your warrant in the hands of the treasurer
and I will draw the sum and send it
to you by the first safe conveyance.

I have been looking out for boarding
for you but since you have concluded
to settle near New Brunswick you will
not require lodgings in Princeton. I think
however it would have been much pleasanter
had you come to this place — You have
probably heard of the death of Mr. Bigard. He

died last week after a long illness - Prof.
 Dod has moved into Mr. Bayard's house
 and left his own empty for the summer.
 Suppose you should pick up just
 as much furniture as would be
 necessary for the summer put it on board
 of a canal boat - take possession of
 the house and make an experiment on



New York
 Dr John Torrey
 Corner of Charlton
 & Mc Dougall St.
 New York

the

living in Pompton. This would perhaps
 cost less than your boarding for the same
 time near New Brunswick and be much
 more pleasant to all parties - I have
 much to say but am brought to a stand by
 the end of my quill Yours as ever
 Jos. Henry

And

Princeton May 19th

1840

My dear Dr

Professor Dods called on
me to day to inform me that
he had ~~been~~ offered to rent his
house and furniture for

the summer but that he
would not give an answer
until he had learned your

~~disposition~~ intention to
be coming to Princeton with
your family for the summer

But perhaps it would be as
well ~~as~~ and I think much
more pleasant for you to take
Professor Dods house for

5 or 6 months ^{they} ~~as to~~ ^{as to} ~~band~~
for that length of time mean
New Brunswick. If however
you intend to remain in the coun-
try only for a short time it
would not be advisable to
hire the house.

Please write me on
this point as soon as convenient.

Nothing new with us except
that Miss Lydia Cannaham
was married this morning
at nine o'clock to a clergyman
by the name of Van Doren. a
widower with one child
who lives in Wrenmouth.

My respects to Mrs J.

I remain yours
as ever

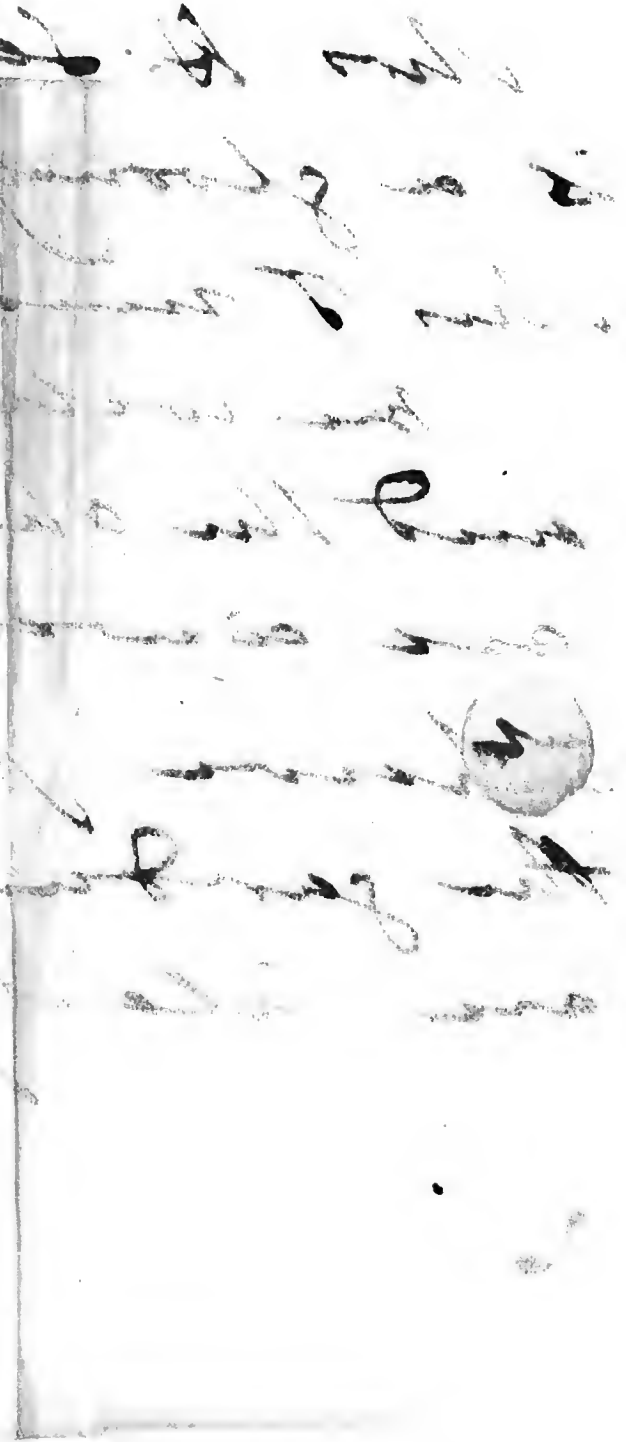
Dr J Torrey

Joseph H. Huxley

Mrs H. says that New Brunswick
is a gloomy place and that
Mrs T must come to Toronto
we will take care of her
and the chickens when you
are away. That house
I have mentioned is pleasant
the garden is made and there
are plenty of friends. J. H.



Dr John Torrey
corner of Chatham
and McDougall
5/-
New York



Pennatorum Dec 1st
1840

My dear Dr

My Brother starts for New York in a few moments and I send by him in money and a draft of 75 dollars 200 dollars in part payment of your salary

Should you want any more before you come on to finish the course please write me and I will send you another parcel

We have difficulty in getting New York money in Pennatorum and this is the cause of my sending you so small a sum

I grant here

Yours as ever

Joseph Henry

P.S. My Brother will leave the money at childrens

off 1 - 1st

the

and

about 1000

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the

Handwritten signature

Dr John Torrey

Comr of Charleston
S.C.

See original sk
New York

And

Trumpton July 3rd 1840

My dear Dr

I hope you will pardon my long delay in answering your kind letter. My time as usual has been much occupied. The cold weather has driven me out of my study and consequently into irregularity relation to my correspondence. I however deferred writing principally until I could give you some definite information relative to a house. There is now one to be let situated in the same street and next door to James Alexander's*. It is a single house but said to be very convenient and might serve until another could be obtained. Also Mrs Gibson's house, the large brick building nearly opposite Van Doren's store is for sale.

It is the house occupied last year on the corner before by Rev Mr Hane

The brick house formerly occupied by Mrs
Jibson about halfway to Deerston is
also to let so that I think you cannot
fail to get a house if you should have
an opportunity of renting or selling your
property in the city. Should Mr Bayardish
go and from present appearances he
cannot live through the winter his
place will be vacant. — I did
hope to be able to inform you that
Mr. Clifton's house could be procured
but have been disappointed in
this. — The room below has cost
Mr Mediam and myself some trouble
but the seating is now finished except
the painting. — The workmen are now
making the table we at first concluded
to leave the fixtures of the room
the tables &c until you came on
but as in that case the lectures
might be delayed we have given

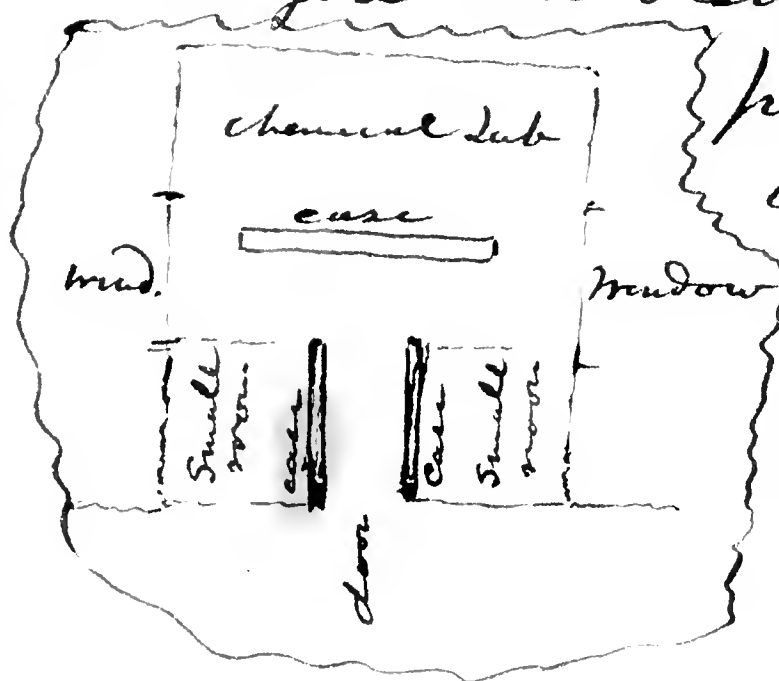
a plan of the table which if it is poked will
meet your approbation. It consists of three
parts one of which is formed by your trough
thus

and

Table	Table	Trough
-------	-------	--------

 The seats are circular

but much better made and somewhat more
neatly arranged. The arrangement of the inner
room is the same as that which you saw
on your last visit to Princeton but as the



partitions are formed by movable
cases you can alter the whole
to suit your own convenience

You may recollect that
a large case is placed
directly before the door

to serve as a screen to the laboratory
we have also placed a case on each
side of the door and thus formed two small
sufficiently large to contain a cot and
washing apparatus. I wish you could
arrange matters so as to come out a
few days before you begin the course
since considerable work will be required
to be done before the lectures can
go on. We are all at present tolerably

William and myself however are afflicted
with a severe cold — Mr Dod has an addition
to his Family in the form of a little daughter
Nothing new in Princeton — Dr Rice is afflicted
with a sore throat — Allen Jerome a
graduate of the college whom you may
recollect died a few days since he

10

Dr John Torrey

Corner of Charlton

& Mc Dougall St.

New-York

was a member of the seminary. The college
goes on about as usual — I have now
a servant to do the sweeping &c of the
Hall — Mrs H bids me say that
we will be rejoiced to see you and
yours by the first of April. Yours as ever
Joseph Henry
Dr Torrey

Wed. Aug 25th

Summiton Thursday Aug 13th 1860

My dear Dr

I hope you have received your articles safely. They were shipped according to your direction on Monday morning after being kept at our house over Sunday -

We are now in the midst of the senior examination and will finish the whole on Monday morning all the returns of standing must be given in on or before that time or otherwise they will not count in the final average. If possible therefore I wish you would send on your list by Saturday or at least so that we may get it by Monday noon - in order to this it must be mailed on Saturday or sent on Monday by the rail road in a package.

Dr Green has brought one for you - package from Philadelphia and a letter from Durand the latter I send by mail and the former I will forward to Chicago by the first opportunity. I have

I have sent the letter and package to Chicago

been again confined a day or two with
a return of the summer complaint but
am again about as usual. Mrs H and
the children are tolerably well. I
would have been much pleased
to inquire with you the effects of the
lightning on the church you mention. We
have had several thunder storms since
you left our almost every evening but
as usual in this place they all passed within
a mile to the north or south of us. On
the evening you mention we had one
of the most beautiful meteorological
appearances I have ever observed. The
sun was almost setting behind a cloud its
beams however shone through a number
of openings and produced the appearance
of drawing water as it is commonly called
but the beams did not end in the water they
were projected widely across the heavens
and appeared to meet in the vanishing
point directly opposite the sun while



at the same time around this point as
 a centre were two most perfect rain bows
 cut off at the lower ends. The appearance
 at the east was something like the
 annexed sketch the space between
 the bows was quite dark so as
 there to obscure the rays. The radiant
 beams could be traced entirely across the
 sky diverging from the top on one
 side and converging to the centre of the
 bows on the other. The appearance lasted
 some 10 or 15 minutes and to add to the
 effect the most vivid raiment
 lightning ~~was~~ was almost constantly
 in play across the bows and the adjoining
 sky. The explanation of the radiant
 beams is simple. The sun sent a number
 of parallel beams across the heavens parallel
 to our horizon and these appeared to meet
 in the same vanishing point both
 to the east and west



Aug 20

This letter was written some days ago but before
 it was about to be mailed your favour of the
 was received. The grades came in good time and

and were incorporated with those of the other
Professors to make up the standing of the
class — I send on by Dr Ten Eyck who
has been stopping a few days with us the
packages and letter which are mentioned
in this letter — We are all well — The

Dr John Torrey
Comman of Chelton
& Mc Dougall st
New York

~~single~~

bundle containing the journals and your
papers came to hand last evening. The
I will send you money as soon
as the treasurer is in funds which I
suppose will be in a few days since
Dr Cannahan has gone to New York today
relative to money matters

Princeton Sept 8th 1840

My Dear Dr

Your favour of the 5th inst came to hand yesterday afternoon but was in time for me to attend to the business of the salary before the closing of the Bank. I now however send you the enclosed draft on the Bank of New-York for 150 dollars and I will forward the balance some day this week. I regret the delay - the money would have been ^{sent} a few days sooner with Mr. Mulleum who has been talking of going to the city for some days past but has not yet got off.

Dr Elliot has not as yet made his appearance in Princeton. I hope he will come this week. Since I am to take the juniors for the remainder of the session beginning with Monday I will write you more fully in next. Respectfully to Mrs. T and ^{circumstances to yourself} that I am as ever yours for Henry C.

Dr. Strong



Dr John Torrey

Corner of Charleston
& the August St.

New York

10

Cambridge Sept 14th 1840

My dear Dr

One of our students starts for
New York tomorrow ~~morning~~ and
I hasten to send you a line enclosing
another draft on the Bank of
New York for the remainder of the
salary. — Come out to commence
and we will then have some
cracks about matters and things

I hope to visit New York in
the vacation at present I am
engaged with the Senior class

Professor and met with an
accident this afternoon which

we hope will not prove serious
although he and his lady as well as
Mr Washington had a very narrow
escape. They were in a carriage
going down the road and the sudden
the horses took fright - Mr Dad was
was thrown out struck the ground
on his head. The horses continued in
flight ran down the steep hill
past the quarry - over the canal bridge
and were ^{only} checked on the opposite
hill. The ladies were not hurt
but of course much frightened.
Mr Dad is confined to his bed but
we hope will soon be about.
again although he must have sustained
a very severe shock. Mr Mahan
has a grand project for altering the

time of the college terms which is to
be submitted to the trustees at their
next meeting. He proposes that the
commencement shall take place in
the latter part of June after this a
vacation of 4 weeks then a session
to continue to the holidays or just
before Christmas then a vacation of
10 weeks. By this plan he proposes
to throw all the ~~vacation~~ ^{holidays} into the
vacations and thus to do away with
most of the cause of irregularity and
disorder of the college. I cannot
give you a more detailed account
of the plan. Mr. Lemmon has called
for this letter and I must therefore
close with the assurance that
I am as ever in haste
Yours sincerely

Dr Torrey

Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey
Comer of Carlton
Farmers and the Sugall^{sk}
New York
New York
Barnston College

Princeton Oct 6th 1840

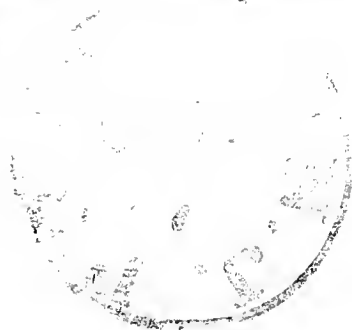
My dear Dr

Mr S Alexander and myself
have concluded to visit Boston
and propose starting from
New York on Tuesday next.

I now write to ask you
to accompany us and indeed it
is considered settled that
you will do so. If you
cannot start on Tuesday
we will postpone the day
until your affairs will
permit of your departure.

You have not forgotten
our triplicate visit to New
Haven I think the proposed
one will be most pleasant.
Mr Alexander leaves him for Albany to-
day - mother-in-law and little Mary
accompany him as far as N.Y.
as ever yours
Dr J Torrey Joseph Henry

2



10
Dr John Torrey

Cornwall Charlton
& Mac Dougall St

New York

I went to Philad. to attend Baches' lectures and also to hear an of Agallo lectures. As a lecturer he does not make much impression but his matter is highly interesting to the mass of hearers.

Princeton Feby 19th 1841

My dear Dr

Your favour of the 12th came to hand at the beging of the week but I am sure you will excuse me for not writing before when I inform you that I have lectured 5 times this week with recitations in the afternoon besides being in Philad. on Monday

James Alexander left two weeks ago for Virginia then before he had worked out his time on account of a letter informing him that his wife was unwell I took the class for him in addition to my other lectures —

The Bergius Battery is constructed as follows a cylinder of coak is formed by piling in a furnace powdered coak an stone coal until the whole is cemented into a mass In order to give it a proper shape

I found an acid bath in the rooms of the society on account of the
absence of an old bath in the room of George and has been

it is moulded in a hollow cylinder of sheet
iron and heated in this and I think a rod of
iron should be placed in the axis of the
cylinder to preserve the interior in the
proper shape while baking although nothing
is said about this in the directions The
cylinder being formed it is placed in a glass
or other vessel and around it a cylinder
of zinc within the coat cylinder strong
nitric acid is poured and on the outside
of the same and in contact with the zinc
a solution of sulphuric acid The zinc
forms one element and the coat the other
also electricity is generated by the action
of the two acids which in the process
of the coat comes in contact with each
other Several of these arrangements
being united to each other by joining the
negative element of the one to the positive
element of the other by strips of copper the
whole is complete I should have mentioned

Chosen Librarian in his place but as yet he does not reside in the room of the society

that the copper connector forms a collar which surrounds the upper end of the coal cylinder so as to make a broader contact Bergelson states that this is the most powerful battery he has ever seen I have not as yet had time to put the article in operation although I have procured coal for the purpose of making the cylinders.

I requested William Dood some weeks since to call and inform you that his Brother would make the arrangements you desired in reference to the house if he would reduce the rent so that repairs could be made under your own direction

I called to day on Mr. Peluag in reference to the demands of the salary he informed me that the money due in New York had not yet been

received although it was to have
~~been~~ paid on the first of the month he
 expects to receive a letter in the course
 of a few days from Mr James Lenox in
 reference to it. If you can possibly
 do without it for a short time it will
 be best to wait, for the Princeton bells

Dr Torrey
 Corner of Charlton
 and Mc Dougall
 Street
 New York
 Forwarded by
 Professor Boddy



Dr. Torrey
 New York
 are at a discount of 7 or 8 per cent in
 New York
 Yours in haste
 Jos W. Henry

will be with you at our house

Recd Aug 25.

[The date of this letter is wrong, it should have
been - the 24th -]

Princeton Aug 2nd /84

My dear Dr.

I have made arrangements
for occupying the claps during the present
week and agreeably to the statement
of your letter I announced to the Faculty
at their meeting yesterday that you
would be in Princeton in time to
commence your course on Monday
or Tuesday next. It is probable that
arrangements will be made so that
the Sophomores can attend your
lectures with the Juniors. You
will therefore have a respectable
audience as far as numbers are
concerned. We are glad to learn

that Princeton air has been of permanent
benefit to Herbert. He appeared to
recover quite smartly while he was
here. I hope Mrs. T got home safely
and pleasantly - she should have remained
until you came out. her visit would
have been much more pleasant to
herself and us had you been of the
company.

Tell Dr. Ellet that I would
be much pleased to see him in
Princeton. I have sent copies
of my paper to his Institution.

I received this morning the Journals
for Aug. but see nothing relative to
the discovery of the transmutation
of matter. The whole matter in the
present state of the case is not worth
much attention. Sturgeon has

gravely copied the story which went the
rounds of our papers some months since
of the wonderful resuscitation of
a criminal by means of galvanism
which was said to have been produced
by some persons in St. Louis. The whole
you know bears the evidence on the
face of it of imposition. The Athenaeum
contains very favourable notices of
the travels of Dr Robinson in the East
and Stevens in Central America...
have as yet seen no further notice of
Dr. Grant's book...

I am glad that you have arranged
the business you mention since I
~~always~~ feared that you would let
the valuable property slip out of your
hands from sensitiveness relative
to the proper course to be taken in such
matters. I agree with you in opinion

relation to the treatment of an English-
man although it would give me much
pleasure to reciprocate in some degree
the hospitality I received when in England
yet I would not like to have my advances
improperly received

Dr John Torrey
corner of Charlton &
Old Dugall St
New York



I am now engaged with the junior
class on the introductory part of my
next years course. I have already
gone over with them my lectures on
geology in the way of review and recitation.
Yours as ever

I was written to some weeks since to edit the new edition of Turner's chemistry
I informed the publishers that I would have nothing to do with the book unless they
would pay me for re-writing nearly the whole of the 120 pages including

Sumner Mond, Dec 21st
1841

My Dear Dr

I have just heard to day in faculty
meeting that the house now occupied by Professor
James Alexander will be to ~~rent~~ ^{rent} the next year
and also the house now occupied by Mr Switz
the old bookers house opposite Mrs Gibbons.

I have thought that perhaps one of these
will suit your family better than the Byrd
house. I informed Mr Dod that you
had concluded to take the house but
should you think fit to change your mind
he would perhaps have no objections to
release you from the engagement. I say
perhaps because I have not had any
conversation with him on the subject.

I am now in the midst of my lectures
and have such an arrangement of the
course as to give me the principal part
of my labor in the winter. The College
appears in good condition nearly 70 new

cheat light electricity and gas service. These parts about in mistakes
and errors of penmanship which could scarcely be corrected without remodeling
the whole. They thought this was too much for the matter and did

Students have entered but a number
of the old ones have not returned on account
of the great commercial depression which
is now beginning to be felt more severely in
the country than before. Princeton has
never before known such times in the way
of bankruptcy. Mr J. S. Hun has been sold
out and now leaves Princeton some 6 or
8 thousand dollars worse than nothing and
could mention half a dozen who are on
the point of unstable equilibrium and who cannot
long support their present condition.

I have heard nothing about the
amount of repairs which are to be put on
the Byrds house. Professor Bok will
be disposed to accommodate you as far
as he can but I suppose he will not
feel himself at liberty to do much.

Mr Field expressed himself much
gratified with the prospect of having you
for a neighbor. I saw by the papers

I am pretty strongly inclined to attempt something in the school line
and I am now in want myself of a book in mechanics but I fear
the one which would answer my purpose would be of little

Went the Jay to Harlow & Dyonisius Landon
is flourishing in New York - I think it
is time for you to leave The Philadelphians
have some reason to crow - they gave him no
countenance. Our friend Meeker has got
quite in with the learned gentlemen.

I hope as you may recollect the
barrel and part of the breach of an old
air gun which you promised to present to
the Philosophical Hall You promised
also to look up the other parts and send
them to me I should like to receive them
before I get on the subject of air which
will be in about 3 weeks. Nothing
new in the Philosophical line I have
not visited Philad. since the begining of the
Session. I saw Dr. Hume at my last visit
he appeared much better in health than
before he left but much thinner in flesh
He did not do much in the way of science
but spent most of his time in travelling. I had

some interesting packages through him from Dele
Rive of Geneva. He is about publishing a periodical
on the subject of electricity and its kindred branches

I received a short time since a very inter-
esting letter from Berzelius acknowledging the receipt
of my papers which are to be inserted in the next
number of his year book of science. He describes

10

Dr John Torrey

Corner of Charlton

& McCougall St-

New-York

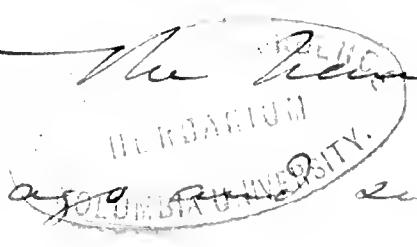
three new forms of galvanic batteries one of which
he says occupies but a part of a square foot of the
surface of the Lecturers table and produces more
effect than any instrument he has ever seen. It
is on the principle of groves battery the negative element
consisting of a preparation of coal. I intend to make one at
my earliest leisure

Yours at ever
Joseph Henry

was to others

Princeton Dec. 29th 1841

My dear Dr

Your favour of the 22nd came to hand yesterday and I immediately made enquiries relative to your salary. The Dr informed me that he had placed your warrant into the hands of the Treasurer. Three months ago  supposed that you had received your money a long time since. I called at the Bank this morning and was informed that they could not give New York money under a charge of 5 percent. This I could not ~~allow~~ without an order from you. Mr Maclean however informs me that there are some bank dividends due in New York or will be due the first of Jan'y. and that if you can wait a few days, say a week perhaps we may manage to send you a draft on the city.

