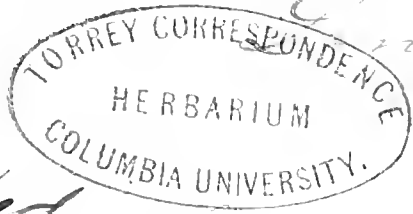


Commissary General's Office  
Camp Island - N. Y.

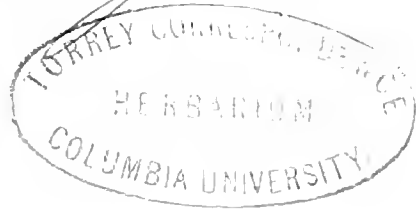


Oct 14. 1843

Respected  
Sir!

The kindness you have  
shown towards me, makes me full confident  
that you will pardon the liberty I take in  
addressing you. I have a great desire to  
know the names of the two plants, specimens  
of which I enclose in this note. You will  
confer on me a very great favor by sending  
me a line with the information I desire.  
Please also tell me if the smaller one be  
rare. Dr Purdy, upon whose land it grows  
is something of a botanist but does not know it  
he has also shown it to Dr Mead who is  
likewise unacquainted with this plant.

Your very obt. Servant.



O. B. Willis

To  
Dr Torrey





Paid 0

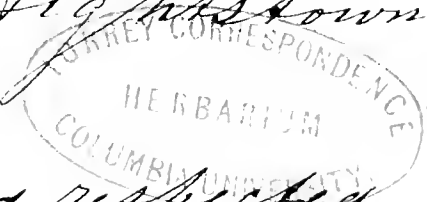
Dr. Ferry  
College of Pharmacy  
Pineboro  
N. Jersey

Sept 20

Paid



Hightstown Jan 28. 1844



Dear and respected  
sir:

I have been some time searching for a history of Botany, but have not found anything that is at all satisfactory. I shall be much obliged to you if you will direct me to a source where I may be able to find the desired information.

I got a letter from Dr. Kniskern last Fall desiring me to procure for him some specimens of Lygodium palmatum which I found in great abundance - I obtained a copy of Becke's Botany thro' the means of Prof. Henry, as you directed me.

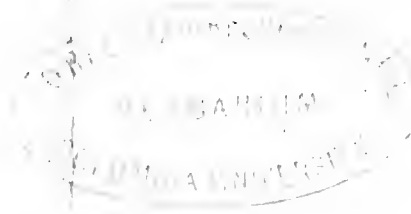
Dr. E. McChesney a practicing Physician here desires me to request you to obtain for him a small quantity of the same kind of medicine which you procured for Jeremiah Taylor (or Labor). He does not recollect the name of it - please send it by the bearer who will settle with you for it - please send directions how to administer it -

I shall be very much obliged to  
you for a line on the subject of the  
History of Botany - I have been reading  
Gray all <sup>the</sup> time I have had to devote to it -  
Yours with deep respect  
O. R. Willis

To Dr J. Torrey

P.S. The Doctor's brother (Dr C. E. Mc Chesney  
of Benson) thinks the name of the above  
medicine is Wood Naptha

O. R. Willis



Hightstown Feby 23 /44

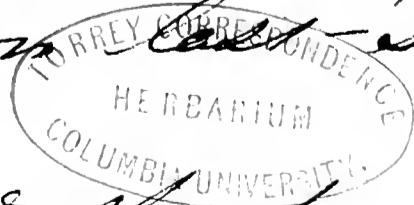
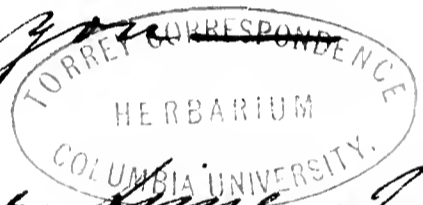
Respected  
Sir!

