

Recd July 5

and Dr

Lockport July 1st 1858



Prof. J. Torrey
Dear Sir

My apology for writing to you is this. I attended lectures at your Coll. of Phys. & Surg. last winter & I am trying to study Botany some this summer & I have found a plant that I cannot satisfactorily analyze & I make bold to send what of it to you & will can in a letter & describe it as well as I can & ask you what it is. I also wish to ask, is it an endogenous or exogenous plant?

I find the plant most abundant & most luxuriant near the bottom of ravines, on the south sides in such situations as to be shaded most of the time - not in the water, but near it or near where it has been running.

The first that attracts attention is its large dark green maple^{shaped} leaves covering the ground & standing on petioles from ten to eighteen inches in length between the leaves, or on raising them we perceive a bunch of white flowers on a peduncle slightly shorter than the petiole & standing between two of the latter

Sometimes the flower stalk is branched
& again sometimes the leaf stalk is branched
giving off a flower stalk. * the whole standing
upon a root rough in its appearance & purplish,
the roughness seems to be caused by the knots
or spots left after the falling off of leaves of former
growth. The leaves are net veined - or at
least the veinlets diverge from the midvein
& partially net into each other. & the leaves are
large broad somewhat cordate, acuminate,
or coarsely dentate, & somewhat deeply six parted
making it "maple leaved" in its widest ~~me~~
& longest measurements from 5 to 8 inches
both ways. Flowers in cymes something like
the elder.

Polypetalous: calyx 5 toothed, linear,
corolla 5 parted. Salver form a slight obtuse notch
in the end of each part - white.

Stamens 5 inserted upon the corolla with a
bunch of soft hairs growing from about the center
of the filament & so long & abundant as nearly to
fill up the tube of the corolla. Stamens exsert,
anthers yellow. true stamens opposite the ~~div~~
divisions of the corolla & a kind of open tube or
false stamen upon the inner side & ^{along the} center of each
division of the corolla. stigma are slightly two parted

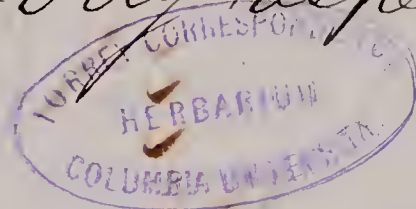
In fine it is just about according to the
description of "Solanium Nigrum" of Woods ^{over}

* A leaf is occasionally given of making it alternate leaved

School botany with these exceptions, that the leaves are entirely different & the plant grows in ravines instead of old fields.

Undoubtedly Doctor. This description is unnecessary as you will probably know the plant as soon as you see any part of it yet as it has troubled others as well as myself I thought best to give it a description - bad work as I have made of it, & if at a convenient opportunity you will give me a reply you will ve-
much oblige your pupil & most humble servant. My address is, Lockport - Niagara Co. New York

Very Respectfully



Nelson L. North

P.S. The reason I do not send dries leaves is that they lose their color & appearance & perhaps now you may get them before they change so much.

N. L. N.

Prof. J. J. Torrey

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