I have spoken to Mr Maclean on the subject of the cases but he appears just now

afraid of the expense and proposes that
the plants be placed for the present in one
of the large cases of the Museum. He says he
will have one of them prepared for their
reception provided you agree to the
proposition. The small room of the
Library is to be used in the summer as the
meeting place of the Faculty. Perhaps
the long cases which are now placed horizon-
tally on the floor of the Museum may be
widened, set on edge and made to contain
the Herbarium. The article however is
so valuable that you would be unwilling
to have it placed in an exposed position.

I am now as usual at this
season of the year much engaged
with my college duties. I am making
an effort to get through with the principal
part of my course during the present
session & as to leave the field to you
and others the next summer.

I have seen the number of *Maple's Journal* containing the exposition of Dr Sandeen but as I made some remarks in reference to the gay gentleman in my last letter I will not trespass further on your time with the same subject.

Nothing of especial interest about Punta just at present. There is some stir about the Post Office Mrs Solomons is making an attempt to get the appointment. She started for Washington on Monday for the second time. Hersely and Perrine the present incumbents are now the principal competitors. I hope she may get it. The small annuity allowed her by her sister has been stopped. The income of Mrs Pintard from the Bayard estate no longer exists and therefore the family are in straitened circumstances. It was at first confidently expected that Robert Horner would get the appointment but the President's circular relative to Political editors cut him off. Mrs. Solomons' prospects were then encouraging but lately Mr Perrine has got up a petition

signed by many of the citizens to return him
in the office; so that with the unwillingness
to a point a female Mrs. S. now stands
but a small chance of success - I see
by the morning papers that Bach has been
reformed from the presidency of Harvard college

10



Dr John Torrey

Corner of Charlton &

Mc Dougall St

New York

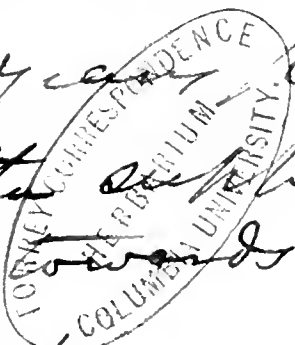
He only held on to the office in order to keep
the charge of the instruments and with the hope
that something would be done with the Institution

He has received no pay for several years

I agree with you relation to the sulphur of the
grease I would advance something
than none
Dr Torrey

Yours

Joseph Henry



and will tell you everything with
measures with you and in numbers
your most pleasing days.

Hastings has got into the harness and
from the accounts which I have heard
I am in doing well. I will make in
quines relation to him from time to
time and tell you how the result.

I am over head and ears in business
I am not very almost every day and
in a recession were in a low
state of health. Nothing new in Princeton
all things going on as usual - dull times
in the winter - the ice in the river my
Respects to Mrs T and the girls
in haste
Yours
Wm. L. Brown

S. J. Tracy





10
H. John Turner
Admission College
17 West 40th

Pennsylv Tuesday
morning 10 past
10 o'clock
July 6th 1844



My Dear Friend

I have undertaken the
melancholly duty of informing
you of the death of our dear
friend Mrs. Rice. She died
this morning after an illness
of about three weeks with
a congestion fever. She was
so much reduced before
the fever could be broken
that she could not be raised
again. During her whole
sickness her mind has been
perfectly clear and tranquil
although from almost the

And she has said it would
be her last sacrifice. Her
death has been a triumphant
testimony of the influence of the
faith & principles which she professed
in life and which have
enabled her to leave all
she held dear on earth
with perfect resignation.

The family although
deeply grieved are as yet
much sustained and com-
forted under the bereavement.

We have just heard of the
death although it has been
expected. Within a few moments
the mark will close and
I can add no more.

Dr. Torrey

Yours as ever
Joseph Henry

PONDENCE
M. J. F.
ERITY.

May 10

Dr. John Torrey
Medical College
New-York

Princeton March 27th
1844



My Dear Dr

enclosed I send you a draft
on the Bank of New York for 25
dollars such is the low state
of the treasury just at this time
that this is all that can be
done. The other channels you
will be obliged to get as usual
at Princeton. Or perhaps after
the beginning of the session and when
the students have paid their session
bills another appropriation will
be made.

The present vacation has
been so short that I could not
resume my researches and I have

therefore devoted some of the
time to miscellaneous matters.

I have been engaged for some
days past in experimenting on soap
bubbles and have deduced some
interesting consequences from them.

What do you think of my preparing
a paper for the Washington Institute
on bubbles to be presented at
the great meeting? Would the
title be considered objectionable
in connection with that of the
magniloquent communication
to be made by Dr Nott on the
origin and destruction of the world?

With much
esteem as ever
Yours

Joseph Henry

Dr. Torrey

Pamilton Dec 18th, 84

My Dear Dr

I am obliged to thank myself again on your generously for pardon on account of supposing your letter to remain so long unanswered. I put it by at first with the intention of answering it in person but in this I was disappointed.

I have not seen the book you mention and if you can send me one (your copy if another cannot be procured) I will attend to the request of Dr G. as early as possible.

Our vacation commences to day and I have been much engaged in examination, looking over about 1700 answers to questions given ^{by} the class during the session; and ⁱⁿ other matters of which I cannot speak in writing.

I was very sorry that Hastings was obliged
to leave as he did - I heard from him
a few days since through the Rev Mr Schenk
I most sincerely hope his life may
be spared - He is a very amiable youth
and thanks to the paternal care of
Mrs. T. and yourself under Providence
I think he will make a good and
useful man.

We are all well except Helen
she is very feeble but has no definite
disease - Nothing new in Princeton
since the result of the election except
that Mr. Palmage intends to resign his
Office of Treasurer of the college preparatory
to his removal to New York -

I am about doing something in the
way of experiment but do not think
I shall get under ^{way} ~~carriage~~ until after I
have made a visit to Phil^a.

I have not been down to the Phil.
Society since last summer more

of my term during the season which has
just closed, has been occupied in preparing
a work for my class on mechanics I have
finished the first part of this and hope
to complete the remainder during the ^{next} ~~present~~
year.

I am entirely behind in my
knowledge of the current science of
the day - the nos. of the Phil. soph. magazine
have not been received for more than
half a year at Providence so that I
have as yet not seen the report of
the Franklin association. Give
my respects to Mrs T and the young
ones Mrs H would join me but
I am working this in the Hall to
be sent with Mr Davis. In
haste Yours as ever

Joseph Henry

Dr Turrey

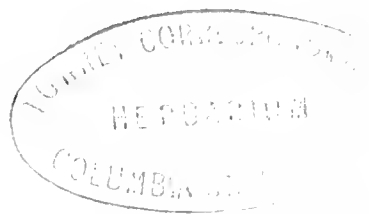
The Service informs me that our object has
been in calling on you is to offer you the
house now occupied by himself. The situation
I think one of the most pleasant in Providence. It
is near your laboratory and I think will answer
your purpose better than the place you now occupy.
J. H.

Dr. J. J. Torrey

Medical College

New-York

Forwarded by
the Service.



Princeton Dec 5th 1846

My dear Dr

I regret that I am obliged
to meet the board of Trustees
of the church this evening and
shall probably be detained
until late. I would like
to have some conversation
with you previous to your
return to New-York.

I have been much mortified
to learn that I turned you
very uncourteously from
the door on Friday of last
week but I can assure you
that I had not the most distant
idea of your being in Princeton
at the time
or to say [Turn over]

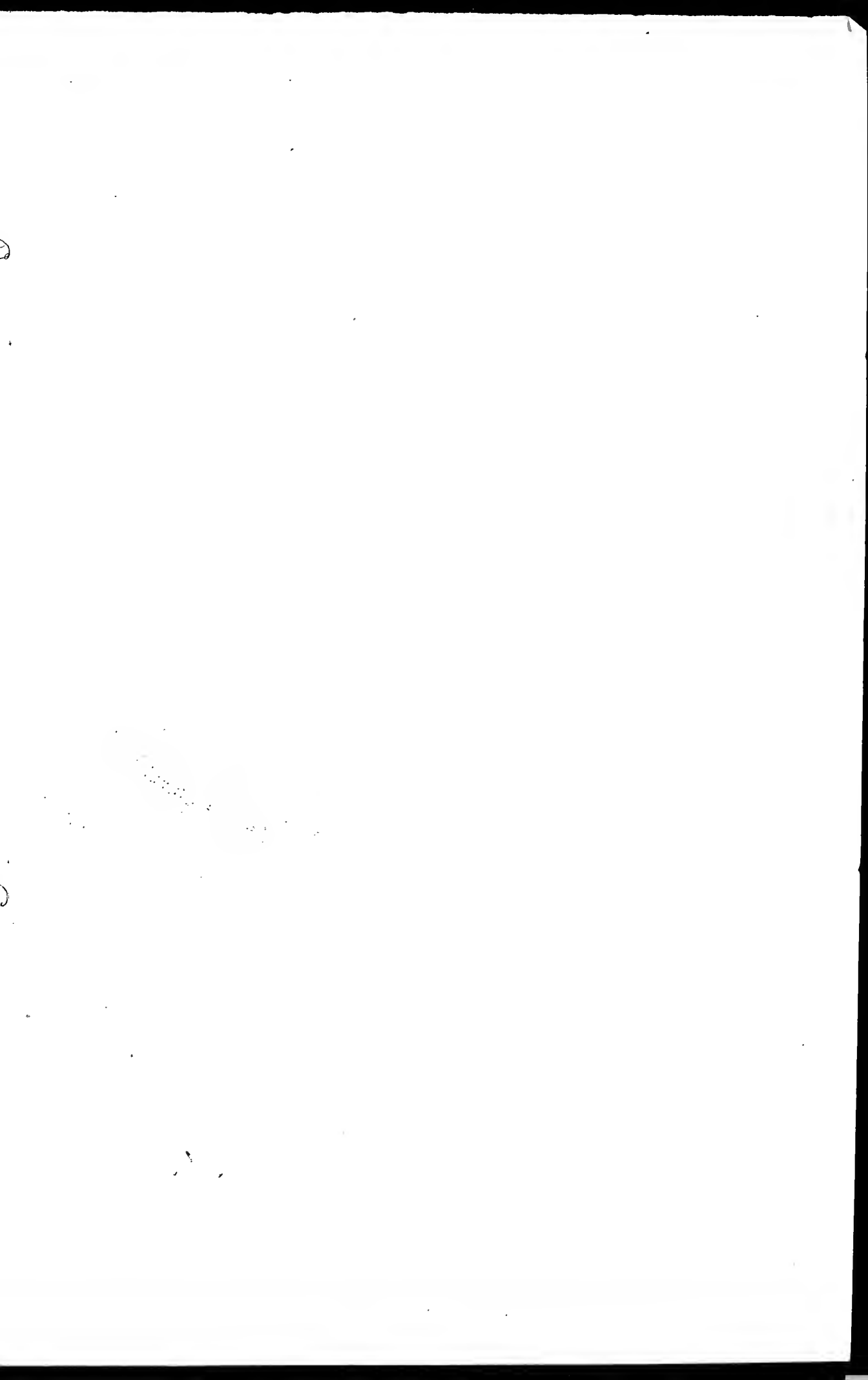
Your friend
Joseph Henry

Mrs H bids me inform you that she has purchased a lot of Butter If the article is wanted to night please send for it

Sam is not in the condition to send out this evening.

Please inform of whom you received the letter you sent me The family of Webster in Albany consisted of a number of individuals but my memory will not enable me to identify the writer.

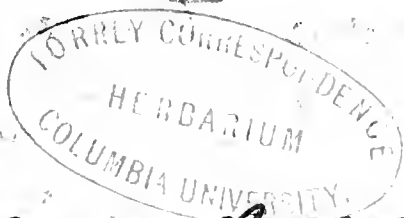
Mr Alexander has just informed me that the writer is probably young Webster who graduated at this college some years ago a grandson of old Mr Webster
J. H.





Dear Mr. [unclear] ~~London~~ Sept 8th 1847

My dear friend



I am sorry to hear
the ~~accession~~ of bad news. Rogers
is elected. The seeds was
stunned by the action of the
faculty, all the members of
which except Dr. Hodge were
strongly for him. Dr. Wood
with Dr. Hopper went around
as I am informed, with Rogers
to the members of the Board
advocating his claims.

Rogers operated through the
younger members of the Profes^{sion}

His poverty in opposition to
his ~~great~~ wealth was
also turned to his advantage.

I had strong hopes that
the election would be postponed
until a letter from Dr. Skinner
of New York might be made
to operate on the board
through Dr. Barnes who
was out of town.

Dr. Potter was not in
the city yesterday but
arrived shortly before
the meeting of the Board.
I saw him at about 5 o'clock
and left him believing
that he would vote for you.

I found however that a
strong effort had been made
to engage him for Rogers.

The truth of the case is
that while your claims
have rested on your
merits as a man of science
and character those of
Rogers have been pressed
by means more efficient
than just. I allude to
the statement as to your
manner of lecturing. I
hope my dear friend
that this decision unrighteous
as it is may be overruled for
good and that it will redound

to your final benefit I
am sure it will meet
with the approbation of
all the men of high esteem
in our country.

Most sincerely and
affectionately

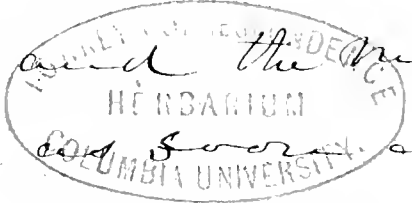
I remain your
Friend

J. H.

69

Washington July 18th 1848

My Dear Dr

Col Umory has just informed me that a full account of his plants cannot be published in his Report to Congress and I hasten to suggest that you should prepare a Memoir on the subject for the Smithsonian. The plates can be prepared under your own direction and the Memoir can be printed  as the manuscript is ready for the press.

We are all well and in good spirits. The children are at school and with the exception of an occasional doud on the Smithsonian horizon a little too much business on my part and a touch of home sickness on that of Mrs. A. we are getting
[Loving Eschell]

as can be expected in a world
of as much care trial and
weakness as this we inhabit.

There is nothing going on in
Washington of which you do not
hear in New York and therefore
I need not give you the news.

Dr Scoresby is here and I have
got up a lecture for him in-
directly connected with the
Smithsonian. The affair is
to come off to night and I hope
he will have a respectable
audience.

I have got into a small
room in the Patent Office where
I call my office and find
myself very much occupied
for several hours each day
in attending to the correspondence
and other business of the In-
stitution.

I have heard melancholy
news from Princeton the death

of Dr Foreman's son and his own
sickness -

Mrs Henry requests me to give
her kind regards to Mrs T. and her
thanks for the cake which came
safely to Washington and apparently
gave much satisfaction.

I have as yet heard nothing from
the maker of the microscope since
I received the letter accepting the
offer I made him. Do you know
whether he is at work on the article
and when it may be expected to
be finished.

I have just published a set
of tables of occultations computed
by Downes of Phil^d which appears
to find favor with the Astronomers
and which is intended to facilitate
the determination of the longitude of
places on the American continent.
It will be found of importance to
our officers in Mexico. The Corps of
Engineers and Topographers have
been supplied with copies and
I think we shall obtain a harvest

of results which will be of importance
to the geography of our country.

Give my regards to Mrs T & the
girls and receive for yourself
the assurance that I remain
as ever truly yours & -

Joseph Henry

Dr. Torrey

Washington July 28th 1848

My dear Sir

I wrote to you a few days ago to say that I would expect to receive a paper from you giving an account of the new plants brought home by Lieut. Enry. I hope that you have received this letter and that you will prepare the paper as soon as your leisure will permit. I now write to ask that you will oblige me by procuring for our friend Back a nine inch globe without a paper cover and which presents a smooth plaster surface in a condition to receive a pencil mark, such articles can be procured at the

globe maker, provided one
is to be found in New York
Bache wishes the article very
much and as soon as it
can be procured for the
purpose of illustrating to some
of the powers under whom he
serves a problem in his survey.

Enclosed with this note I
send a communication
for Dr Davis which I wish
you to oblige by giving into
the hands of the Dr.

All things are just now
going on as usual in
reference to the Smithsonian
I know not however at what
moment a storm may rise
Little things do not annoy me
as much in Washington

as they did in Princeton and
the motto I have adopted
is "hope on hope ever"

Mrs Henry joins me in kind
regards to Mrs Torrey and
the young ladies. Mrs H says
Mrs T must show that she
has not forgotten her by sending
a letter, my report is still in
the hands of the printer and I know
not when it will appear.

Mrs H and myself have just
returned from a visit to Butler
and his lands on the Hill the
finger of time points to the key stone
of night black arch and therefore
I must close with the
assurance that

I remain as ever
truly yours
Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey
Turn over

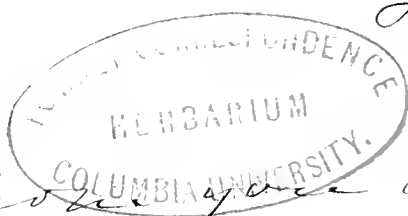
If Dr Davis has left New
York you will much oblige
me by informing me of the
fact. In that case please
burn the letter for it contains
matter intended for his eye
alone

J. H.

Washington

January 19th, 1879

My dear Dr



I hope you will pardon me for suffering your letter received last week to remain several days unanswered. My excuse is the constant prep of engagements which during the session of congress absorbs all my time.

I deeply sympathize with you in the result of the election in the free academy. You and your friends have however the consolation of knowing that in this case as in every act of your life you have ^{been} governed by higher principles than those by which the majority of men are actuated and that if you have failed in any instance to secure an appointment to which you

standing and reputation justify
entitled you it has been because
you could not so far compromise
your self respect as to allow
recourse to the low arts of the politician

I know not what is the state
of the proposition relative to the
establishment of a mint in New York
If the ~~law~~ should pass and I think
it will sooner or later several
desirable situations would be
created which would not in-
terfere with your professorship
If you start as a candidate
for any situation it must be
with a more thorough under-
standing among your friends
with reference to an organiza-
tion of effort. Though you cannot
stoop to the ordinary artifices
of the general office seeker
yet your friends should be allowed
to take such measures as would

neutralize unfair opposition

All things relation to the Smithsonian are now apparently in a prosperous condition with the exception of the publication of a book by Owen on architecture under the direction not of the Association but of the building committee. This you may recollect was ordered while he was a Regent and before the plans had been fully matured. The Board are now fully aware of the impolicy of the publication but no one wishes to meddle with it.

What would you say to the proposition of your preparing a report on botanical physiology? giving the title of your lectures on this subject particularly a development of the theory of morphology illustrated with wood cuts. I think a report on the present state of this subject would be highly interesting to the general reader and important to you. It is one of the objects of the S. I. to do justice

in the way of presenting to the public
those who are really men of science
a species of popular knowledge much
required among us. The hay cannot
be much, I will give you say
200 dollars at first and something
on the sale.

We shall always give a
warm welcome to any of your family
and think it will ^{be} most interesting
to Margaret to be with us at the
time of the Inauguration.

I remain as ever,
truly yours, &c.
Joseph Henry

Dr. John Torrey.
New-York.

Smithsonian Institution
July 7th 1849

My Dear Dr.

Your favour of the 5th has just been received and I hasten to inform you that I think the approving power you mention is in the hands of the Secretary of the Treasury and that if the law passes Congress at this session I may perhaps be of some use to you. This however must be a secret between us. I do not however think that the law will pass this session and I am led to this opinion from the impression I have received that little will be done in the way of the passage of laws of any kind during the remainder of the session which is not to continue more than ~~four~~ ^{three} weeks and a half from this time. The Congress which

ends its operations with the coming
in of a new administration usu-
ally as I am informed does very
little and while it continues its
session until the last day for
the purpose perhaps of being
present at the inauguration
it leaves the business of law
making to its successors. The
establishment of a mint in
New York is a favorite project
with Mr Walker and as he
is a favorite with Congress
perhaps the law may pass I
will make inquiry and let you
know - I hope it may keep for
in that case your chance of keep
will be greater provided Mr
has the appointing power.

I am much pleased to
learn that Hastings sent
has received the appointment
I did intend on the receipt
of your letter to write in his

favoured but I am sorry to say that
I forgot it. Since he has received
the appointment my neglect is
of little consequence

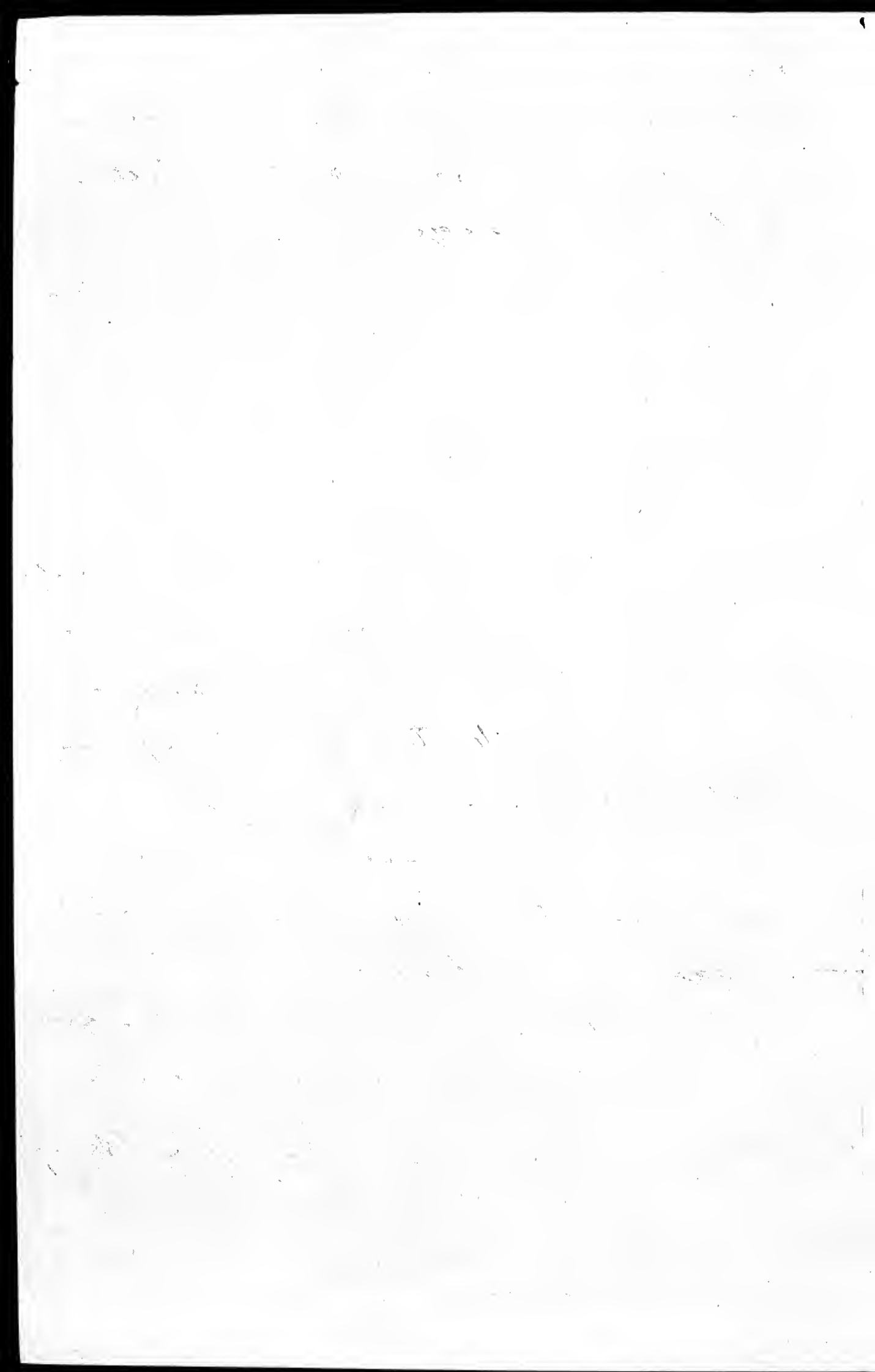
A very unjust attack has
been made upon Bush in
Hunt's Merchants Magazine
Every paragraph of the article
contains a misstatement or
an absolute falsehood. Bush
has been informed by good
authority that the article was
presented to the Editor by our
old acquaintance Professor Bush.
He cannot however be the writer

Mrs A joins me in kind
regards to Mrs T and the
girls while I remain as ever

Truly yours

Joseph A. Hany

Dr John Torrey



Washington

July 16th - 1849

My Dear Sir

I have made enquiry relative to the passage of the bill authorizing the establishment of a mint in New York. I am rather inclined to the opinion that it will not pass though Mr Walker thinks it probably will. Should the bill pass this session I shall not fail to exert what little influence I may have, in the way of promoting your appointment. I have thus far refrained from meddling with things of this kind but in the present case my duty as well as my inclination prompts me to interfere.