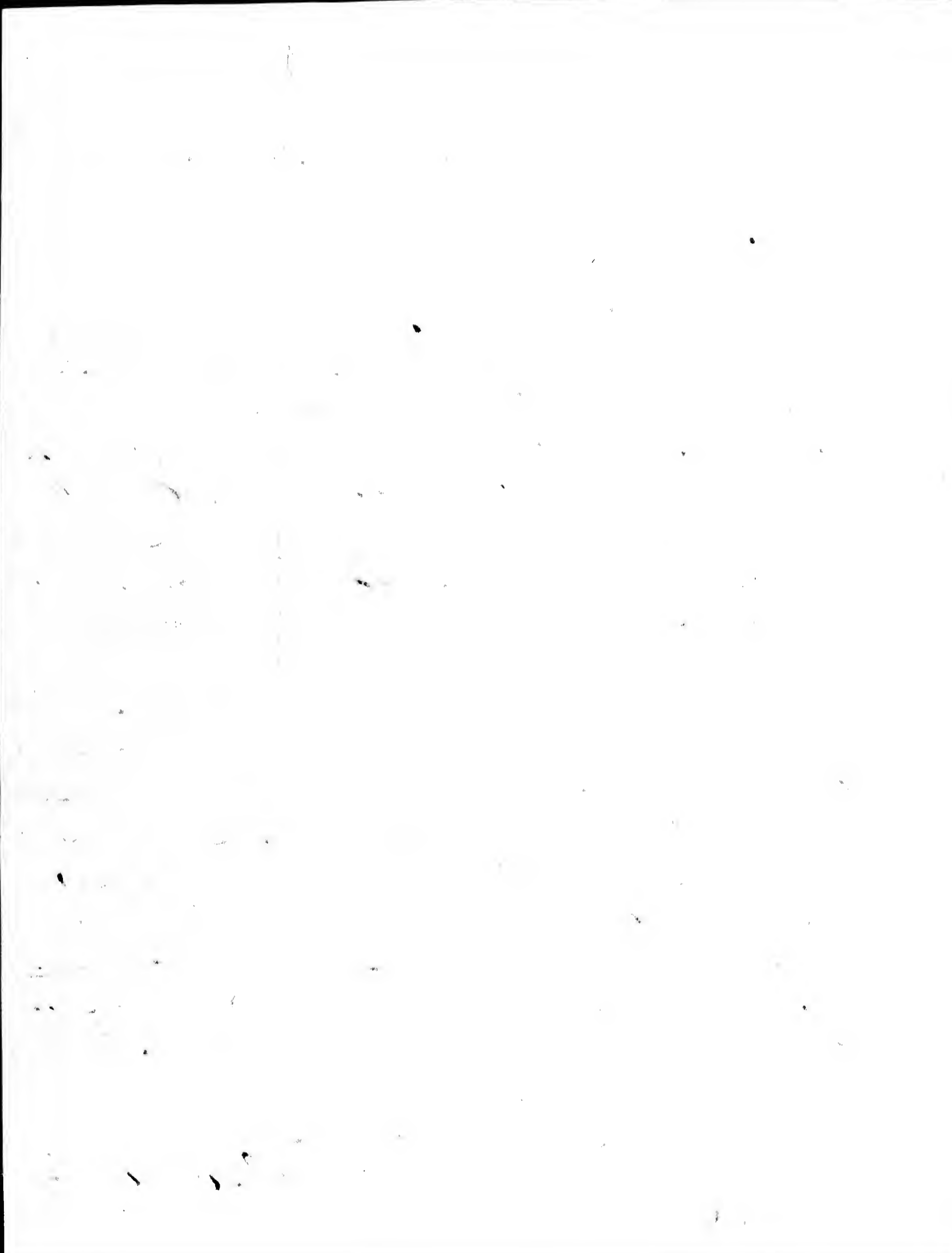
I am requested  
by the Physicians of Hightstown  
to introduce to you the bearer  
Mr Israel Pearce - a justice of  
the peace, now acting as Coroner  
He has with him a Human Stomach  
which you are desired to examine the  
reasons & he will give you

When you have time I hope  
you will be kind enough to send  
me a few lines by mail, in answer  
to my last - I received some spec-  
imens of (Empetrum conradii)  
from Dr Kriesherm last week - in  
return I sent him some specimen  
of (Lygodium palmatum) which I fou-  
nd by your direction last Fall

Yours with respect  
O. B. Willig

To Dr J. Torrey









Dr John Torrey  
College of Physicians  
New York

TORREY CORRESPONDENCE  
HERBARIUM  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

July 1 - 1844

My Dear Sir!

I send you  
some of the labors of the sea-  
son. You will confer on me a  
great kindness by looking over  
those specimens and correcting  
the names that are wrong, and  
giving me the names of those that  
are not labeled. I manage to  
collect some every week but am  
so much engaged with my school  
that I cannot spend as much  
time as I did last summer.