Should the bill be postponed until the next session you will

be able to secure a powerful
friend in Jefferson Davis
the son-in-law of General Taylor.

I would not advise however
that you should make any
communications to him on
the subject - I have spoken
to him - It may be well for
you to get a letter of recommen-
dation from the principal
scientific men of the country
particularly from Boston ^{through}
Dr Gray - I am not sure
about Phil^l Dr Patterson
is not favourable to the estab-
lishment of a new mint. Get
letters from the West and
South. Do all that is proper
for you to do in securing this
appointment - leave the result
to Providence -

There is quite an alarm
in the city on account of the

number of robberies which have been committed during the past week. I was informed yesterday that six persons had been attacked and that two of them had been very seriously injured. The weapon of attack in some cases is a stung stick.

All the world metaphorsically speaking is expected to be here at the inauguration. Every thing in relation to the Smithsonian now appears to be in a favourable condition.

I remain as ever
Your friend

Joseph Henry

Dr J. Torrey

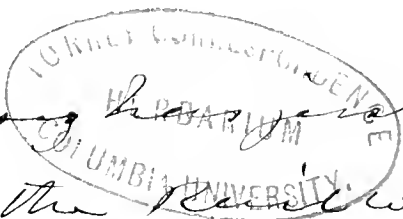




Washington

April 7th 1889

My Dear Dr



Agassiz has just left
our house for the ~~road~~ way for
Phil? to return to Boston. He
has been here several days but
has not been in very good health.
He is however much better than
when ^{he} came on. We have enjoyed
his company very much and have
had several long conversations
with him on the subject of the
means of improving the condition
of science in our country. He
strongly advises me to urge
either Gray or yourself to prepare
a report on the present state
of philosophical botany. Dr Gray
is engaged on a Report on Forest
Trees and it will not do for me

to ask more than one at the same time from the same person. I must therefore again ask you to prepare the certificate. Cannot you talk off your lecture on the subject to Eliza or one of your other daughters while she takes down what you say in short hand or rather I should say quick hand? Or could you not induce Dr. Hutton to employ his photography in this way. I would allow him a small sum for compensation if he would be of any use to you.

The bill as you know for the establishment of a new mint in New York was lost. It will however probably pass at another session. Professor Renwick is an applicant for the situation of Director which if he succeeds in getting

for himself one of his sons will
be provided for in one of the offices
of the Establishment.

All things just now in this
city are in a quiet condition
the office seekers have "sloped"
and the cabinet is now allowed
to breathe a little less laboriously.

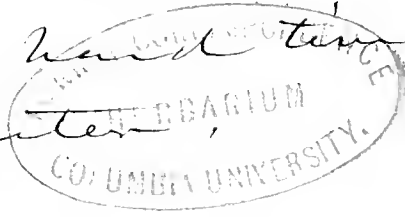
What think you of the appoint-
ment of Dr. E. G. Squire as charge
of the Herbarium, the notoriety
of the Smithsonian publication
has done him some service and
if he will now discharge his duty
with prudence and integrity
as I trust he will do, there is a
fine field open to him for real
distinction.

We are all well though
Mrs H. has been a little ailing
the weather is beginning to be
quite warm I found the sun
this morning rather oppressive

With kind regards to Mr Torrey
I remain as ever truly
your friend
Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey

P.S. How do you come on with
the plants of Oregon - Fremont
has had a hard time during
the past winter.



Washington May 14th 1863

My Dear Dr

I fear there will be but little chance of the restoration of Mr Shaw, to the situation you mention. The only grounds of removal are as follows
1. Incompetency - 2. Improper conduct
3. Active political partizanship -
No person will be removed on account of having voted against the administration nor for having been appointed on the removal of another person by the last administration.

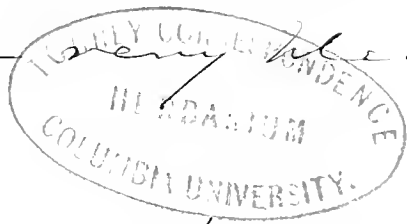
Dr Hitchcock of Amherst has just finished a course of lectures on geology in the Smithsonian building to a full house and an attentive and crowded audience. I am convinced that much good may be done in the way of free lectures in Washington. No city in the Union in proportion to its inhabitants contains so many intelligent

persons of moderate means.

I intend to call only those of
established reputation in the
several branches of knowledge,
those who can speak with authority
on the subjects on which they
lecture and among the number
I must request that you give
us a course of say six lectures
on botanical Physiology those
for example you gave in Princeton
I am sure they will take well
Do good to you and the public
case will ~~as~~ to the Institution I
regret that on account of the
absorption of our funds by the
building we shall not be able
for the next three years to pay as
well as I could wish he may
however get lectures in this place
at a lower rate than in any other
because so many persons desire
to come on to visit the city during
the winter. I can warrant

you 25 dolls. a lecture which
if you have business in the Capitol
will be sufficient to pay your
expenses.

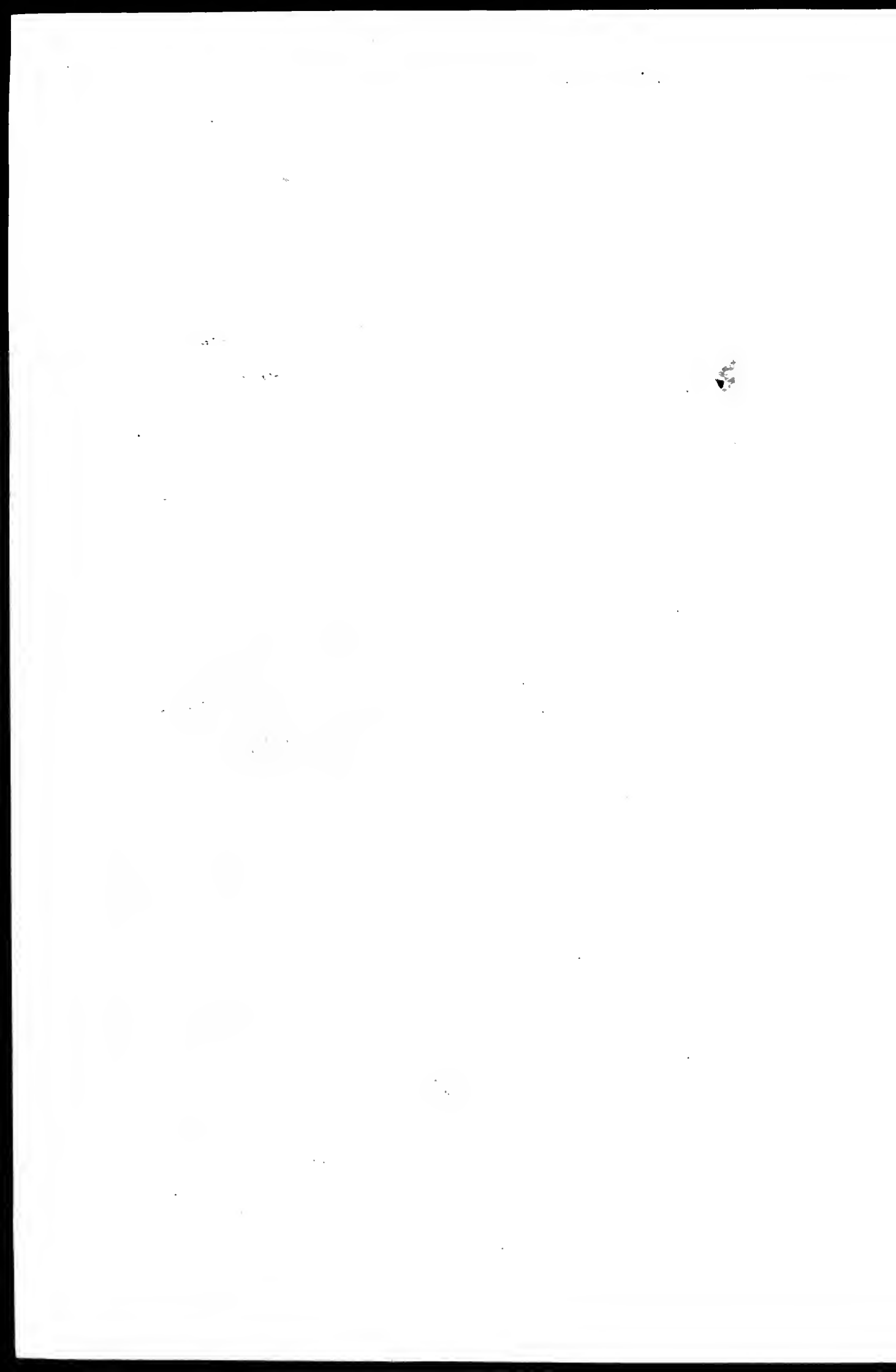
Our friend the Commandant
with an income on the part of
his wife of 20 thousand a year
did not swallow the Post
office — Ewbank, has come
on — He is I believe a good
fellow but the birth will
not be found as very pleasant
on at first.



I remain as ever
truly yours &

Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey



Washington May 31st 49

My Dear Dr.

(You will be glad to have
misunderstood my remarks
relative to the grounds of removal
from Office. Those I mentioned
referred to the persons now in
Office and since before Mr Shaw
could be restored to his former
position the present incumbent
whoever he may be must be
removed I stated that I did
not see any prospect of his success

I have just returned from
a visit to the camp our friend
Bache in the vicinity of Annapolis
He will remain in this place un-
til about the beginning of July when
he will go to the north.

I do not yet give up the
idea of getting a few lectures

from you though it may not
be during the next winter I
am about making some
changes in the lecture room
which will probably prevent
any more lectures this summer.

I have written twice to
Prosh asking where the young
man you had in Princeton
is to be found. I think his
name is Mc Elchin, I allude
to the white headed man that
polished some of the articles of
apparatus at Princeton.

Prosh wrote to me about
a year ago asking a situation
for him. I can now give
employment to a good hand
provided his terms are not
too high in repairing and polishing
the apparatus presented by Dr
Hunt. I can very say 7 dolls
per week. Do you know the

Whereabout of this man and
will you drop him a line I
have heard nothing of Prosh. The
position ^{is a good one} in the way of improvement

Embanks is in his office - but
between ourselves he will find
his position no easy birth. He
appears to be a good ~~man~~ honest
man but honesty is not enough
for the purpose of success in this
place - I make these remarks
in confidence to you.

I had a letter a few days ago
from Dr. Gray he is going on with
his report on forest trees and
will make I think a great
book of it. With kind
regards to Mrs T and the
girls. I remain as ever,

Truly yours, &c.

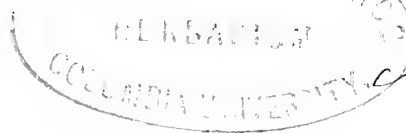
Joseph Henry.

Dr John Torrey.

P.S. The Smithsonian Report is
just about being published
I will send you a copy —

All things are going on with
reference to the Smithsonian
— quite busily I am much
— called on however for lectures
but owing to the change which
amounts to a remodeling of the
lecture room I shall not
be in the condition to give
any more this summer.

We have commenced the
publication of the second
volume of the Contributions and
shall be pleased to receive
your paper on the plants of
Oregon as soon as you may
see fit to send it over.



J. H.

Smithsonian Institution

July 19th 1849

My Dear Dr.

Mrs Henry and myself are
much indebted to your good Lady
for ^{her} generous and considerate atten-
tion to my mother-in-law. It was well
that the old Lady found so kind a
friend or she might have been in
a bad way. Though she is quite
smart for a person of her age yet she
is too infirm to be ~~tested~~ much
alone or even with a servant - and
she does not know her own condition
of mind and body and would attempt
to direct in cases where she would
require the direction of others. We
were pleased to learn that she had
given up the idea of going to Albany
such a journey at this season of the
year would have been very hazardous.

I do not recollect of having
received any letter from you
relative to the Fremont plants which
I have not answered. I have no

objections to having the plates
printed by Endicoll and shall
be much pleased to have them
under your eye. It may however
perhaps be best to make a bargain
with the printer before he has any
experience thus far in the Smithsonian
leads me to be cautious in dealing
with all workmen. I am
sorry to say that I have found
scarcely ~~any~~ who have very
precise notions of morals in
dealing with the agent of a
public Institution.

We shall start for the
North if nothing prevents about
the first of Aug. William will
probably go to Princeton the
beginning of next week.

We are all well but have
been almost roasted with
the heat "down brown" brains
coagulated and juices dissipated

We have a very pleasant house
but very hot - Last summer I
felt but little inconvenience from
the heat in Washington for though
the temperature was high we
had in my other position a
constant breeze. We have
however had some very scorching
days this summer.

I remain
truly yours

Joseph Henry

Dr Torrey

P.S. I am requested
not to tell that William is
to leave for Princeton next
week. He wishes to surprise
his grand mother - So you
will please to know nothing
of the matter or in other words

not to recd their part of my
letter

All things in the Smithsonian
are in a peaceful condition.
I am making great changes
in the building - remodelling
the interior so that if
Dr Owen the chemist who
attempted to plan the whole
building would not know
his room. The building com-
mittee have given me liberty
to make what changes I choose
provided I do not increase the
expense of the edifice. The archi-
tect is quite willing to make any
changes I may suggest because
he says the interior of the building
is not his. It belongs to Dr Owen
I cannot make it what it ought
to be but I can very much im-
prove it.

J. A.

Cambridge Aug 11th 1879

My dear Dr

I have just arrived at Dr. Gray's and learn from a letter that you have thought of giving up attending the meeting - I have but a few moments before the closing of the mail and there I devote to urging you to come on. The meeting will probably be an interesting one and it is important that you should be in your place among the naturalists. Dr Gray and all your friends will be much disappointed if you do not come. The Dr. has plenty of room and we shall have fine times. If you can not come at the beginning of the week come towards the latter part and then you can remain after the meeting adjourns. Mrs. Henry and myself are going on to give Bachman and his wife a visit - in his camp in New Hampshire. Mrs. H. will probably not come on until towards the end of the week. She would probably

not be very much interested in the
daily meetings and I have therefore
concluded that it will be best
for her to come on towards the
the latter part of the week and
go on with me after the meeting

I regret that I had not an
opportunity of seeing you again
before I left Pompton but I had
so much to do in the letter writing
line and other business that I
could not call again.

I have some fear that Mrs.
Henry will not come after all she
is so much attached to her children
that she will I fear find some ex-
cuse for not leaving them

In haste I remain

as ever truly
yours &

Joseph Henry

Dr Torrey

Smithsonian Institution
Nov 13th 1849

My dear Dr

I will call on Mr
Dayton this evening to ascer-
tain what can be done in
relation to the naturalists
of the Mexican Boundary though
I fear that just now he is so
much occupied with the
preparation of his Report that
he will not be able to give
the subject much attention.

The books you mention
we will take for the library
of the Smithsonian though
we cannot pay for them
until the next year. The
appropriation for this has
been exhausted
(over)

The second volume of the
contributions is now in
the press and will be pub-
lished during the winter I
should be pleased to
have your paper appear
in it if possible.

I am much pleased
to learn that McCulloch has
accepted the chair in Pomona.
He will I think be better adap-
ted for the place than
Loomis was and will
not have the prejudice
to contend with which
every one must have
in Pomona who was
born on the east side
of the Connecticut.
We are expecting Margaret.

and will see her at the
opening of Congress if not
before. Senator Dayton
of Trenton will take charge
of her, or if she be hurt un-
der the care of the Conductor
of the Rail way at 8 o'clock
in the morning and a
telegraphic message be
sent to me I will be
at the Depot to receive
her when she arrives

If there be no danger of
an elopement the young
lady may be safely intrusted
to her mother. I leave this
however to the discretion of
Mrs F to whom and the
other members of your family
give my kind regards

I am just now much
occupied with the
duties of the Smithsonian^{-ian}
and had I nothing else
to do but to attend to
the correspondence I
should have sufficient
employment.

I remain truly
yours, &
F. A. Henry

Wm Lerry

Smithsonian Institution

(December 26 1849)

Dear Doctor

My communication with the Secretary relative to the Naturalist for the Mexican Boundary Survey did not amount to much. The Corps was then full, and the changes which have since taken place in the withdrawal of Col. Emory leaves the Commission in a more unfavorable condition for doing any thing in the way of original research and exploration.

I have no objection to your employing Mr Endicott at the rates proposed in his letter, the number of copies however required will be at least 1250. I should like to have the memoir as soon as it can be finished.

I have the honor to be very respectfully
Your obedient servant

Joseph Henry

Sec. Smithsonian Institution

Dr. John Torrey

P.S. On the other side I send you an official communication - on this is confidential one. All things are going on about as usual, in the Smithsonian. The Annual Meeting of the Board takes place on Wednesday next - and I am of course much occupied in preparation for the meeting. The business of the establishment continues to increase and during the session of congress the number of visitors is so great as to materially interfere with our operations. With the duties of an architect - a financier - an accountant - a director of researches - an editor &c my time is pretty fully occupied. - I have however the assistance of a gentleman - who devotes all his time to the duties of the office and renders the most important service - still we can scarcely keep up with the correspondence and discharge the other duties which devolve on us.

Maryant appears to be enjoying herself and is apparently happy in doing

kind services to all around her. She has
won all hearts in our house and delighted
both Mrs D and myself by her amiability
cheerfulness and bonhomie of deportment.
We were unacquainted with her before
and knew not half her worth.

With kind regards to Mrs T and
the girls I remain truly Yours to

Joseph Henry

Wm John Torrey

Smithsonian Institution
March 29th 1830

My dear Dr,

Your letter of the 29th has just been received and I hasten to answer it immediately lest by delay it may be refused by I am rejoiced to learn that the state of the college you mention still continues and like those most dear to me may feel its influence. What a shadow is life - I have just come over to the Institution and learn that one of the workmen has fallen in an adjoining room and is now a corpse. I have not yet learned the particulars of the accident all the men have gone out with the body and I have seen nothing but the blood on the timbers. My duties in connection with the Smithsonian are very arduous and in some cases very disagreeable - They require

caution inflexible justice and
in some instances moral
courage. Still I do not think
I did wrong to accept the
position and I know that
I am in the way of doing good.
The lectures have been well attended
and have all been of a highly
intellectual and ^{in some degree of a} religious char-
acter. Before the lectures com-
menced I was not certain that
lectures could be obtained at
the price we offered but in this I was
in error; we find no lack of lecturers
and are almost every day requested
to invite some one or receive intima-
tions that certain persons would lecture
were they asked; any remarks you
may see in the papers not complimentary
to the lectures, you may put down to dis-
approved applications.

The accident to the building it-
self is a small matter but it has led
to an investigation of the plan of the struc-
ture which will lead to an entire
change in the manner of finishing the

interior of the main edifice. The Regents
will be obliged to make the building
more substantial and to fire proof
the parts intended for the collections.
The great error consisted in adopting
a style of architecture so highly or-
namental in attempting to finish
the interior in so cheap a manner.
The estimated additional expense
on account of the change will
be \$44,000 dolls. The whole matter
is still under investigation by a
committee of the Regents. The report
has not yet been submitted to the
Board.

We have concluded to print
each memoir of the Institution
separately with separate paging.
Some of the memoirs will be
printed in Cambridge and
others in Washington. Your
paper may be put to press as soon
as it is ready.

Margaret cannot be spared
the shock of going home yesterday

but the remark was received
with so much disapprobation
by the whole household that she
has not dared to mention the
thought again.

Johnston did not make a very
favourable impression on the
Washington audience and was
far from being a favourite with the
ladies of our house.

Professor Harway is another sort
of a man he won the kind feelings
of all. His lectures were well received
though some of them were badly
delivered.

With reference to the appointment
of a commissioner mentioned in your
last letter but one I have heard
nothing of late. The most prominent can-
didate a few weeks ago was Dr Bartlett
of the late firm of Bartlett and Colford.

This letter was written several days
ago - Your very satisfactory letter re-
lative to Frook has been received - The
Comm. of Shere Margaret yet. This letter
would have been sent before but when I had
written the foregoing paragraph I was interrupted
by a summons to give my deposition in the Horse
telegraph case. This occupied all my spare time

will get ready. I remain as ever yours
J. J. Harway

Recd. & ansd.

April 1st -

Smithsonian Institution

March 30 1850

Dr John Torrey

Dear Sir

Mr James Frost of Brooklyn, N. York, has petitioned the Smithsonian Institution for aid in developing a series of discoveries which he claims to have made in reference to the subject of Steam. An account of his discoveries is given in the pamphlet accompanying this letter and I beg leave in behalf of this Institution to request that you will examine the same and report whether in your opinion the claim is well founded, and whether a small appropriation to Mr Frost for the farther development of his views would be advisable, it being understood that our funds are very small and that we cannot make appropriations without great probability of success.

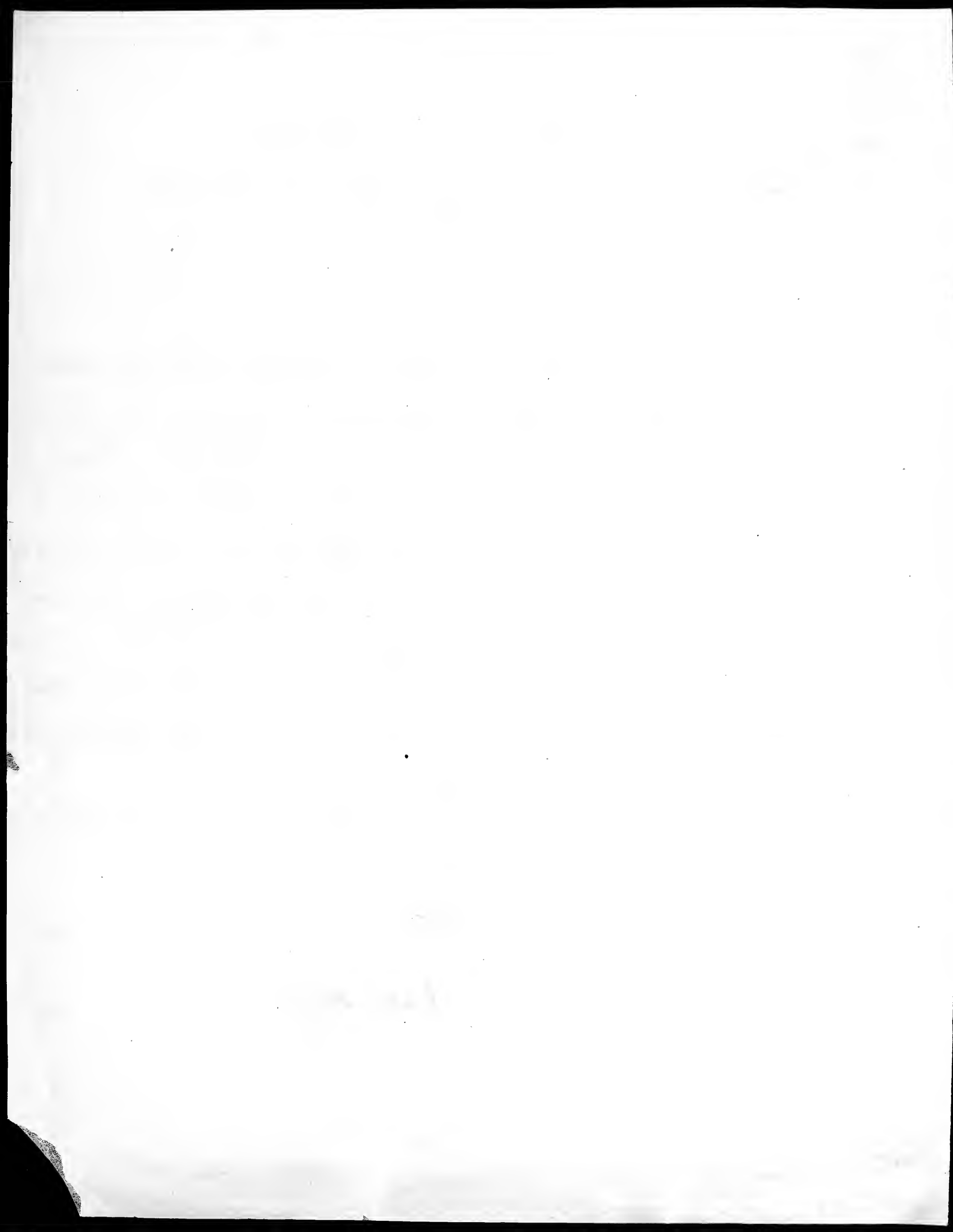
The consideration of this subject has likewise been referred to Dr. Robert Hare and Prof. B. Silliman Senr.

I remain very respectfully

Your obedient servant

Joseph Henry.

Secretary S. I.



Smithsonian Institution

Oct 11th 1851

My dear Dr

Professor Baird informs me that there is now nothing to prevent on his part the immediate printing of your Memoir I trust therefore that it will be passed through the press without further loss of time

Do not forget to send us the list of names for the distribution of copies of the Memoir - We shall not forget to send you a lot for setting down for future use.

I arrived here on Wednesday morning found all things in good condition and all hands are now at the bellows

I remain as ever

truly yours

Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey

over

P.S. I have twice seen Van Dyck
and indirectly have given in a helping
hand.

I have not yet seen the secretary
of the Interior relative to the ap-
plication of Emory but shall do so
on Monday - I made an appoint-
ment with him ^{for} yesterday which he
could not keep on account of an extra
meeting of the cabinet. I shall see
him by appointment on Monday.

Nothing new except the ~~appointment~~
dismissal of Owens from Cuba. He
was a member of congress last year
and is an intimate acquaintance of Mrs
Nesbit by whom I was introduced to him.
He is a very amiable man but rather
inefficient.

L.H.

Smithsonian Institution
Oct 27th 1851

My dear Dr.

Your favour of the 24th has
just been received and in reply I
must say - go on with the alteration
of the plate. It would be ~~poor~~ economy
to publish a known error - cost in such a
case is not to be taken into consideration
I do not think it would be just for you
to pay for any of the copies.

I had forgotten that you had informed
me of the arrival of the box. The immediate
cause of Dr. Foreman's letter was a message
from Bigelow asking whether the box had arrived.

The affair of Le Conte still hangs by the
eye lids. His secretary has promised to drop me
a line as soon as the business has been atten-
ded to.

I am off this afternoon on my way to
Balt. Md? stop at Baltimore over night -

I remain very truly
your friend & servant
Joshua Henry

Dr. Loney

Private

P.S. The boundary survey is a sore matter with the secretary of the Interior between ourselves the whole affair from the first has been badly managed. Emory ought not to have been recalled and Beaubien not sent.

J.H.



Smithsonian Inst
Sept 8th 1853

My dear Dr

I arrived in this city
on Saturday night in the midst of
what Norrman of New York
would call a hot cycle.

I find that all things relative
to the Smithsonian have gone on

as usual during my absence

A large pile of letters have

accumulated which will

require some time and con-

siderable labour to reduce

I attended yesterday morning

the meeting of the Light House

Board and was pleased to find

that the secretary of the Treasury

who is president of the Board

was in the room

After the meeting

I spoke to him relation to your

affair. He informed me

that he presented your name

to the President who had given

his assent to your appointment.

The Secretary said however that

before definitely making the

appointment it would be

necessary for him to consult

Mr. Harvey on the subject. The

Office being in his District.

I think there can now

be no reasonable doubt as

to your appointment; still it

will not be well to rely on
it until you have the commission
in your possession

Perhaps you may feel some
what unpleasant with reference
to the application of Mr. Kaye.
If you do so I will write to
him and state the facts of the
case: viz that your letter de-
clining the appointment and re-
commending him did not reach
Washington until after I had
nominated you and had
left the city for the week. That
at the solicitation of your friends
in consideration of the want
of your family you had consented
to accept the appointment.



The Rent however need not
feel aggrieved because had
you not been appointed
the office would have been
given to another person.
The matter and business is
in a man from the West.

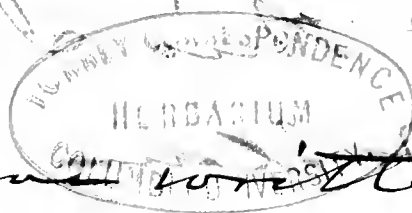
I do not think you will
find the duties as difficult as
you think. The process of
science and your students
will be pleased to visit the
office and be instructed
in the methods of operation.

I remain very truly
your friend &c
A. J. Torrey Joseph Henry

Recd Sept 26 and same day

Washington Sept 22nd
53

My dear Dr



I have written to
Knut and have enclosed
a copy of two extracts from
your letters to me. If he
is a reasonable man
he will be perfectly satis-
fied with your course which
in this case as in every
transaction of your life
has been marked with
probity and generosity.

The secretary of the
Treasury informed me
that you intended to check

Some time in Philadelphia
and this I think a very
good plan. He also in-
formed me that he wished
to consult you about
your assistant. Though
he had the appointing
power he desired to do
that which would be
agreeable to you. This
I think a very important
point much of the comfort
in the discharge of your duty
will depend on the
character of the assistant
and he ought to feel

but that although you may
not have the power of
ultimate action as to his
removal yet that he
would be obliged to leave
if he were not agreeable
to you.

When I returned
I found a pile of more
than a hundred letters
on my table but with
the help of my next assistant
these were cleared off
in the course of about
a week.

I am at present with
out help and am obliged

to spend the morning
in the ordinary business.
Mr. Rhea has left for a
few weeks to recreate
himself.

I think I shall
be able to bring the
affairs of the Smithsonian
into a good condition.

Mr. Jewett returned
to Washington highly
delighted with the results
of the meeting of Librarians.

The whole affair passed
off very well. The only
thing to which I took

exception was the resolution
in reference to the system
of cataloging.

of culantoging The paper
resolution would have
given to Mr Jewell the
credit of the invention and
to the Institution the
credit of its adoption and
of the expense of carrying
it into execution. We
have expended on it
more than 10000 dolls
and had the plan failed
the disgrace of squandering
the money would have
fallen on me or the
Institution.

I told him this
and he agreed to the
proposals of the new society

The whole affair however
washed off as much
better than I expected
that I am quite satis-
fied. You will find
it necessary in the beginning
of your operations to have
all your own duties and
those of your assistant
well defined - the relation
you are to bear to the
Director and to the
Master & Refiner should be
definitely settled - You
will be able to gain some
valuable information
on these points from the
gentlemen of the Mint in

Phila? Do you intend to
visit Washington soon?
If you do I wish you
would come while I am
in the city. I shall remain
here until after the beginning of
next month.

I began to be a little more
easy towards the end of last
week and at length spoke
to the Secretary on the subject.
He informed me that the
appointment had been
sent on and that you
had accepted. The matter
and Refuser is a man from
Cincinnati. I should judge
a favourite of the Treasurer.

I heard from Mrs. H.

Yesterday she is quite well
and enjoying herself very
well in Albany. I am
some what anxious to hear
from the mountains. How
are the young ladies getting
on. I am almost sorry
to inform Eliza that
I have been informed
that a copy of a translation
of the book she commended
has been sent to me from
London.

Give my kind regards
to Mrs Torrey and be assured
that I remain as ever
Truly yours

Joseph Henry

Dr. J. Torrey

Washington

April 24th 1857

My Dear Dr

Your letter of the 21st
was received by the mail
of yesterday (Sunday) and
I hasten to answer it this
morning.

We have made all
our arrangements for
the accommodation of your
daughter and yourself besides
several others. If you prefer
it you can have a bed in
the Smithsonian and I shall
take one there myself -

Mrs Henry is rather up
about Eliza's going to the
Hotel she will not hear
of such a thing. we have
engaged the house in which
^{we} now are and shall not
be at boarding when you
come on.

Mary was in Baltimore
when Eliza's letter arrived
and did not return for several
days after.

We can have quite a
nice time at the Smithsonian
Many persons will be present
A large number of letters

from Persons unknown to sender
have been received.

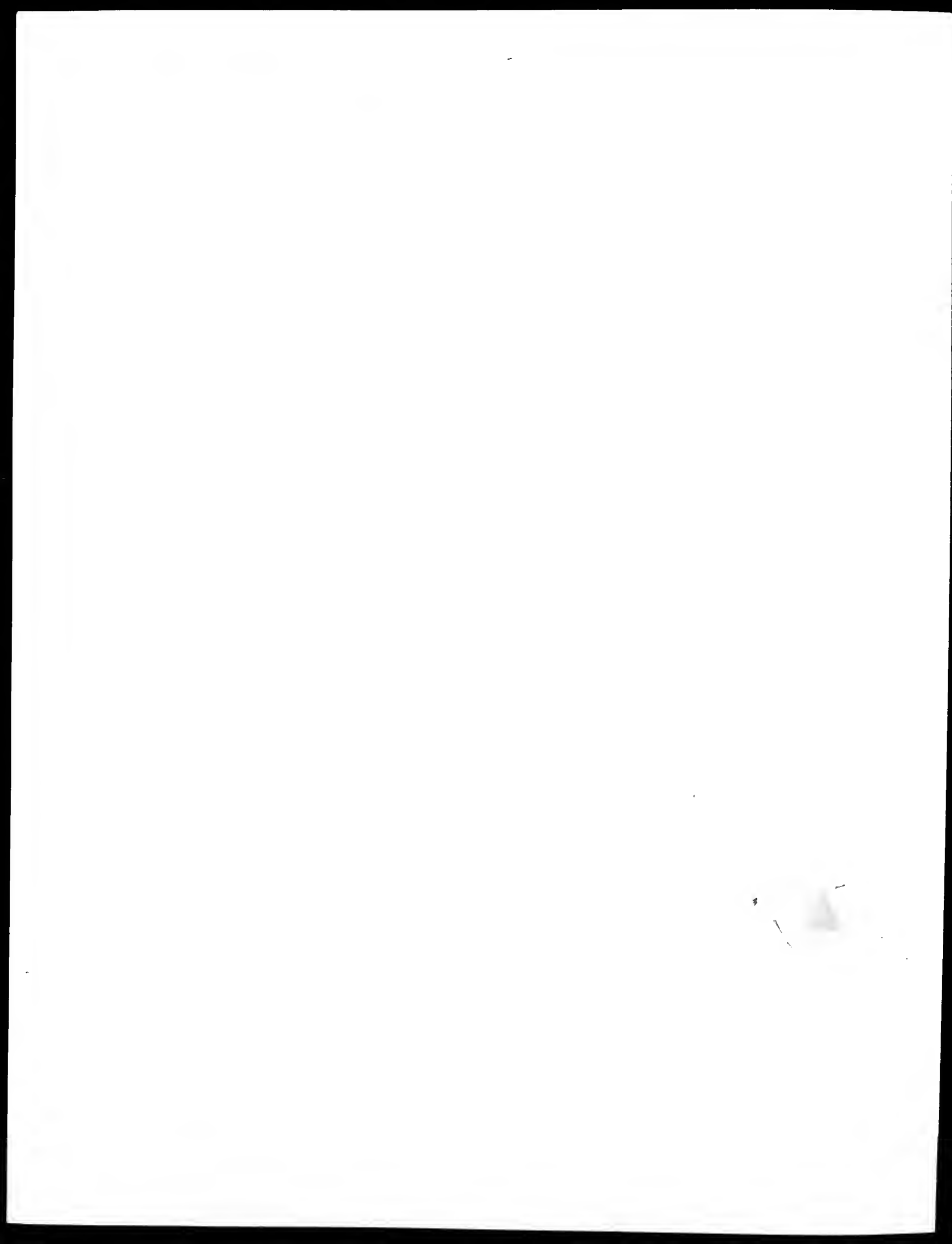
I remain your friend
& servant.

Joseph Henry,



to Lanny

New York



Washington

May 19th 1835

My dear Dr

In looking over my private papers I have found the accompanying letter which belongs to you I do not wish to keep it because it will serve to remind me of a very disagreeable affair and because I have forgiven the writer for the ungrateful course he pursued and now only regard him in relation to his present conduct.

How blind is poor human nature! How much easier

and propitiable is it to be honest
and to appear so than to be other
wise and be obliged to wear a
mask which is constantly liable
to slip aside and expose the
true character.

All things as presents in
the Institution are in a
quiescent condition and
I am labouring diligently
to bring up the work which
fell behind during the war.

We shall be able to make
quite a display with library
museum and picture galleries before
the next meeting of the Board.

It is so long since I have heard

from you that I almost begin to
fear you have joined the opposition
I do not think however that this is
the case because if it were you
would come out openly and not
fire from behind an ambuscade.

You have probably seen or heard
of the cowardly malicious and
hypocritical attack made upon
me by Morse. I do not think this
man was originally bad but he
had a black spot in his heart
which fostered by vanity engendered
by success has spread until the
whole has become thoroughly corrupt.
He and your grandam assistant
are a precious pair.

I have the materials in my
possession to refute the charges



The charges made by me -
before I could look at the
subject I had to answer two
hundreds of Mr Sewett unlawfully
intruded into the proceedings
of the committee of the House - to
prepare an address for the profs
given before the Mechanics Inst.
- an address before the educational
association and to see through
the profs own annual Report which
occupies upwards of 300 pages.

Now he has laid himself open to
a criminal prosecution.

I remain yours truly
Joseph Sturge

Dr. John Torrey

Smithsonian Institution

Jan'y 4th 1836

My dear friend

Your very kind and acceptable
letter of last week was duly received
and I most embrace the first
moment of leisure, since I ob-
tained the required information,
to reply.

I called on Capt. Humphries
on New-year Day and gave him
an account of your labours in
regard to the Report on the Botany
of the Rail-Road survey. He said
there would, in his opinion, be
no difficulty in getting a proper
sum allowed provided you
made out an account and

presented it to Lieut. Whipple.
He complained good naturedly
of the difficulty he had experienced
in getting definite information
from you on certain points.
I explained to him the diffi-
culties and trials to which
you had been subjected in
the organization of your new
office and in your recent
bereavement.

If you will send your
accounts to me I will have
them put in proper form and
endeavour to collect the money
for you. They will however
require your signature
and if you have the proper

form send them on with your
name affixed. I think dupli-
cate receipts are required at
the war department.

I beg to assure you my dear
friend that the sad bereavement
you have been called upon
to suffer afflicted ^{me} deeply. For
days & weeks it was constantly
on my mind and though
I did not write you had my
heartfelt sympathy. I could
not by means of the pen do
justice to my feelings and
I intended to visit you but
was prevented by engagements
which could not be postponed.

I do not wonder that you
cannot fully realize the

the loss you have sustained.
Your departed wife was
no common individual,
she was a woman of talents,
energy, and of high moral
aspirations. She was warmly
attached to my family and
exerted a benificent influ-
-ence on our daughters.

She is gone but her influence
still survives and its
effects will continue to the
end of time. In the midst
of your grief you have cause
to be thankful for this.

fervor bestowed upon you in
 the enjoyment for so long a time
 of the assistance, the sympathy,
 and the love of such a com-
 panion and for the consolation
 to be derived from the reflection
 that she was sustained and
 directed in her passage through
 this life of probation by a spirit
 superior to her own.

We are so liable to go astray
 so beset with adverse influences
 and so little able to control our
 own acts, or to direct our own
 course that the end of a well spent
 life may justly be compared to
 the successful termination of a
 voyage, after having been ex-
 posed to the dangers of a stormy

ocean. Our friends have greater
cause to rejoice when we
have safely reached the desired
haven rather than regret that
the perilous voyage was not
of longer duration.

It is our duty to labor
assiduously in the sphere
in which Providence has
placed us until our term
of service shall have ex-
pired; to do all the good in
our power, independent of
selfish considerations, and
to leave the disposition

4

of the result to a higher power.

I am constantly surprised with the shortness and the uncertainty of life, and the necessity of a proper disposition and employment of time; but my performance falls far short of my aspirations and I am daily called upon to regret the nonfulfilment of resolutions and the neglect of duties.

Were I to consult my own feelings and the interest of my family I would not hesitate a moment to accept the proposition from Fountaine, but I am not free to seek my own comfort or to choose the course which may appear most beneficial to my family. I am obliged to do that which under all the circumstances is my duty and to leave the results with Providence.

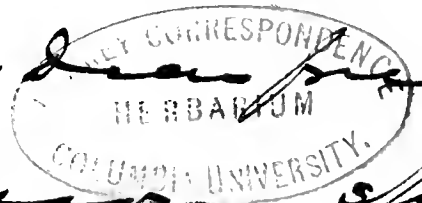
The Regent of the Institution have unflinchingly supported me through

5
very severe winter and they now
expect that I will continue at
my post until all danger, as to the
future course of the establishment
under them came, is passed. Were I
to leave the Institution just now the
probability is that it would fall into the
hands of selfish and designing individuals
and that much which has been done
would be undone. I wish to give
the Institution such a start in
the right direction that it cannot
deviate from it without attracting
the attention of the public. Still I
cannot give up the idea of returning
to Princeton and of resuming the quiet
and tranquil life I led there but
this may be but a mere hope never
to be realized. "There is a destiny which
shapes our ends ~~rough~~ how then are we
many"

57

I believe it was the design of Providence that I should be called to this place in order that I might discharge an important duty in regard to this Institution and also on my own account. The position has been a severe school, in which I have had an opportunity of becoming better acquainted with myself and the world. Whether the effect has been beneficial or otherwise remains to be seen.

But I ought not - my dear friend
on the present occasion - shrink
so much of myself though I know
you will pardon me, and
indeed if you knew the trials
to which I have been subjected
and still are you would feel that



I stand in need of your sympathy
and would forget my evening
setfulness of you in the day of your
sorrow.

This is our most busy season
the Regent are in session the
lectures are in progress and
members of congress are to be looked-
after. This letter has been in
my portfolio for several days and
has been written at intervals.

It would give me much pleasure
to see you at our house My family
were not pleased that you did not
take up your abode with us during
your last visit.

With kind regards to the
girls and Herbert

Inman - as well

Dr J.

Your friend

J. Henry

Recd and
March 31

Smithsonian Institution

March 28th 1836

My Dear W



I have received a letter
from the daughter of the late Dr. L.C.
Bach asking for advice and informa-
tion as to the best means of selling
the Herbarium of her Father.

The Family at first thought of
keeping it but they have at length
concluded to sell it provided
they can obtain a price in any
degree commensurate with its
true value.

If you can give me any
suggestions in regard to this matter
you will do me a favor.

and serve a worthy family

who have met during the

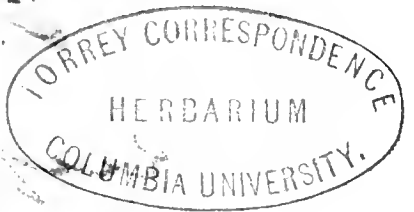
last few years with a series

of sad bereavements.