I find many plants here  
that grow about Princeton.  
I find that it will be  
impossible for me to accompa-  
ny you on the Island this  
summer - nothing would give  
me more pleasure but it is out  
of my power. I hope that I shall  
some time or other have the honor  
of a tour in the company of  
Dr. Torrey - I will be as active  
as I can here -

I wish to see you very much  
I have a great many things to  
ask concerning Botany

Do you expect to be home  
during the vacation?

please. Let me know I expect  
to be in Princeton soon when  
I hope to see you and get  
the specimens that I now send  
you

Yours with much respect

O. B. Willis

To Dr Torrey



10

Dr Barry

Princeton July 7. 1844

Dear and respected

HERBARIUM  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

jr.

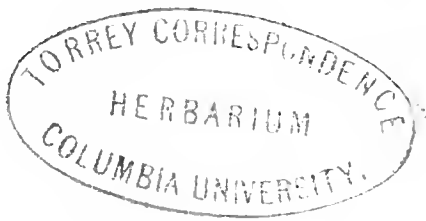
Mr Powell tells me that you expect to start for the Island on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. I hoped to be able to see you before you left but have been prevented by an attack of neuralgia which has confined me to the house for the past week. Had it not been for that I should have been in Princeton last Saturday. I hope you will let me know by a few lines when you expect to be home. I have been reading Gray and an article in the "Library of Useful Knowledge" but I do not get enough from them I wish to obtain a better knowledge of the structure of plants than I can get from these. Perhaps I do not study as I ought. If you can direct me to a better source or to a better method of study I shall take it as a great favor. Please write me a few questions that I ought to be able to answer by reading Gray that I may know if

I have studied correctly. Please  
tell me also if your "New York  
Flora" is yet published - The aster  
and Solidagoes are coming out, is  
it not very early for them? I do not  
find so many new plants here as  
I expected to - I shall visit the  
pines soon. Please answer this  
before you leave for the Island.  
I wish to know about your Flora  
&c. I am so far recovered as to be  
in the field again, I was out yester-  
day and shall be again to day

Yours with respect

O. R. Willis

To Dr Torrey





4

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2  
2

16

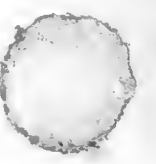
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6 Paid

Dr. J. Corry  
Princeton  
N. J.

Single



Hightstown July 17/44

Dear Sir:

I have thot much about the Microscope since I saw you and feel now that it is very necessary that I should have one - and have made up my mind to take the one you offered me, as I am not acquainted with the instrument - I depend entirely on your recommendation

I shall not be able to visit Princeton before you leave it - therefore you will please drop me a line in the office after you return, and I will visit you and get the glass - We have had a tremendous rain here.

With deep respect I remain Yours

O. B. Willis

To Dr S. Torrey



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

P.S. I found a plant in the high way near the Presbyterian Church  
at Allen town which has a grass like leaf and a compound  
white flower. I have secured a good supply of specimens  
and there is some to spare.

Highstown Aug 19, 1844

Dr. G. much respected sir!



Yours of the 19<sup>th</sup> instant  
came to me today at noon. The microscope  
reached me on Thursday last being the day  
after the date of the note that came with  
it. I should have written and sent you  
the price of the instrument immediately  
but I had purposed to visit Princeton  
on Saturday next; but I received a letter  
today at the same time that I got yours  
which calls me elsewhere on that day. I therefore  
make haste to answer your letter of 19<sup>th</sup>  
and at the same time remit you the  
\$10 for the microscope which you will  
find enclosed. I also send you a plant  
that I have not yet been able to find  
any name for. Please send me the  
name of the map that grows so abundantly

here in the swamps— At the time when  
I received the microscope I was engaged in  
preparing my large school for examination  
and have been since then constantly employed  
in making bills, filling up reports &c for  
the scholars; I have therefore had no  
time to use the glass and have not  
been in the field before to day since  
last Saturday a week, my hurry is now  
over and I intend to make up lost time  
We have had no rain here for a long  
time and the plants are dying, the lower  
leaves are so much destroyed that no  
good specimen can be procured unless  
it be those that grow in the wet swamps.

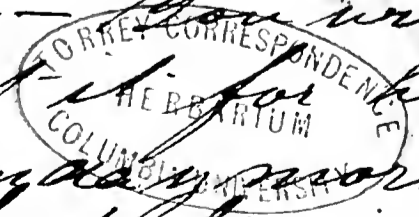
Concerning the person you inquire  
for he is a justice of the peace and  
is a methodist preacher at the time  
you spoke to me of the matter before,



P.S. I was Mr. ... and ...