I remain as ever

truly your friend

Joseph Henry



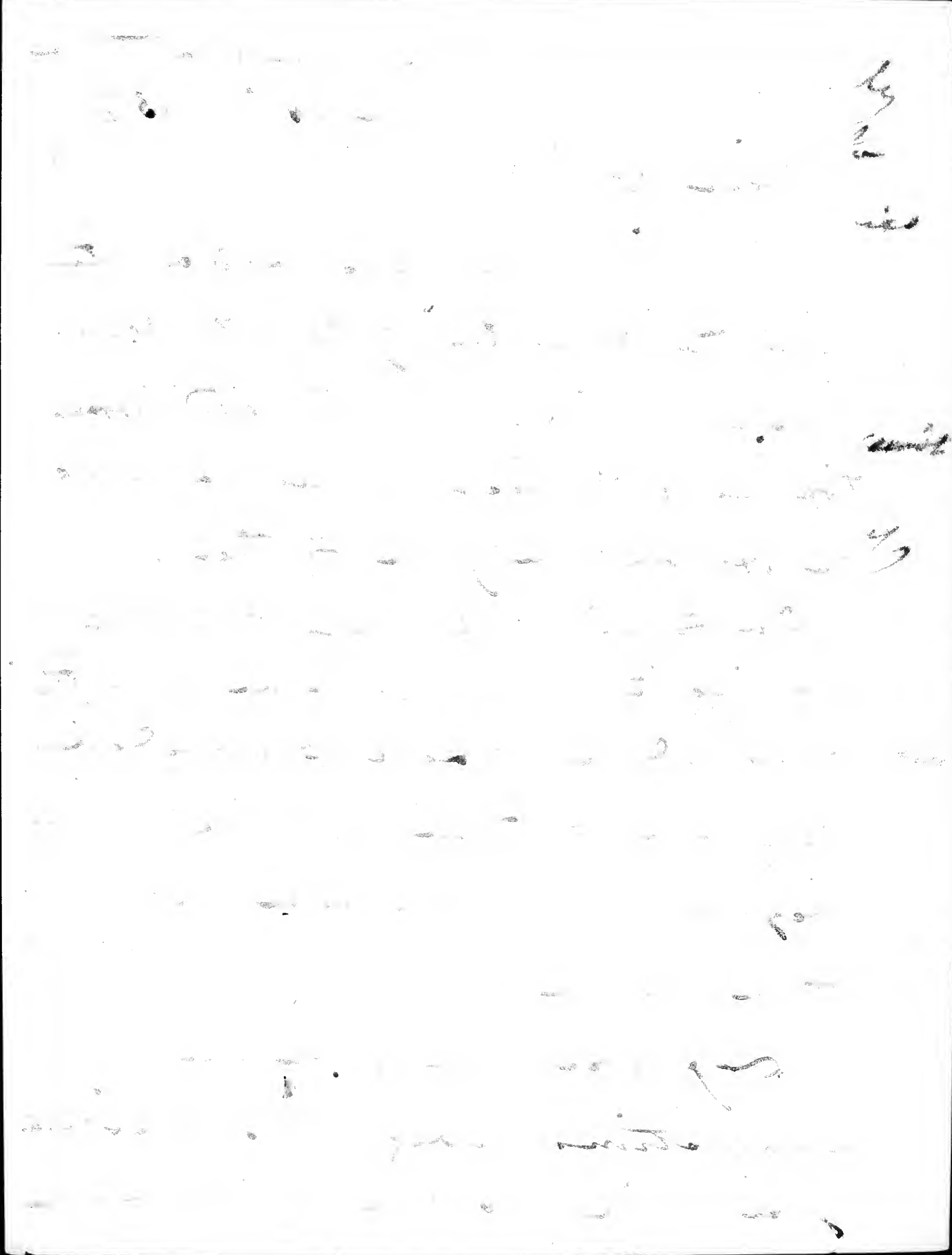
Dr John Torrey

10/14

1

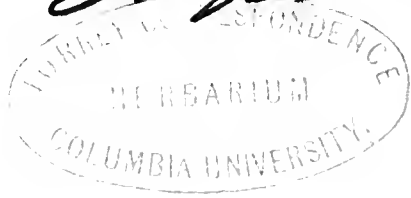
10/14

10



Washington

April 14th 1856



My Dear Dr

We shall be much
pleased with a visit from
your daughter Jane and the
friend you mention who is to
accompany her.

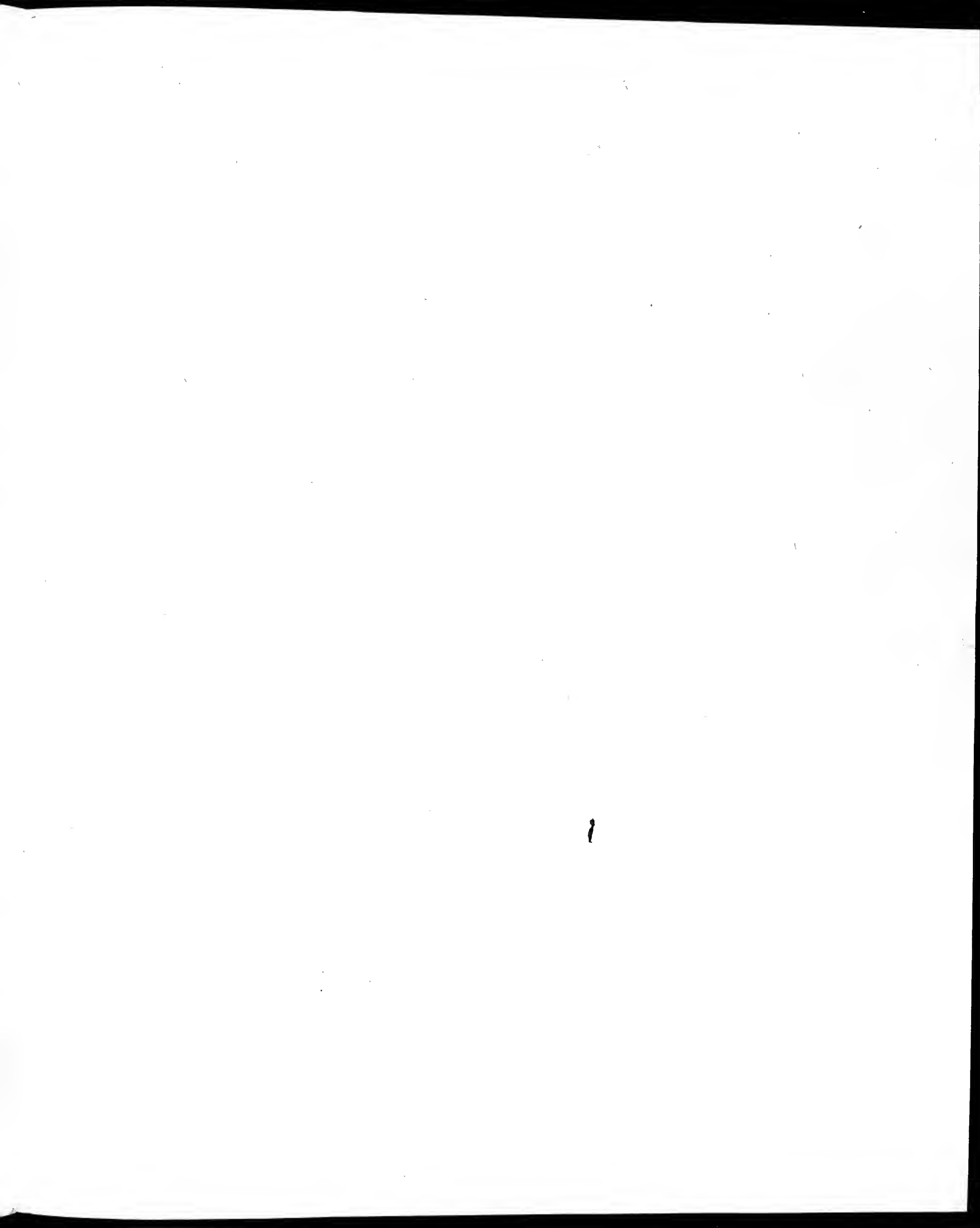
I have written to Miss. Beck
as to the locality of her father's Her-
barium and will inform you in
regard to it as soon as I receive
the information.

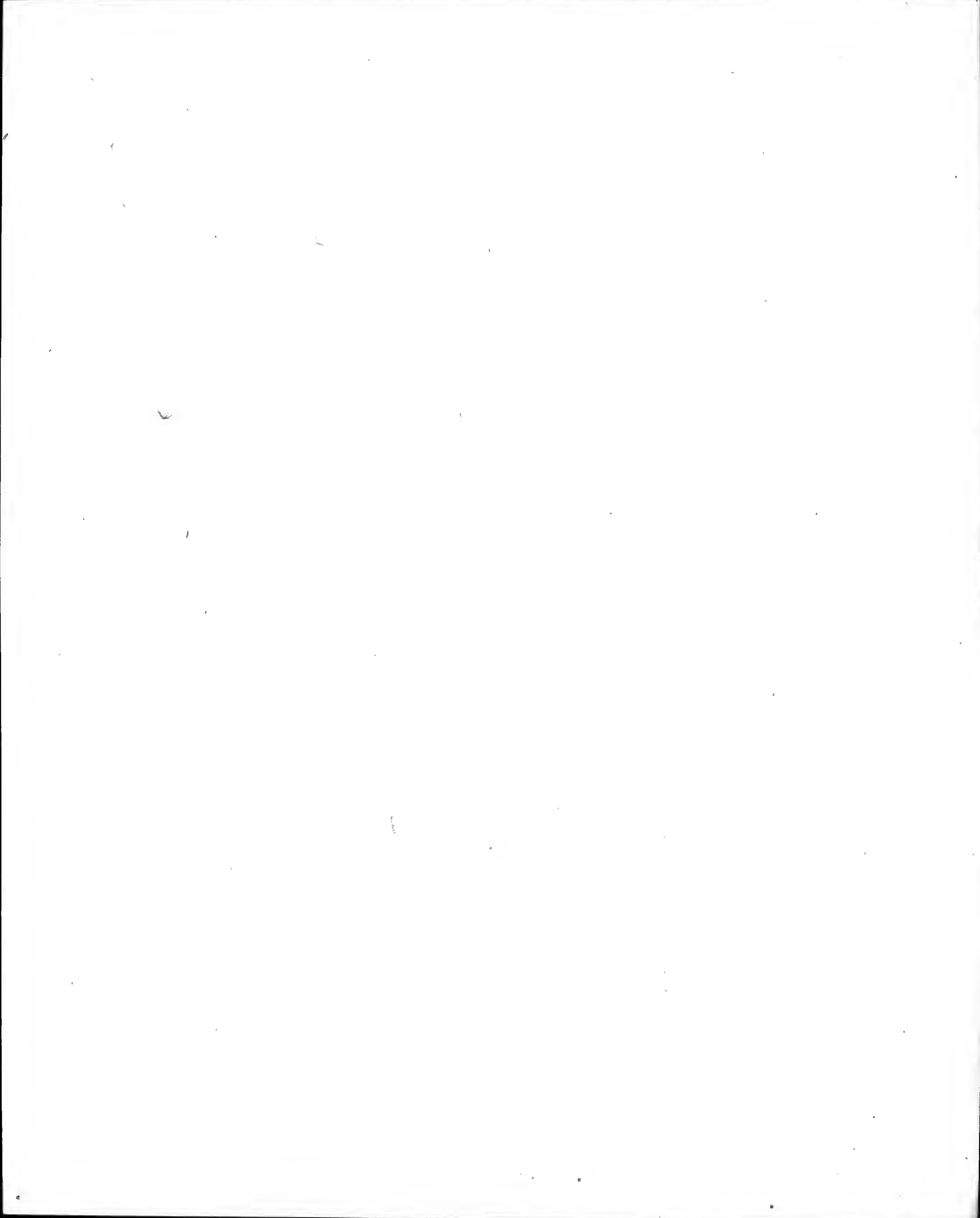
The weather still continues
remarkably cold for the season
We certainly have had a wonderful
winter. I remain very truly
your friend & servt
Asa C. Torrey
Joseph H. Remy

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Handwritten text on the right side of the page.


Main body of handwritten text, consisting of several lines of cursive script.





Institution
April 26th 1836

My dear Dr.

We arrived  safely in Washington on Thursday night and found that Lane and Mr. Hurry had taken good care of themselves and our daughters. I found your friend a very agreeable gentleman and I was pleased to have an opportunity to make his acquaintance.

Mrs H. was unwell when she returned but is now much better and our hopes of her permanent restoration to health has revived.

James is at the Institution to day putting up the great barometer. It is really an imposing instrument and will, I am sure, serve to indicate some of the minor fluctuations.

of the pressure of the atmosphere.

After giving you the foregoing items of news I must urge on you the propriety and importance of the preparation of a retiring address for the next meeting of the association. I know there will be much disappointment if you should omit this duty. The good people of Albany are making great exertions to render the meeting worthy of the association and an honor to their city. Were they to learn that you have the least idea of not presenting an address I am sure you would be over

struck with solicitations to banish
the thought entirely from your mind.

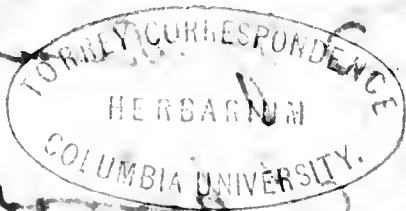
— cannot you do, for the botany
of the united states, what Darwin has
done, for the geology? Give a gen-
eral view of the peculiarities of the flora
of this continent. of what has been done
in the way of the description of our plants
and of what remains to be done?

I know the association of the
meeting will be exceedingly helpful
but I also know that you have
the fortitude and the resolutions
which will enable you to endure
the trial.

Do not I beg of you think
of not giving the address. There
have been but two omissions

and it is important that there
be no more.

Did I mention to you the
fact that the steam ships and
sailing packets have agreed to give
in all 14 passages to and from
this country to the visitors of the
association?



You shall expect Eliza in
the course of a week or two
and shall hope for a pleasant
time for her and ourselves while she
remains with us.

I am as ever your friend

Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey

P.S. When you are done with the books
which were to be sent to your house forward
them to us by mail.

Smithsonian Inst
June 19th 1856

My Dear Dr

This letter will be delivered to you by Dr. Easter a young gentleman who is now engaged in the laboratory of the Smithsonian Institution.

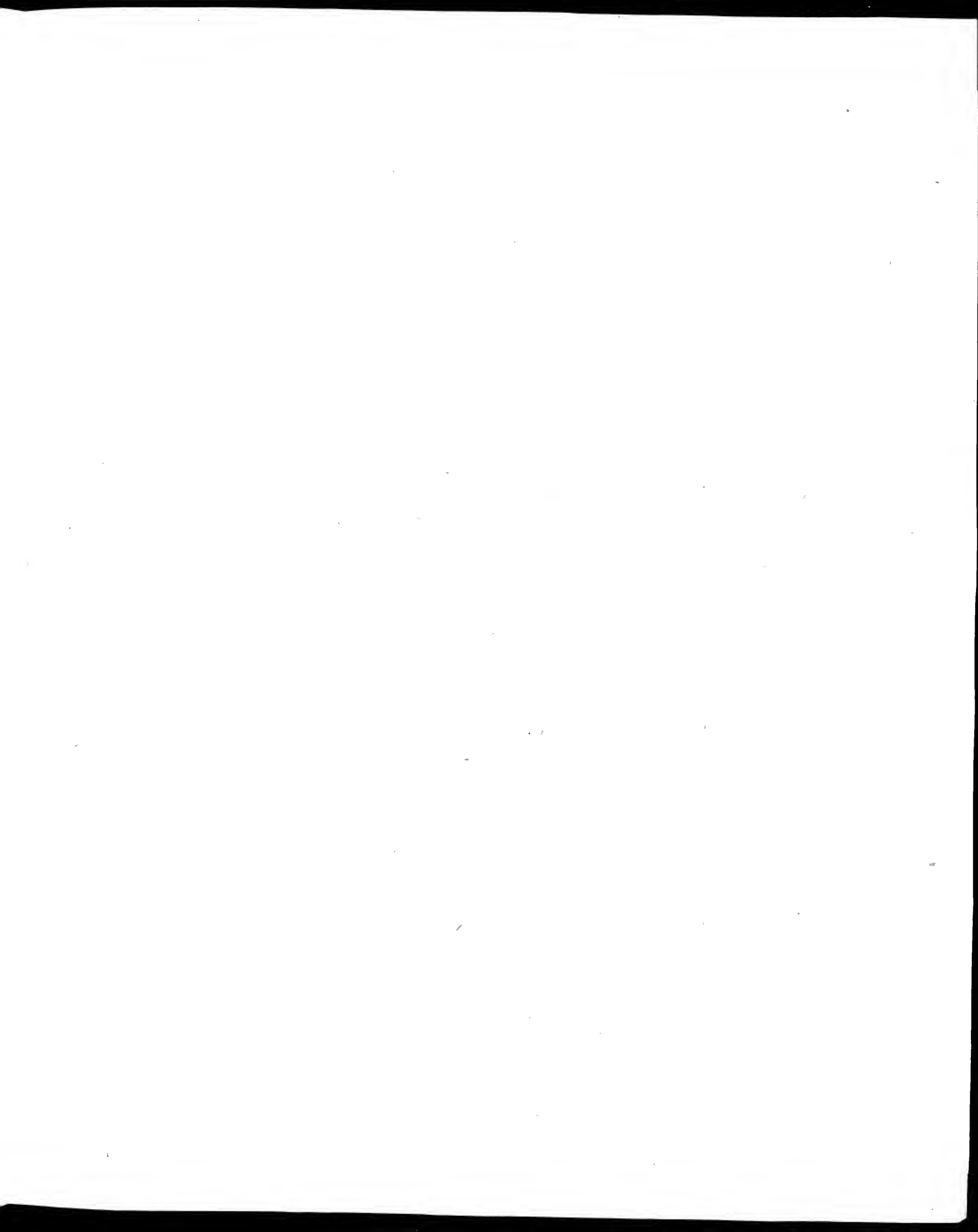
He is a native of Baltimore, a graduate of Yale and has spent several years in Germany.

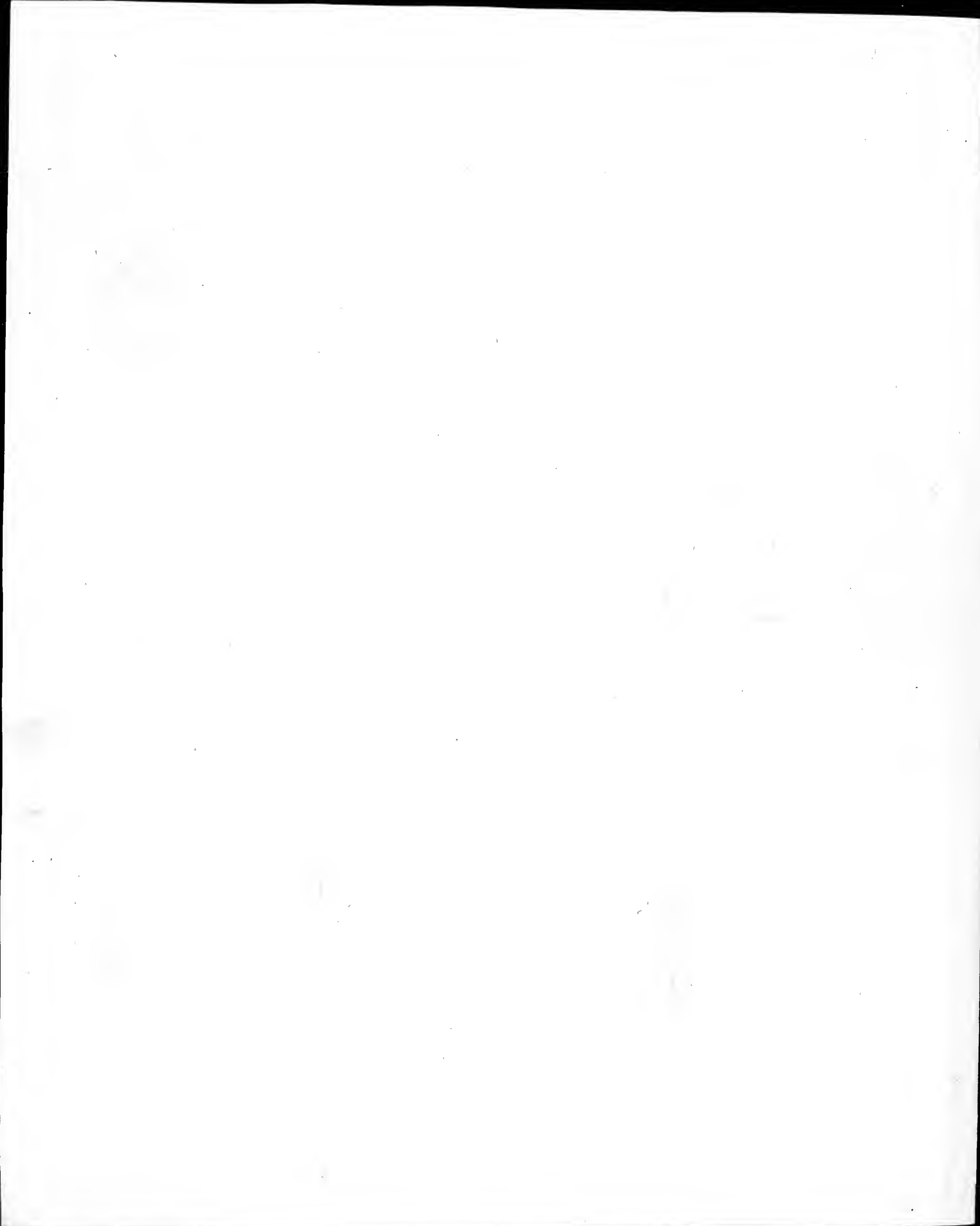
He is a gentleman of liberal attainment and of high moral character. He desires to be personally acquainted with you and I beg to commend him to your kind attention.

I remain very truly
your friend & servr

Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey





Smithsonian Inst

Oct 27th 1856

My dear Dr.

The enclosed note
is from Dr. Alden March
of Albany and I forward
it to you with the hope
that you will find time
to visit New Brunswick
and report on the character
and value of the collection.
Of course the state officers
will be disposed to allow
a liberal price for the specimens.

My family has not
yet returned to Washington

I expect however to see
them this evening. They
have been detained
a week in Philadelphia
on account of dentistry
and a slight illness
of Helen.

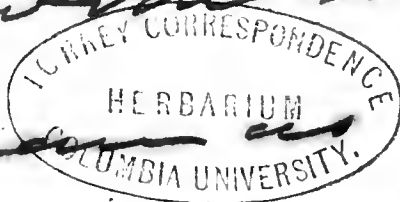
Miss Eliza who
must return to Washington
and complete the catalogue
which she commenced.

I will confirm her labours
to office hours six per
day - less not more -

We have had new
cases made and

am now prepared to put
the books in place. If other
things happen to prevent I shall
be in New York to meet the
astronomical committee
of the Albany Observatory
on the 13 of next month.
Elizer will be prepared
to return with me.

I am ever
your friend
Joseph Henry



Dr. Torrey

New York

P.S. This letter was to be put for
the mail yesterday I am therefore

and that our good people did not
arrive last night. I had however
a telegraphic despatch from
them in which it was stated
that they would return to day.
Helen is better.

J. H.

Washington
Nov 3^d 1856

My Dear Dr

Accompanying this
note I send you an official
communication requesting that
you will examine a paper on
nitric acid.

You will oblige me if you
can find time, in the course
of a few days, to look over the
communication and to give
us your opinion as to its
contents.

Our family have returned
in good health and spirits
and are now making pre-
parations for the winter. They
hope to see you and yours again
on at the time of the coronation.

We found a letter a few days ago for Mary Hury advertised in the paper Miss Eliza had forgotten to add to the address "Care of Professor Hury".

I shall probably be in New-York on Monday evening the 17th inst. I think I mentioned in my last the 13th. Eliza will then be ready to come on with me to complete the catalogue which she so admirably commenced. Tomorrow is the day big with the fate of many a politician. Since men

of science are considered
available candidates Why
may not you be brought for-
ward. It is true Fremont
collected new plants, but
you did more you proved
them to be new, and gave them
as such to the world. I
fear however that after tomor-
row scientific candidates
will be at a discount
and that some other class
of citizens will be selected
from which to choose. Perhaps
the class ^{of} "clerical" gentlemen
will be the one. They appear
to be warmly engaged in the
present election.



Professor Backus is still
in New York I have not
seen him since we parted
in Albany.

We are making preparation
for the season of lectures.
When do you intend to give
that course you partially
promised on combustion
or rather flame.

With kind regards to
the girls and Herbert

I remain as ever
truly yours
& cordially

Joseph Henry

Dr J. Torrey

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, Nov. 3rd 1856.

Dear Sir,

Accompanying this letter I send you a paper on Nitrification, which has been prepared at the request of this Institution in answer to a letter addressed to us by the Secretary of War.

I write to request, in behalf of the Regents, that you will examine the paper and inform us whether in your opinion the facts and suggestions which it presents are such as you can approve, and that you will favor us with any corrections or additions to the article which may occur to you.

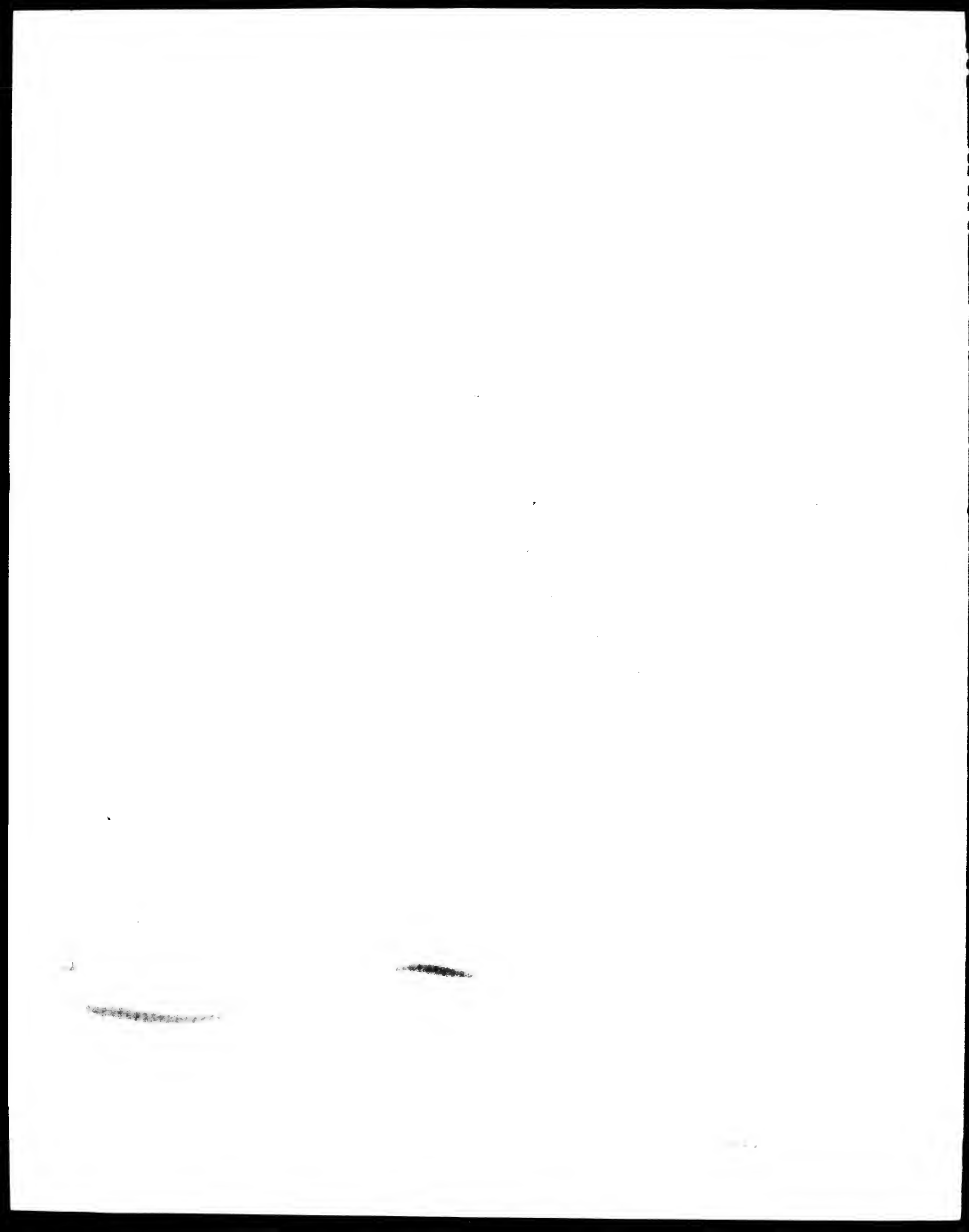
I am,

Very Respectfully

Your obed^t serv^t.

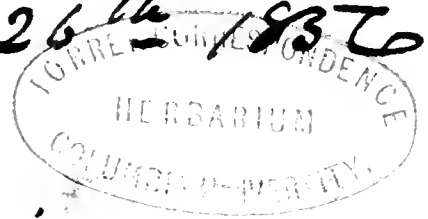
Joseph Henry
Secretary.

Dr. John Torrey,
New York.



Mr. Thos. M. Lusk

Nov. 26th 1836



My dear Dr.

I called this morning on the commissioner of Patents and stated to him that you had now in your possession a collection of the grasses more perfect than could be collected by any individual in the course of some years - that you would undertake to give him a Report on the subject which at least would be an indispensable preliminary to any other investigation which might be undertaken - that you could give him such

drawings and popular descriptions that the grasses might be recognised by the farmer as well as the man of science.

He has requested me to ask from you a programme of what you would recommend with information as to the time required to make the whole or a part of the Report, the number of plates, an estimate of the cost of the manuscript &c.

The object is the improvement of agriculture by the cultivation of the grasses fitted for different

soils and for different purposes
of husbandry.

Write me on this point as
soon as possible and prepare
a sketch of a programme for the
commission.

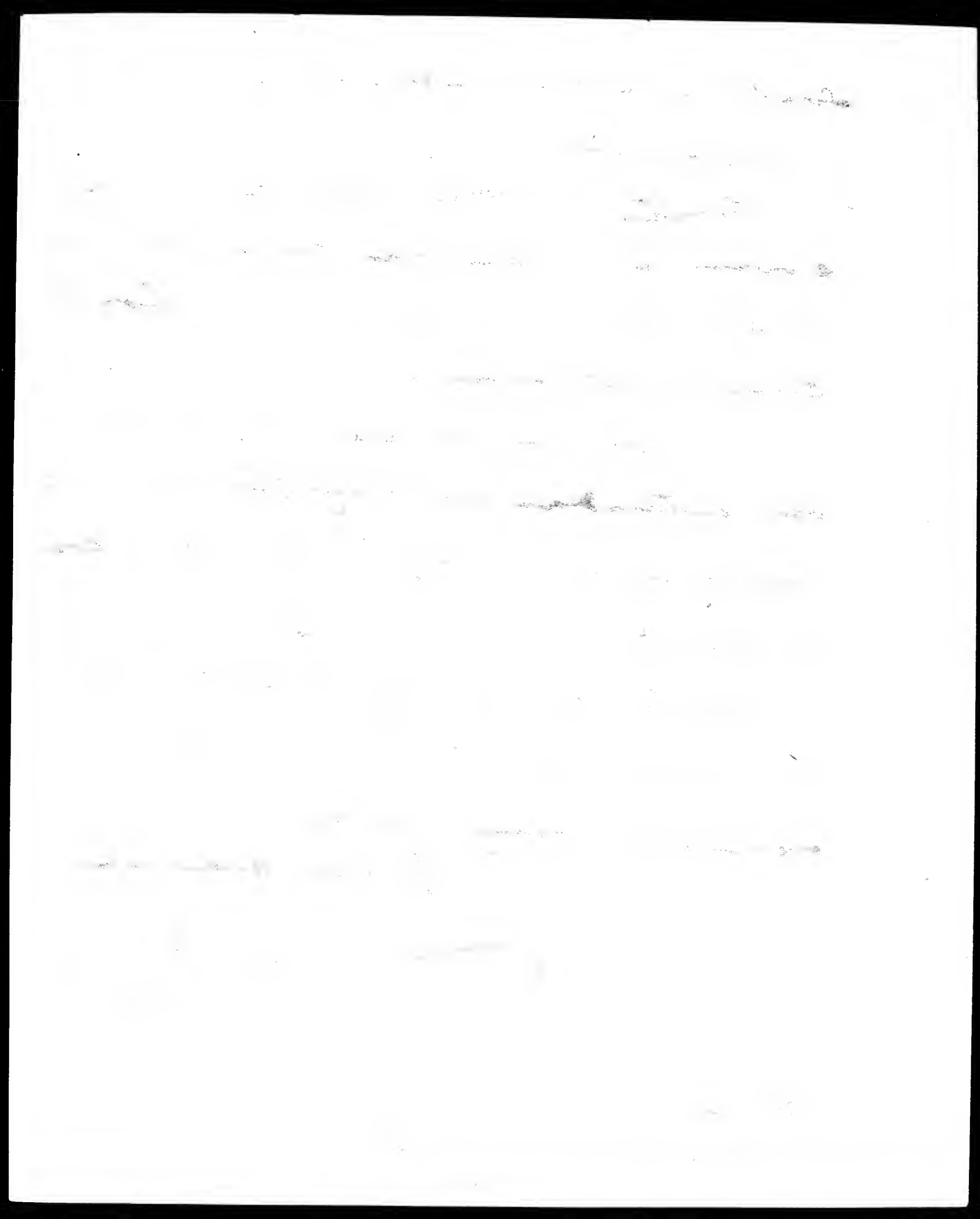
I arrived safely at home
on Saturday evening found all
well and every thing in good con-
dition.

In the kindest regards to all
the members of your family I
remain very truly
Your friend

Joseph Henry

Dr. Torrey

720 98 St. Marks Place
New York




W.P.

Washington

Dec. 6th 1856

My dear Dr

 You informed me when in New York that your friend Mr. Hunt was about to give up his business in the chemical line and I now write to ask that you will give me some information as to the terms on which he would dispose of his goodwill - the amount of capital required to carry on the business and any other information which may be important. I ask this in behalf of Dr. Easton a young chemist now in our laboratory. He has spent three years in Germany - is a good chemist and mineralogist - a graduate of Yale college and ^{scientist} - in school - a gentleman of high moral

channel and an active member
of the young men's Christian association
and other ~~but~~ benevolent institutions
of this city.

If Mr Kent has made arrangements
for his successor in business or in other
words if the establishment has been trans-
ferred to another person nothing more need
be said on the subject but if he has not
you would oblige a worthy young man
by giving him through me the desired informa-
tion

Your letter relative to the report on the
graffes has been received but as yet I have
not been able to see the secretary of the
Interior or the Commissioner of patents relative
to the matter.

Remain as ever truly

your friend

Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey

DEPENDENCY
MUM
UNIVERSITY



Washington

Dec. 12th 1887

My Dear Dr.



I am engaged in studying the Morse case and write to ask whether Professor Dana your predecessor in the University published a course of lectures and if so whether you can furnish me with a copy? Please also inform me when the last lectures of Professor Dana were given.

The information is not

very important but I may
regret it in the course
of the discussion which
will probably make

Nothing I think has been
lost by the delay I am
now enabled to study the
case with calmness and
to defend my moral and
scientific character against
the most unjust and I must
add malicious attack of Prof
Horse.

We have heard with
much concern that Margaret
is unwell and I beg to express

in behalf of Mrs Henry and my
self that you will send her on
to Washington if in the opinion of
her Physician she can stand the
journey and there is no probability
that the change of climate and
of surrounding objects will be
of injury. We feel that Mrs Torrey
and yourself have always taken
so lively an interest in everything
which related to us that we can-
not be otherwise than much
affected by concerns you & yours

I remain as ever truly

Your friend

Joseph Henry

Dr Loh. Torrey

Prof. Kelly

Smithsonian Institution

June 4th 1858

My Dear Dr

I regret very much that
you have been troubled with
Stewart's bill and that the matter
has remained so long unadjusted.
Mrs. Henry informed me that
she had paid the bill at the
time the articles were purchased
but as there was a possibility that
she might be mistaken I called
at the store on the corner of Chamber
St. and Broadway to settle the account,
but the Book-keeper could find
nothing charged against her and
informed me that there was

~~and a mistake in sending the~~
bill. After being politely shown

through the various rooms of
the great establishment I left

the building and have since

thought nothing more of the

matter. I would, as you

know, rather pay many times

the amount of the bill than

be liable to the auctioneer

that I wished to settle the

payment of a just debt.

Enclosed I send you

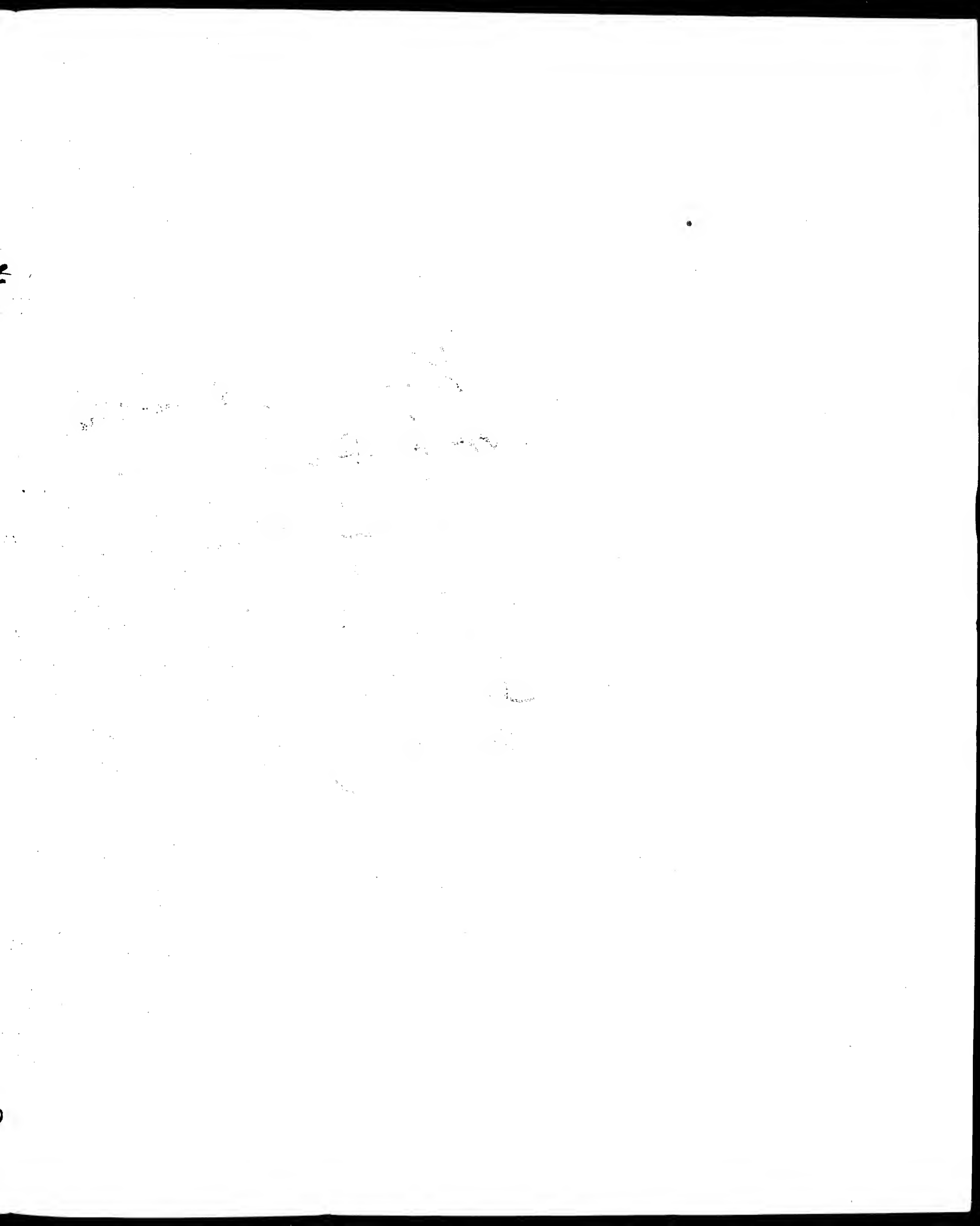
a draft for the amount of

the bill. I remain as ever

Very truly yours

Dr John Torrey

Joseph Henry



Prof. Henry

Smithsonian Institution
July 17th 1858

My Dear Sir

Mr. Brown of the Patent Office, who is now at my side, informs me that he is waiting for the wood cuts and manuscript relative to the hedge-plants you were to prepare for the agricultural Report of 1857.

Arrangements have been made for carrying out the plan originally suggested by yourself to establish a tree nursery in this city. The plan has received the approval of the Secretary of the Interior and Mr. Brown has commenced to put the grounds in preparation. The lot chosen for the purpose is near the canal and contains about five acres.

You will oblige the Secretary and Mr. Brown if you will give any suggestions as to procuring the seeds and other points which may occur to you.

I am also requested to inform you that the Patent Office is now ready to receive any proposition you may make in reference to the grasses of the United States. I think you offered to take charge of the work provided it were done by Mr. Thurber. I may mention to you in confidence that if Mr. Thurber is now receiving a salary

from the U.S., on account of his services
in the north, there may be some difficulty
in the way of his pay for other work for
the same party.

You have probably seen some of the
attacks which have been of late made
upon Mr. Brown attempting to prove his
unfitness for the position he now holds in
the Agricultural Department of the Patent
Office. They doubtless spring from interested
motives, and not from a desire to de-
stabilize the work of Agriculture. I know him
well to be a very industrious and obliging man,
and have full confidence in his honesty
and his earnest desire to make the Depart-
ment, with which he is connected, as
useful as possible. He does not profess to
be a man of science in the strict sense
of the term, but he has a large store of
practical knowledge of much importance
in his present position and has is not only
willing but anxious, to call in the aid of the
first men of the country in the preparation of
the matter of the Annual Report and in
making original investigations which
shall be of value to the husbandman.

I think the character of the Report

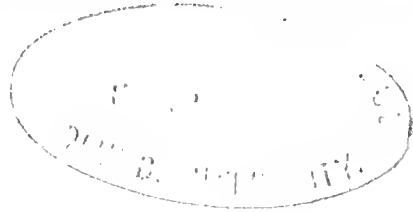
can be much improved and Mr. Sumner is disposed to receive any suggestions which may tend to this end. I think him a better man for the place than any other who has occupied it since I came to Washington and that any change which might be produced would be for the worse. Some he removed some more politician would be put in who would probably ignore science & seek merely to advance his own interests.

I have just returned from Albany after an absence of only a month. My visit was any thing but agreeable. I was taken sick with an affection of my bowels shortly after my arrival and was confined to the house nearly the whole time. I went on with the intention of examining the state of the case and of suggesting rules for the government of each party, to prevent difference in the future; but the precipitate action of the trustees and the unjust charges of the President of the Board induced us to be ^{of the directors} ~~come~~ the dependers. The whole affair is a remarkable example of might against right of money power against truth and

truth and justice. I was chosen
one of the scientific council without
my consent and somewhat against my
better judgement. I was at first by
no means sanguine as to the success of
the project. I knew that in most cases
of the kind great promises and in small
performances and that fools rush in
where angels fear to tread, but after Parker
Penny and Gould had given in their prom-
ise of cooperation I was induced to embark
in the enterprise and to pledge my honor
that if money were raised, sufficient for
the endowment, it would be productive
of results of importance to science, but
these guarantees were made after the
repeated assertion of the President of the
Board of Trustees that the council were to have
the entire charge of the scientific operations.
But enough of this. The girls start in
the beginning of next week for a cottage hired
jointly by Mrs. Angell of Phil^a and ourselves near
Cape May. I hope to see you sometime during
the summer. We are now much engaged in
unpacking the museum brought from the patent
office as ever Your friend J. D.

Washington Monday
Nov 22nd 1858

My Dear Sir



Your letters were duly received but the Secretary is now so much occupied, in the preparation of his Report to Congress, that he cannot leave seen on ordinary business. I have had however an interview with the assistant secretary on the subject of your communication in which he expressed himself freely as to the impropriety of removing on political grounds persons of importance in the discharge of the responsible duties of the establishment. He thought Mr B. had no right to make such

a removal and he was
aware the Secretary would not
give it his approval. He further
stated that the whole charge
of the operations of the coinage
was under the direction of Mr
Snowden of Phil^a and that
before a removal of this kind
was made he ought to be
consulted. Nothing however
could be done in the Depart-
ment unless an official
statement were made to the
Secretary on which he could
act.

While I was giving an account
of the matter and an exposition of

your character and appointment
Capt. Bowman came into the
room and I immediately referred
to him to verify my statement as
to you and the great responsibility
of the office. The Capt. responded
to my appeal most warmly and
fully endorsed, from his own personal
knowledge all and more than I had
said. He also afterwards assured
me that he would take the first
opportunity to speak to the Secretary
on the subject, and since he occupies
a room within a few yards of
that of the Secretary he will have the
best opportunity to see him. The
Capt. bid me assure you that
he would do his utmost to see

justice done goes in this matter,
and I think he has the full con-
fidence of the Secretary. It may
be well however for you not
to mention the names of your
friends in this city and to be
cautious in word and deed
to give no cause for the slightest
charge. I doubt whether it will
be possible to reinstate the persons
who have been removed though
the Superintendent may be prevented
from carrying the game farther.

How do you stand with Snowden?
I will see the assistant secretary
again in regard to the matter and
will write you again in the mean
time keep me posted up as to the
state of affairs. I remain as ever
Truly your friend
J. W.

Recd of Am^d

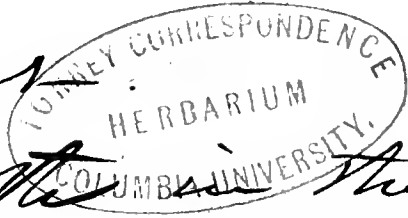
Jan'y 3rd

Smithsonian Institution

Dec. 31st 1858

My Dear Dr.

I have heard nothing from you for ten days or more and therefore conclude that all things are quiet at the present.

I met Rutterworth  the street as I was on my way home from church last Sunday. He bowed very politely but I had no opportunity of speaking with him during his stay in the city.

I am informed that a notice of your difficulty has appeared in one of the New York papers though I have not seen it myself. I hope this has not enhanced the difficulty.

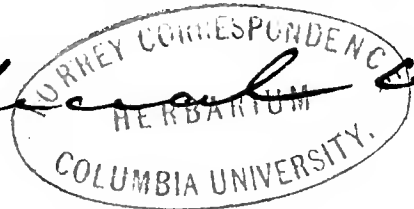
Mr. Baer and myself visited the President on some business of an official character and I then took advantage of the opportunity to

Speak with him in regard to yourself.
He said that Mr Butterworth had
made a statement in regard to the
difficulty which looked as if one or
the other would be obliged to leave.

I informed him, that what you
had done was on the subscription,
from your letter of appointment, that
you had the right to nominate your
assistants; but that when it was
decided by the Secretary that the
Superintendent had alone the power,
you had acquiesced in that decision
and signified your intention to adopt
the course which might be prescribed
by your superior.

He said he was very glad to hear
this for he did not ^{wish} to act in
the matter and particularly since he was
convinced that you were a valuable

officer. He further stated that Mr Butterworth had spoken highly of your character as a man and a chemist and that the only difficulty as he [The President] understood the matter was that of want of harmony. I assured the President that Mr. B. had misinterpreted your letter, which was written rather in a breezy spirit than in the form of an official communication.