P.S. I was borrowing on loan a few weeks since and found a plant which I took to be a species of *Noto* but differing from any that I have seen. I will send a specimen to you when it is <sup>con-</sup> <sup>venient</sup>

sought an opportunity to speak to him of the matter, intending to make some indirect inquiries as you did not wish me to let him know that you had said any thing to me concerning the affair - but I was unable to introduce the subject in that way - I however ascertained by other means that he had called on the County Clerk and on account of some want of formality he (the clerk) refused to sign the bill that he (Esq Pearce) presented until such defects were rectified - I have not heard whether he has been again or not - Mr Pearce is now in the City he will be home on Saturday night and if you think best I will inquire of him - You will please answer this as soon as you get it for he will be here for N. York again on Monday morning as he has business that will keep him in the city for several weeks - his name is Israel Pearce Yours sincerely with respect O. B. Willis





Double



12

Dr Parry  
Princeton  
New Jersey



1852  
Sept 16. 44  
Dear & Respected Sir:



Your of the 11<sup>th</sup> came to hand in due season. I expected to visit Princeton ere this but, have been prevented by business engagements. I was up the Hudson a few miles from N. York on the east side. Having transacted my business I had some time on my hands; being obliged to wait for a returning steamer to take me to the city. I embraced this opportunity to stroll in the woods but I saw nothing new. The Aspers & Solidagos were suffering for the want of rain. I was out the day a little while but it is so dry here that all the lower leaves of the plants are dead. It is almost impossible to get a fair specimen of any plant. I send you a few specimens which I am not certain about - please give me their names. I hope to visit Princeton before you leave it.

I saw Esq. Pearce on board the Steamboat on Saturday returning from New York; and while talking

with him he asked me if I had  
heard from you; since I spoke to  
him concerning the service you performed  
for him - I had a desire to know  
what his views were concerning his  
personal obligations to you I discov-  
ered indirectly that he feels bound  
to pay you whether he gets it from  
the town or not - He hopes however  
to obtain it when the board of  
freeholders meet - You may keep  
the plants until I call for them  
if you please - I found  
Rhynchospora cymosa the next day  
after I wrote to you in the very  
place that you have since  
pointed out; and I have also found  
it in the same swamp where the  
Lygodium grows - I wish to send  
you some Asters & Solidagoes that  
I have collected here but they  
are not in order to send now, I will  
try to send them before you leave  
Princeton - I hope I shall enjoy  
the pleasure of witnessing the powers  
of your new microscope - When  
I sent my order to New York for the  
French books W. & Putnam had one  
of them on hand which my bookseller

[over copy reference]

sent to me - I find many words that  
are new, many of which I am obliged  
to guess at, as I have no vocabulary  
of scientific terms in French - But  
I manage by the context to come  
pretty near the meaning - The title  
of the book is "Recherches Generales sur  
L'organographie, La Physiologie et  
L'organogenie Des Vegetaux Par  
Charles Gaudichaud"

Yours with much respect

To Dr J. Torrey



Dr A. Torrey  
Princeton  
Torrey



Hightstown Mar. 25/45

Dr. J.:

Yours came to me in due season, and I now tender my thanks for your kindness - I have not had time yet to try any experiments on the Leuk yet.

A friend of mine bro't me a few specimens of a small plant, a specimen of which I enclose, It was in the same state when I rec'd it - that it now is, and I was unable to decide it. - Some time last summer I sent you a few specimens to determine, which I have never received again - I requested you at the time to keep them until I called for them, and when I did call, you was absent and I did not get them. I spoke of them when I saw you in the city but you did not then recollect - any thing about the matter, and I supposed they had been mislaid - hoping when you returned you would crop them

Leuk

There was one among them that I got near Freehold in Monmouth Co and as I have not met with any other specimen of the same plant I feel anxious to know the name of it. I expect to be in Princeton about the middle of May or a little sooner perhaps. There are a few plants that will be in flower then, which I should like to obtain. I accidentally formed an acquaintance with a young man who has been receiving his education in Chester Co Penn he has many of the plants of that Co and presented me with quite a number that were new to me. He knows but little of plants except their names notwithstanding he has collected a great no he has studied the artificial system only and thro Darlington has given the Co a book - his (oracle is Eaton) I advised him to read Gray, he promised to do so. You spoke in your last of Fremont and his plants, I do not recollect that you mentioned



him when I saw you, and I was obli-  
ged to inquire who he is &c Mr Field  
told me that he tho't he was in  
the employ of the Navy - but could  
tell me but little about the  
matter. Please give me a history  
of the matter - One of our Congrega-  
tional men has promised to procure  
me a number of his report -