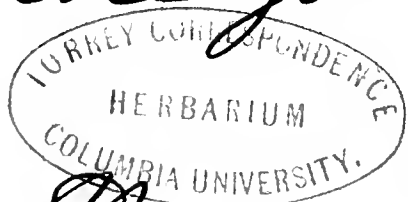
Mr. Bache warmly seconded what I said in regard to yourself. The president expressed the hope that nothing further would be done and I suggested the fact that in as much as you had no disposition ^{to} exhibit any thing like insubordination a hint from him would be sufficient to induce Mr. Butterworth to give you no further trouble. He remarked that he hoped to hear nothing more on

the subject, but that he would bear
what I had said in mind. He made
a minute of the matter in order to speak
with Mr Cobb on the subject.

All things in this city are going on
as usual. Our lectures have consumed
and consequently my cases have ^{been} ~~con-~~
increased. The attacks of the Trustees
of the Dudley will not I think affect
the coast survey or the Smithsonian. The
Committee on Ways and Means have passed
the appropriation for the coast survey
and also that for the keeping of the
Museum now in the disquisition.

With kind regards to your family
and the kind congratulations of the season
to you and yours I remain as ever your
friend

J. A. -



Washington Jan'y 5th 1859

My Dear Dr



Your note of the 3rd has just been received and I hasten in reply to inform you that I was much gratified to learn from the Treasury Department on Monday that the difficulty between the superintendent and yourself had been amicably adjusted by a letter from Mr. Patterson to the Secretary.

I had seen Mr. Cobb on Saturday and had been surprised after my conversation with the President to learn that the difficulty was not settled but as I had not an opportunity of conversing with him on the subject at that time I called

at the Department early on Monday morning and was informed with evident satisfaction on the part of the assistant secretary that the whole matter had been settled by a letter from Mr. Butterworth.

I do not think we shall be able at present to do any thing in regard to the formation of an herbarium. We have so many things on hand at present that we must get through with them before undertaking any thing more.

If possible I would be pleased if Schaeffer could procure a place in the assay

office. He is out of employment
and has difficulty in obtaining
the means of daily bread for his
ten children. The places left
vacant must be filled and
since a political appointment
does not stand on the same
footing as to permanency, as one of
a different kind he will ac-
cept it with the condition of
instability. I say he will accept
though I do not know certainly that
he would do so if he thought it would
not be agreeable to his friends in
New-York. His wants however are
great and I do not see in the
present state of the case that his
acceptance would do injustice
to any one or injury to the cause
of science. The places must be
filled Mr. Thurber cannot be re-
instated. It is better to have a good

them a hard man - but I leave
this to yourself - Let me hear
from you however on this point
as soon as convenient
Schaffner is in a very disagree-
able condition.

I remain as ever

Truly your friend

Joseph Henry



To John Torrey

Ans^d. March 31.

Brockington March 30th 1859
My Dear Dr

Your kind and very acceptable letter of the 28th was received yesterday and I now embrace the first opportunity to give you a few words in reply.

We are all well and have been enjoying the pleasant weather with which we have been favoured, notwithstanding the rain for several weeks past.

I am just now much interested in the weather and am studying, up for the purpose of preparing a paper on the storms of this country, as a part of the next Report of the Patent Office. The subject is a very perplexing one, not only on its own account, but also on that of the multiplicity of contrary statements which have been recorded in regard to the phenomena. No party seems desirous to move any personal discussion the object of which appeared to be the support of adopted opinions rather than the discovery of new truths.

I am gratified with what you say in regard to the ~~morse~~ reports and will send you by mail a few sheets of the article in a separate form. I enter to have the article reprinted in better style and stereotyped for general distribution but I have been waiting for the appearance of Morse's reply. If this should appear I will then publish as an appendix my remarks on his pamphlet. If he chooses to let the matter rest as it is, I shall do nothing more, but if he makes another attack I shall then endeavor to place him before the world in a true light; which will I think be worse than the one in which he now stands. I have been furnished, almost Providentially, with evidence to support my testimony as to the meeting in the patent office which will tend to show the wilful and malicious manner in which he has perverted the truth in order to destroy my credibility as a witness. The only excuse I can make for him in this matter is that

he is a monomaniac on the subject of
the Telegraph.

Mr Baird informs me that he
did not send the number of Harney
because he did not wish to put you
to the expense of the transportation and
he now asks how he shall send the
packages containing the two articles alluded
to in ^{your} ~~this~~ letter namely a copy of Lippin on
the wants for Eliza and Harney for yourself.

The Smithsonian, the Coast Survey, and
the Light House Board were threatened
at the beginning of the session of Congress
with attacks on account of the Dudley
matter but so far from doing anything to
prejudice these establishments Congress was
considering the state of the Treasury, very
liberal. The Coast Survey received all
it asked for; The Smithsonian appropriation
for the museum was granted without ques-
tion; and the Light House Board received
additional power.

I am sorry that Mr. Butterworth
is mixed up in the Seckle's affair. He
appears to be naturally an amiable man
with generous impulses. The Seckle's tragedy
is a dreadful affair, and ought to have
[an influence

our fashionable society, and indeed I
am informed that it did startle
some persons, as exhibiting the tendency
of the course they were pursuing.

I almost forgot to mention for
the edification of your daughters that
we have had a visit from Miss Graham
of Phil^a who has taken our Mary with
her to the city of "brotherly love" We
have heard from the young lady this
morning and learn that she is enjoying
herself very much.

I do not think I shall leave this
city except to spend a week in Brewster
until the time of the meeting of the Association.

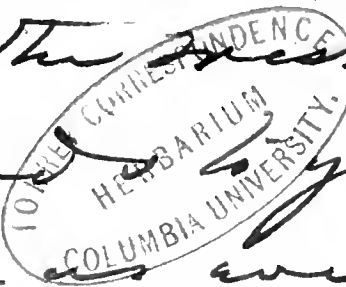
Mayor Laughlan of Cincinnati writes
to ask how Mitchell will be able to
manage in case of an election to obtain
both in Albany and at the West.

With kind regards to your girls

I remain as ever truly yours

Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Joseph Henry



Smithsonian Inst
April 30th 1859

My Dear Dr

We have directed a
lot of meteorological blanks
and instruments to be sent
to you ^{for} Dr Benson
but we are unable to furnish
instruments for places out of
the field of our research.

We have made a move-
ment to procure you a spec-
imen of the wax mentioned
in your previous letter and
hope it may be successful.

I think in the course of
another year we may be
able to do something in
the way of the botanical

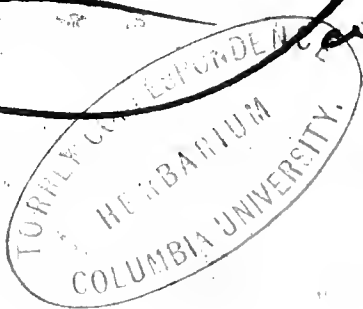
collection. It will however
be impossible without
absorbing all our means
to make provision for a
general museum of all the
objects of nature and art.

We have however as yet
heard nothing of Mr & Mrs
Roggs and therefore conclude
that they have not yet visited
this city.

I remain very

Truly your friend

Joseph Henry



Dr John Torrey
New York



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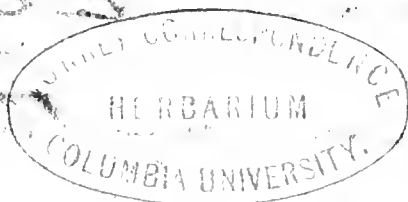
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And

Smithsonian Institution

May 10th 1859

My Dear Dr



Your letter of the 4th inst was duly received and was immediately referred to the principal mathematical assistant of the coast survey who in the absence of Mr. Becker has furnished the enclosed answer to your inquiries which I hope will be sufficient for your purpose.

I attach the number of the Journal of Gas Lighting from which it appears that the subject of gas measurement is one which is awakening much attention.

The whole subject of the manufacture and use of gas is in-

creasing in importance in connection
with our intelligence our security
and our morality. Light physical
is connected with the light spiritual

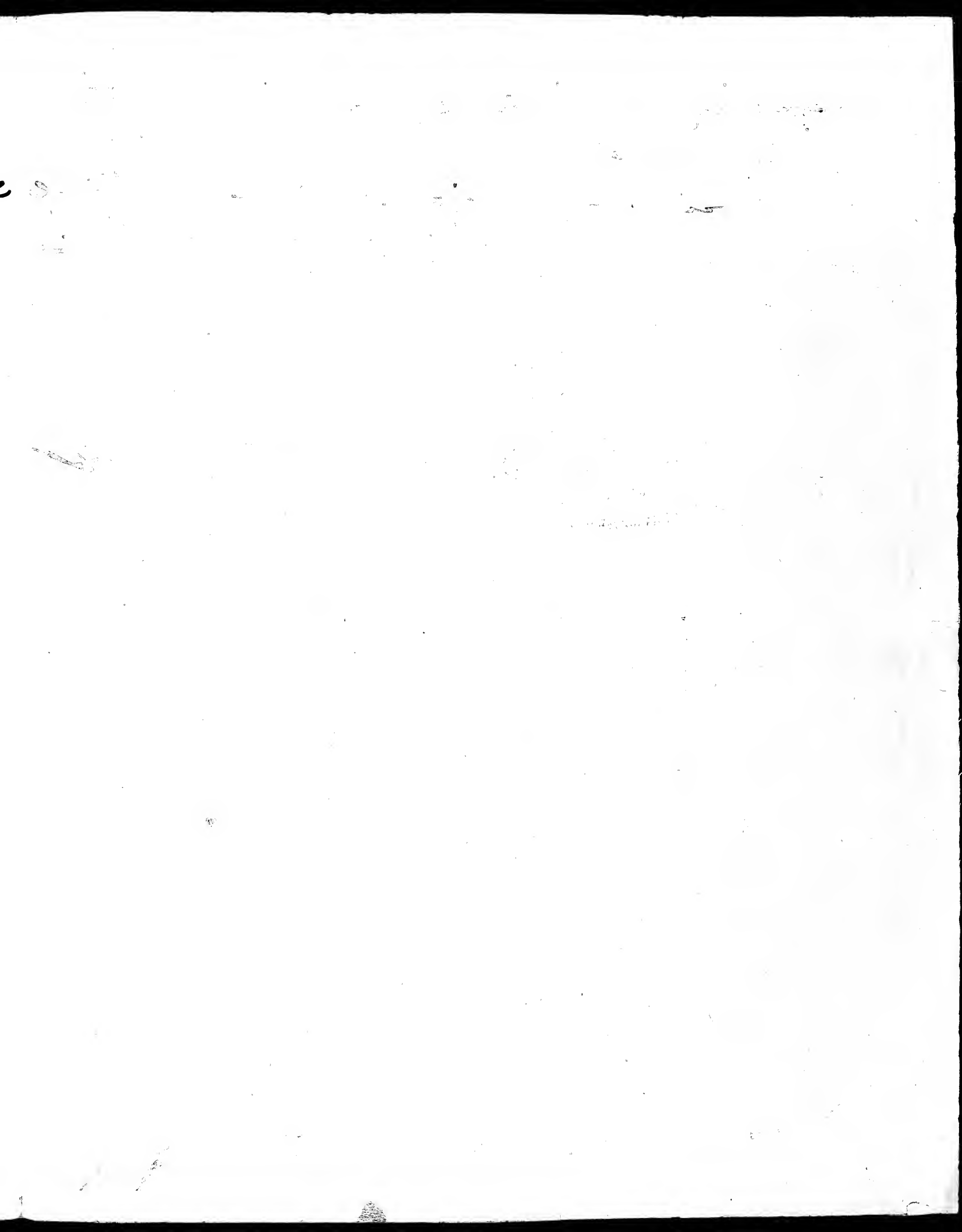
I remain as ever

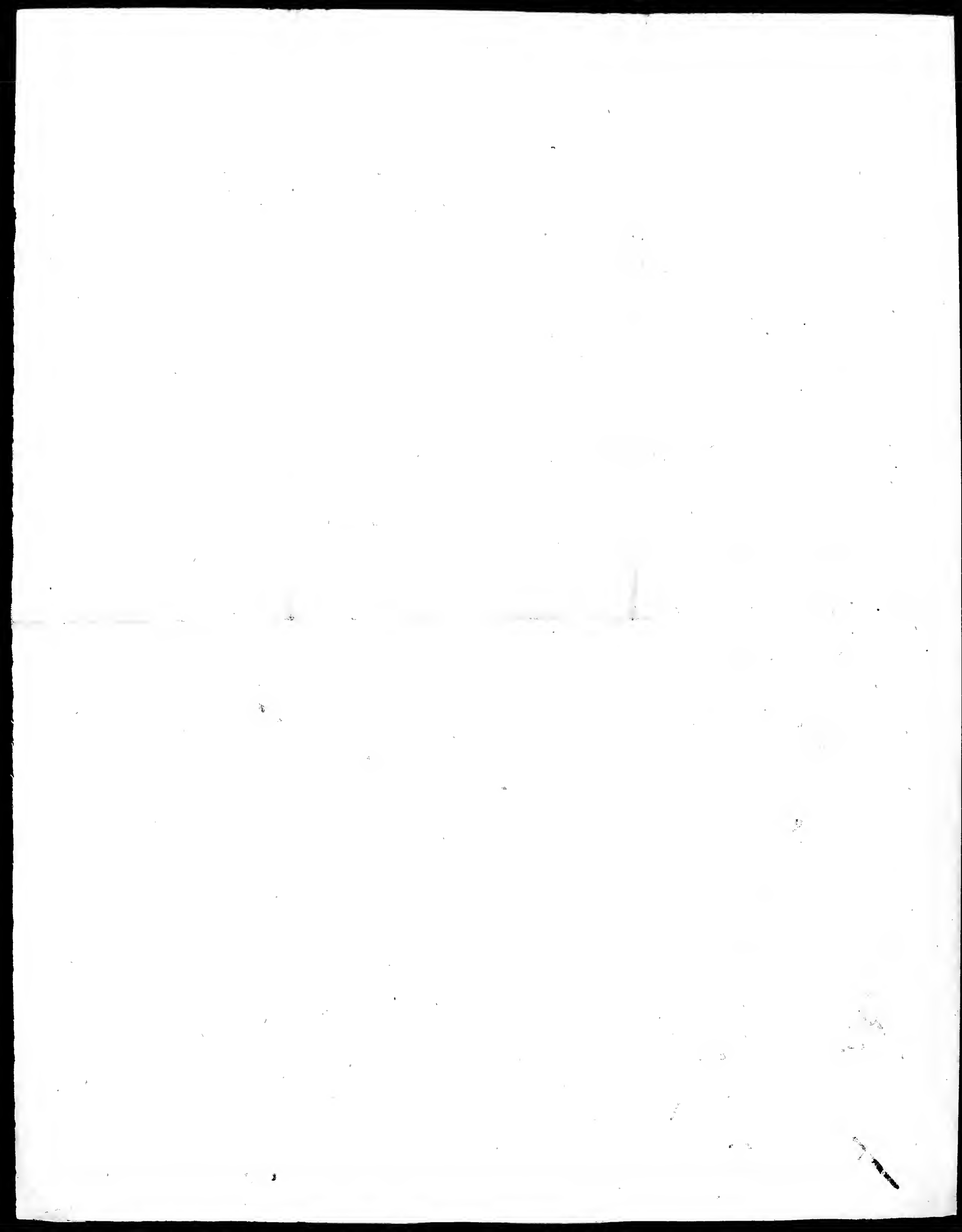
Truly yours

Joseph Henry



Dr John Torrey
New-York

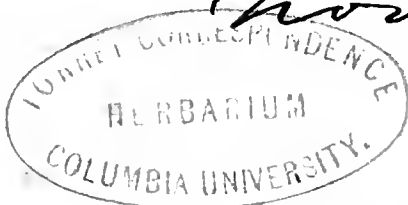




and
Dec. 10th

Smithsonian Institution
Nov. 8th 1859

My Dear Dr



Mr Brown, late of the Patent
office leaves Washington for N.Y.
tomorrow. He is preparing a paper
or table on the trees and shrubs
of the U.S. for the next Report
of the Patent office and wishes
to confer with you on the subject.

The present commissioner
of Patents has concluded not to
recommend to Congress a further
appropriation for agricultural
operations and therefore the system
of distribution of seeds and the
publication of Reports will
probably cease with the
present year.

The country will probably
demand that something should

be done for the encouragement
of agriculture. No appropriation
will however be made
at the next session since that
will be chiefly occupied with
the business of making a precedent.

Mr. Brown has in view
the enterprise of a portable
library consisting of small
books on ethnology, literature
and science to be prepared
by some of the first men in
the country and to be illustrated
by facts principally relating to
America. An original
series of this kind would
I think be very useful and
might be made perhaps re-

remuneration to those who engaged
in the preparation of the volumes.
He intends to confer with the
Harpers on the subject and would
be pleased to receive any sugges-
tions or encouragement you may be
able to give him.

Please excuse me for writing on
two half sheets of paper. I did
not observe until I had filled
the first page that the second leaf
was torn.

I remain very truly
your friend &
servant.

Joseph Henry

John Torrey

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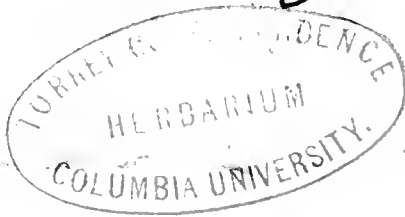
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Recd of Acad
Aug. 16/

Smithsonian Inst.
Aug. 14th 1860

My Dear Dr.



On my return to this city I made enquiry of our curator Mr Vanden, as to the Brachnoides ferns, and learned that they had been sent to Dr. Gray in order to preserve. Dr. R. B. Van der Burgh of the Netherlands with a set of duplicates. This fact had escaped my memory at the time I sent Mr Eaton to Newport.

I shall write to Dr. Gray on the subject by the next mail and direct him to send you the ferns. All we desire is a full set for the Museum of the Institution, and that the duplicates may be disposed of in the best manner for the advancement of science.

I hope to see you in New York
the latter part of next week,
and to explain to you why
I did not see you on my way
through your city on my return
from the association. It may
however be sufficient for me
to say that I was so occupied
with the work that I was obliged
to leave in an early train.

Mrs. Henry and the girls will
probably take passage with
me in the steamer from George-
town, a week from tomorrow
and seek a lodging place
somewhere on the coast for
a few weeks, in order to recover
from the effects of the long con-

turned and intense heat of the
last two months.

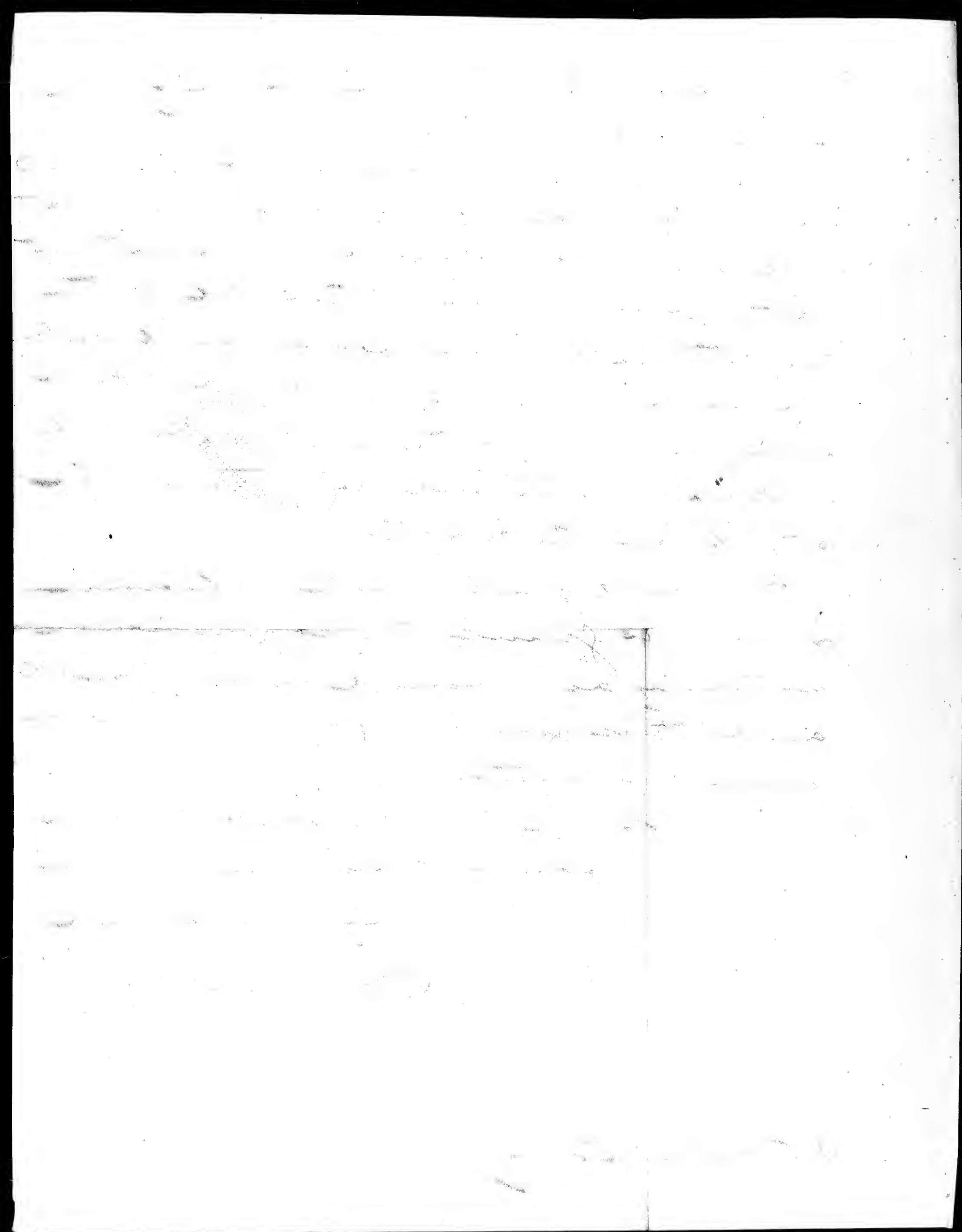
William, as you know, accompanied
his uncle and according to account
did good service as an assistant.
After an exposure to the cold of the
northern regions for several weeks,
we have thought it would not be
safe for him to return immediately
to Washington, and he is therefore
still at the north.

I was gratified to learn
from Mr. Grant that you have
entirely recovered from your cold
and that you are again enjoying your
usual health.

With kind regards to your
family I remain as ever
Truly your friend

Joseph Henry

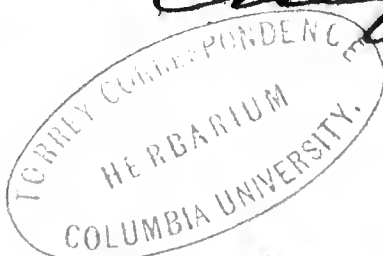
Dr John Torrey



and

Smithsonian Inst
Aug. 16th 1860

My Dear Dr



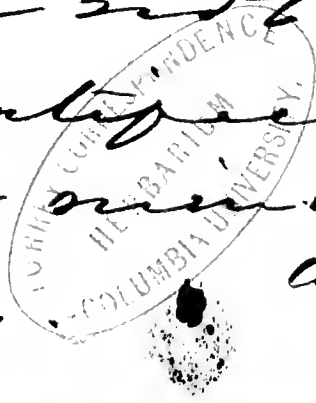
Enclosed I return you the
letter of specimens which I forgot to
put in my last letter to you.

I have written to Dr. Gray relative
to the forms and specimens that he
will send them to you to be dis-
posed of as suggested in your letter.

We have concluded since the
commencement of the present cool
spell of weather to defer starting
for the north until next Wednesday.
We have engaged boarding on
the sound near Southport and
expect to be in New-York in the steamer
on Friday morning Aug 24th.

I need not say that we shall
all be gratified to see you back
for a few moments during our stay
in the city as ever truly yours
Dr. J. Torrey

Joseph Henry



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[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]

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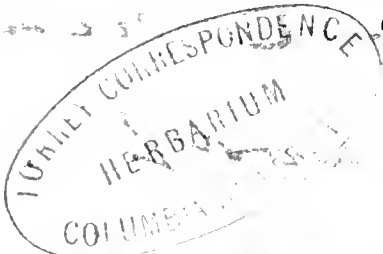
[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page]

100

And verbally
in N.Y. Aug. 24

Smithsonian Institution
Aug. 22nd 1860

My Dear A



I find on examination myself
that the ferns are gone and I have
given orders that they should be
shipped to you as soon as they can
be put up.

Professor Baird, to whom I have
given the articles of natural history
in charge, is now enjoying a summer
vacation and I think Mr. Vardner was
not very desirous that the plants should
go out of the Institution. I am, however,
alone responsible and I consider
myself justifiable in making that
disposition of the specimens which will
be best for the advance of science.

I start for New-York in the
packet of this afternoon and hope
to be in New-York on Friday morning.

I have been obliged to remain
in Washington on account of the
printing and making up of an-
nual Report. The publication
of a quarto volume of Transactions,
an 8vo volume of Reports;
the preparation of an annual
contribution to the Patent Office,
besides four or five thousand
pages of letters, keeps me some-
what busy.

I shall hope to see you while
at the north and to settle some-
thing definitely as to the plans of the
exploring expedition.

I remain as ever

Truly your friend

Joseph Henry

Dr John Torrey

New York

Recd. Oct. 27.
Ans'd. Oct 31.

Washington Oct 28th 1860

My Dear Dr

Your favour of the 23^d has just been received and I hasten to say that we have forwarded a very large box of ~~papers~~ to your address which has been delayed because they were so safely put away that they were not readily found.

I misunderstood your message to Helen and concluded you could not come on. I had a conversation with Dr. Hareless on the subject of the chemical chair. He said he thought for the present the students had as much chemistry as they could receive under the existing arrangement of study. He appeared to be pleased with the idea of including within the facilities of the college a short course on agricultural chemistry; and I think in this point of view that

(2)
Trustees would be willing to increase
the salary of the Dr. I agree with
you in opinion as to his qualifications.
I think he has an excellent mind
and in every respect admirably
well fitted to discharge all the
duties of a Professor in the college
of New-Jersey.

I am glad to learn that you
have a prospect of making a satisfac-
tory disposition of your plants. It
will be gratifying to know that
they will be preserved in a permanent
institution. I think however that
you are too modest in your demand
and that the ^{College} university ought to give
you at least double that sum.
Your collection is the most valuable
in the country not only on account
of the number and variety of the specimens
but also in regard to their historic asso-
ciation.

I think it would be important
to the ^{College} university to elect you one of the



Professor or employ you to give an annual course on botany with a liberal salary. You have laboured longer and done more than any living man to advance the cause of botany in the United States; your name is one of your pupils and but for your generous and unselfish course towards him he would not have been where he now is. You have lived a most industrious and useful life faithfully doing all in your power to advance the best interests of your fellow men and now the means ought to be afforded you of a comfortable support and of making provision for your family.

I doubt not that if the facts of your case were properly presented to the Trustees personally they would consider it a duty to you, the University, and the cause of science to do as much as the means would properly allow in the way of your remuneration.

I regret that I did not know of the proposition while I was in New York for I would then have spoken to the President on the subject. If you think it the proper time I will go on.

I ought to have written Columbia College.

P.S. I am just breifly answering an official letter in regard to the plants in which your name is mentioned to purchase all the water needed for the arrangement of the specimens.

to New York in the course of next month
and see each of the Trustees as you may
think it desirable to speak with regard
to the matter. I know that Banks would
also take a lively interest in promoting your
company and I doubt not his words would
have much weight with the Trustees.
There is much good feeling in the world
but it frequently requires to be stim-
ulated into activity before it is available in
doing good deeds.

Mrs. Henry, Mary, William, and myself
are again at home. I am much occupied
in the business which has accumulated
during my absence and in the current
operations of the Institution.

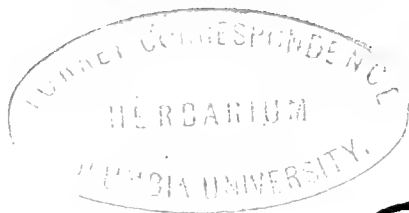
I remain as ever

Yours friend

Joseph Henry

Dr. John Torrey

P.S. If you wish to write
to me entirely confidential
enclose your letter in an
outer envelope and on the inner
write Private



[From letter of Oct. 24th 60 - giving notice that the box of rept. expd. Ferns having
been dispatched by the steamer Monticello]

Recd Oct. 27

P.S. Mrs H. Henry and myself are
again in Washington carrying out
Helen and in Philadelphia. I delayed
my return to this city until I heard
that a frost had occurred. I
found all the affairs of the Institute
going on as usual. Nothing new
in this city. We shall probably have
stirring times after the 4th of March
next - when great changes may be
expected to take place among the holders
of office. If Lincoln is elected, and
this appears to be the prevailing opinion,
I fear we shall have an immense
hoard of office seekers from the north.

I had some conversation with
Dr. Meade on the subject of the
elevation of the channel course at
Pompton. I think that in connection
with the application of the same to
agriculture he would be favourable to
an improvement.

J.H.

Ans. Dec. 24th

Smithsonian Inst.

Nov 21st 1880

My Dear Dr



I agree on the part of the Institution to your proposition relative to the paper. If possible however I would prefer that the bills should be paid at the beginning of Jan'y since our accounts for the present year are about being closed.

I am gratified to learn that Columbia College has accepted your proposal and that in case of a dismemberment of the Union you may have a safe retreat.

We shall expect you at the time mentioned and shall

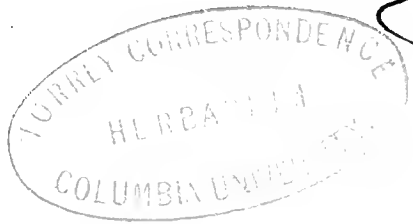
reserve a nook for you in
which you will treat
he safe from the hounds of
hungry office seekers expected
from the north and the baleful
fine enters from the south.

With kind regards to Herbert
and the girls

I remain as ever

Truly your friend

Joseph Henry



Dr John Torrey
New York

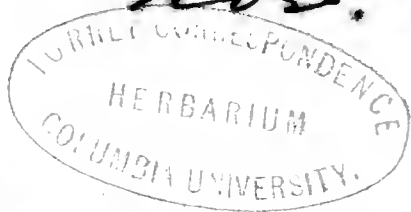
P.S. I shall direct that all
the plants now in the Institution
be sent to you. I H.

And. Dec. 24th

Smithsonian Institution

Nov. 27th 1860

My Dear Sir.



The plants have been or are about to be shipped to your address. If any charges should be made for the transportation keep an account of the sums paid and enter them in your quarterly bill of settlement.

I am greatly pleased to learn that Columbia College accepted your proposition and that you will have a safe retreat from any storm which may arise.

I do not see clearly that will be the result of our present disturbed political condition although I have of late given considerable attention to the philosophy of history. We have a mixed system of licentious freedom on the one hand and slavery on the other. I am convinced

that while the negro retains his peculiarities he never can exist in juxtaposition with the white man, but in a state of servitude; and that with the increase of our population the free laborers of the north must be pressed southwards until it is stopped by the bank of sea. There is however a portion of the country which cannot be cultivated by the white man and into this the negro will be forced and confined. There is a state of servitude. A southern confederacy might retard this condition or should war move it might hasten it but that this is the tendency can scarcely be doubted. It is in accordance with the general tendency of modern civilization founded as it is on the application of scientific principles to the arts of life. The Anglo-Saxon is every where encroaching on the territory of the colored man in the temperate zones and reducing him to servitude in the torrid zone.

I think in all probability that South Carolina will go out of the Union and endeavor to in-

duce other southern states to join her in a
southern confederacy. The politicians will
be in favour of this movement because it
will increase the number of the officers of honor
and profit and some of the intelligent inhabitants
of the southern states may favour the proposition
on account of a hereditary tendency to check
the encroachments of the north.

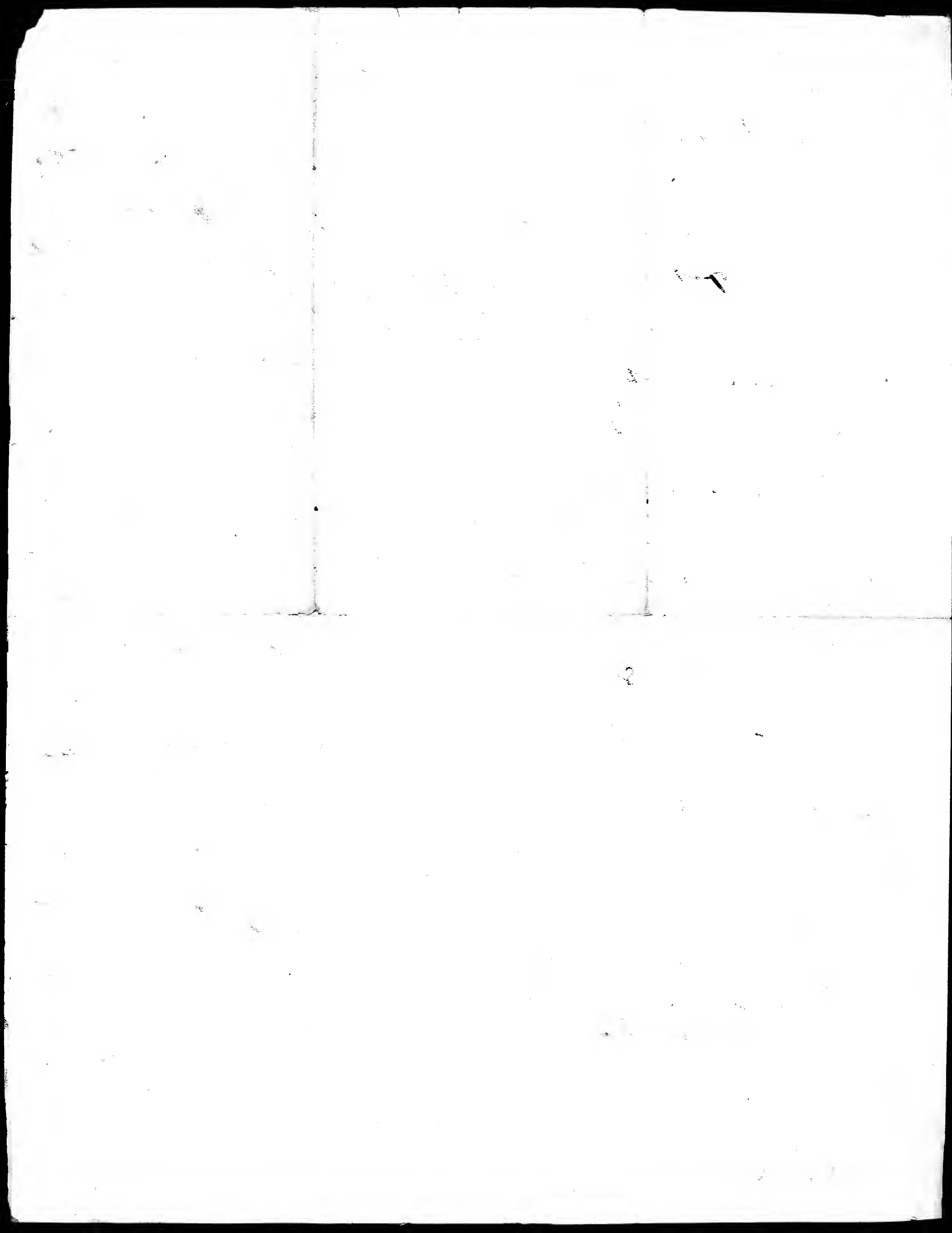
We shall look forward with an antici-
pation of pleasure from your visit and
shall not fail to reserve a room for your
accommodation. I need not say that Mrs H-
and the girls were much pleased to learn
that you were to favour us with a visit at
the time of the transfer of power. Although
we do not apprehend any very serious
resistance to the government of President
elect we shall be tranquilized in our
anxiety in regard to the future by the presence
of our friends in the present.

I remain as ever

Truly yours

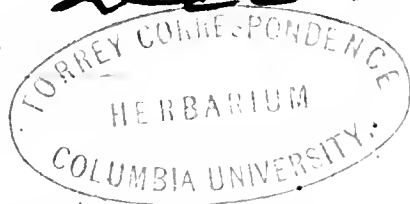
Dr John Torrey

Joseph Henry



And Dec 24th

San Francisco Dec
Dec 6th 1860



My dear Dr

I return you the letter
of instruction with the insertion
of the name of the academy of St.
Petersburgh before that of the
Berlin Academy. When I
prepared this letter I had mis-
taken the notes furnished
me by Dr. Gray and gave
the names from memory.

We have fallen upon
very dark times - South Carolina
will without doubt go out
of the Union. What other states
will join her is not known.

The Government for the present
has stopped payments. We called

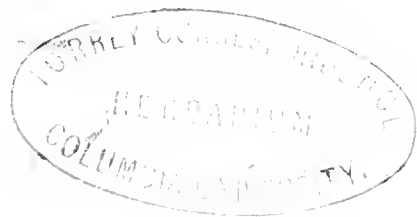
yesterday on the distributing agent
of the Department of The Interior
for the payments of one half
yearly dues for keeping the
Government collections
but was informed that there
was no money at his disposal

There is much angry feeling
on both sides. The result can
not at present be foreseen

I remain as ever

Yours friend

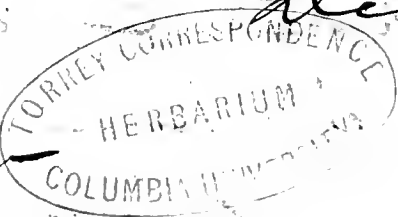
Joseph Henry



Dr John Torrey
New York

Smithsonian Institution

Dec 30th 1860



My dear Dr.

Your note of the 24th has been received and I hasten to say that whatever assistance you may require in a moderate way for the arrangement of the plants will be allowed.

I am anxious to go on with the distribution of our duplicates as rapidly as possible. Natural History has been by far the most expensive part of our operations. It has cost us more in proportion to the credit we have received on account of it than any other branch of knowledge and I am therefore desirous of making our duplicates tell in the way of an early and liberal distribution for scientific and educational purposes.

In carrying out my policy in regard to Natural History I am liable to be misrepresented on the supposition that I am opposed to the extension

of this branch of science. I have
ever been opposed to expending the
Smithsonian income in the support
of a museum which ought to be main-
tained by the General Government not
because such an establishment is not
of value in itself but because it does not
comport with the liberal spirit of the
request and would absorb in a
single object the whole of the proceeds
of the Smithsonian fund.

were we to ask for specimens in
return for what we distribute our col-
lections would soon exceed our means
taking care of them. We now receive
\$4000 dollars from Government for the
care of the shot museum and the
duplicate specimens of the expeditions;
but this scarcely pays one half of the
actual cost. You can have but little
idea, without experience, of the expense
of keeping up an establishment like this
particularly in the city of Washington where
every one is habituated to the liberal ex-
penditures of the Government.

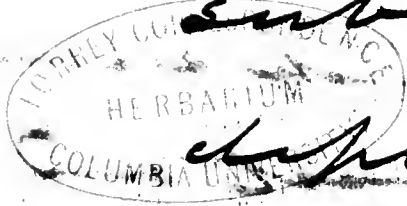
our funds however will be in a
good condition if government pays
our semi-annual interest and
the states in the bonds of which our
other fund is invested do not re-
pudiate their debts. We cannot how-
ever foresee the future and I shall
be obliged to make provision for
a storm by contracting as much
as possible on operations and
diminishing the number of our
assistants.

Jan'y 4th 1861

The foregoing was written
several days ago. Since then
the government has succeeded
in procuring a loan which secures
the payment of our interest and en-
ables us to discharge all our debts.
I think it doubtful however as to
whether congress will make an
appropriation on account of
the museum. In that case

that is, if the appropriation is
not made, we shall be obliged
to close the doors on charges an
admittance to visitors.

The same problem on very
dark times and I fear our
present condition will be followed
by one of civil war. Nations
as well as individuals are
subjected to mental epidemics
analogous to physical ones and
these in many cases do not
subside until after a bloody
depletion. We were at one
time in much danger from
the attacks of lawless mobs but
I think measures have been
taken to insure the safety of the
Federal City.



Miss Chubb left us last evening
to return to Virginia after spending
about ten days - She left with
her cousin Mr. Grandjean who has
received an appointment
on some Public works at the
south. We have also had a
very pleasant visit from Miss
Alexander and her nephew the
son of Henry Alexander of New York

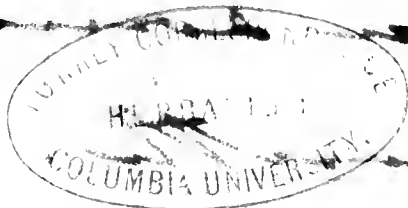
I am sorry to learn that you
cannot get a purchaser for your
house I should think that
since there is abundance of capital
at present in the country ^{searching}
safe investments that houses
in New York would command
a good price.

Mrs Henry is in the office
while I am writing this letter

and joins me in kind regards to
the girls Herbert and yourself -

I remain as ever truly
your friend

Joseph W. Henry



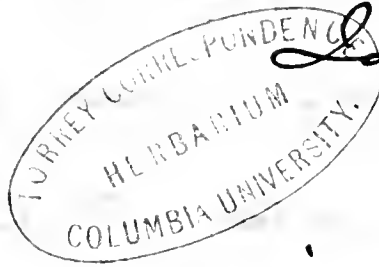
Dr. John Torrey

New York

Smithsonian Institution

Jan'y 31st 1861

My Dear Dr.



Accompanying this letter I send you an official communication relative to your account.

An appropriation has passed the House for the completion of the publication of the last part of the materials of the exploring expedition. It has not yet been acted upon by the Senate although I do not think it will be thrown out by that body.

I will speak to Milnes on the subject of your account the first opportunity which offers and shall also talk with Senator Pearce in regard to the same matter.

We shall expect to see you at our House at the time of the

of the change of administration.
We can promise you I think a
peg on which to hang yourself up
for the night, if not something better,
and should the Smithsonian be
invaded we may call into requi-
sition your chemical knowledge
in the way of defensive measures.

We are in sober truth under a dark
cloud which severely exhibits a
trace of the silver lining. What the
future is to be, the wisest cannot
say. We are to have a meeting of
delegates from different states, on
Monday next. I hope they may have
a good effect on Congress but I doubt
whether they will be able to do anything
which will satisfy the south. The
safety of the country from civil war

now appears to rest on the course taken
by Virginia. Should she go out Maryland
will follow her and Washington will
be in the possession of the southern section.
This will, it is supposed, be resisted by
the north and hence the conflict. But
should the events occur which I have
mentioned. There may be means found
to effect an amicable separation
provided due coolness can be retained.

Professor Alexander of Princeton
is now with us but will leave for
home tomorrow or Saturday. His daughters,
Sturrit and Mary, are with him
and intend to remain a few weeks.

I have seen the superintendent of
the Army Office several times lately
in this city; I doubt whether he will have
much power to settle the affairs of the Union.

Who is to occupy the place left vacant
by the death of Professor Haskley? His

departure, to me was quite unexpected,
I had not heard of his illness. He
was a very amiable gentleman
and though not in the first rank
as to power of intellect he possessed
many estimable qualities.

Professor Alexander has given
us two lectures on eclipses with
a particular account of the expedition
to Labrador. The last of these especially
was in Alexander's best style. He
threw away his usual manner and
became impressively eloquent.

I remain as ever truly
your friend

Joseph Henry



Dr John Torrey.

Recd. Aug. 1865

Washington Aug. 12th 1861

My dear Dr

Your letter of the 10th was received
by the mail of yesterday and I hasten
to assure you that after so long an
interval we were very glad to know
that we still live in your kind remem-

berance. We have not heard from you
before in several months and were

we to count time by the number of
passing events we should say that
we have not heard from you in years.

And little did we think it possible when
you were last in this city that we should
in so short a time be in danger of an inva-
sion and that the trumpet of war would
drown the voice of party politics. We
have lived in exciting times and although
thus far spared from the calamities which
have brought sorrow into so many families
we regard the future with anxiety and fear.

10 I think of starting for the north
on Thursday and intend to make
a tour through the coal regions
of Penn^a with my friend Mr. Patterson
of Philadelphia. Mrs. Quincy and the
girls will leave in a few days to spend
a week at York Springs and then
visit me in Germantown where I
return.

I expect to visit New-York before
I come back to Washington unless I am
recalled by the news of a threatened attack
on the city. I trust that the time has
passed when the enemy can hope to have
the least chance of a successful attempt
on the city. Had they followed up im-
mediately their success of the 19th of July
the city might have been taken almost
without resistance. A great change has
taken place in the spirit of the city and the
confidence of the people since McClelland has taken
command.

I am glad to learn that you have made
the personal acquaintance of Mr. Chase
I think him an able and honest man
I am also pleased to hear that exchanges
of any importance have been made at the
Army Office. The case is very different
and in this city hundreds have been found
out of employment without the least pers-
onnel, in these times of progressing employment
of which will give them bread. So the victors
in the struggle the spoil and as B. dispossessed it, so
we must turn out B.

I am informed that there have
been at least 20,000 applicants for
office since the 4th of March and that
therefore the pressure on the Administration
would have been irresistible had not
the war somewhat relieved it by opening
up the channels.

Your statement in regard to the refusal
to pay your travelling expenses when on duty with
the Commission surprises me. I shall make

and give you further information.
The amount is a small matter to the
government but of some little importance
to you, particularly in these times when
a few shillings are not to be despised.
We have had a visit from Professor
Asaford who is about to introduce his bread
powder into the army. We have also had a
call as it were from Professor Moffitt
of Princeton who gave us all the news from
the college and ~~seminary~~ ^{Dr. Hodge}
and his wife were on a visit to this
city during the battle. Mrs. Hodge was
exceedingly anxious as to the result. Her
brother Gen. Hunter and her son Sara Stockton
were together in the thickest of the fight. The
former was wounded severely but not danger-
ously the latter escaped unhurt.
Friday I have not been able to get off
but hope to do this afternoon. I called at the
navy and department but did not see Sherman
who had gone to New York. Truly as ever your
friend
Dr. John Torrey