I begin to look for flowers  
but have found only two or  
three, I was busy about getting  
married last Spring and last  
all the latter part of April  
and the first of May during  
that time this season I intend  
to scour the field effectually  
I hope to have an opportu-  
nity to explore Long Island  
next summer -

Yours with much  
respect

O. R. Willis

Dr A. Correy

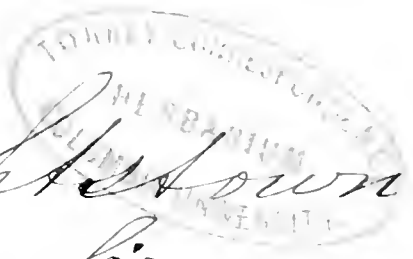
Paid



6

Dr. C. Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey





Highstown May 13. 1885

Most Respected Sir:

When I was at Princeton I remarked to you that I wished to procure a few articles to show some experiments, and you told me you had a friend in the city, who would furnish me with what I need at reasonable rates. But you did not tell me his name nor his "whereabouts" - You also told me you would <sup>leave</sup> a book in some place that I might get it when I went to the city, I could get it at Wilu & Putnam's, I and shall be in the city week after next. Is there a recipe for preparing lime to make it stay on brick walls when exposed to the weather?

Yours with respect

C. R. Willis

P.S. I have found several plants this spring that I did not find here last season. One I think is Pterocarpus I have one that I have not determined. It grows in wet places and is so large that I can not send a specimen in a letter, but will get one to you in some other way soon. C.R.W.





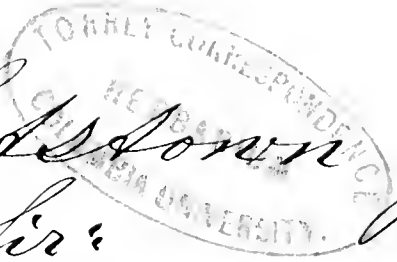
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6

Dr. D. Corey  
Princeton  
New Jersey



Highstown July 7. 1841



Most respected Sir: I expected to have sent you some plants ere this but have been prevented by a want of a suitable opportunity, I have been in Princeton twice within a short time and should have called on you; but the first time I visited it for the purpose of accompanying a gentleman in our vicinity who was very desirous of seeing Mr. Fields grounds and fruit trees, My time was therefore at his disposal I was also at P. on Commencement day and as I was aware you would be engaged on that day, I did not call. My vacation will begin on the 20 of next month and after the 25 I shall be ready to take a botanizing excursion in the Pines of Long Island - if you will be able to go about that time you will please let me know immediately - The L. J. R. Road runs thro' the whole pine region longitudinally which will afford great facilities in getting from one

locality to another - I was in the  
upper part of Burlington Co last  
week I found several plants  
that were new to me and I have  
not had time to examine them  
yet - My school is very large and  
employs so much of my time  
that I can scarcely get an opportunity  
to do any thing at plants - I have  
however secured quite a number that  
I had not - I have the second  
edition of the "Text Book" and have  
read some of it -

Yours with much respect

O. R. Willis

To D. J. Torrey



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2

Dr.

Dr. J. Torrey  
Princeston  
N. Jersey





TOHRETT & CO  
NEW YORK

Hightstown. April 3. 1848

Most Respected Sir

Cords of 30 wt, came in  
 all time - I am much obliged for  
 your advice about the rod - I had  
 my wife made up that the  
patent affair was a catch penny  
 Will you be kind enough to  
 speak to Prof. Henry about the  
 size of the rod and the contract  
 includes the rod and I wish to  
 have it put up as it should  
 be as our tower will be a fine  
mark for Electricity

I think that a  
 "daguerotype" would be as likely  
 to succeed in Freehold as  
 in any village I know of if he  
 will do it - reasonably I will  
 get him to take a picture of our  
 building - And upon your recom-  
 mendation will speak a good word  
 for him - Do it Prock? - I shall go  
 to Freehold on Thursday if nothing happens  
 my child is very sick and if it does not  
 get better I shall be obliged to leave it  
 and its mother behind when I move

did you say anything to  
Holton about reaching for me?  
Where can I find him? and what  
is she at now?

Yours with much respect  
O. R. Willis

To Dr Torrey

7

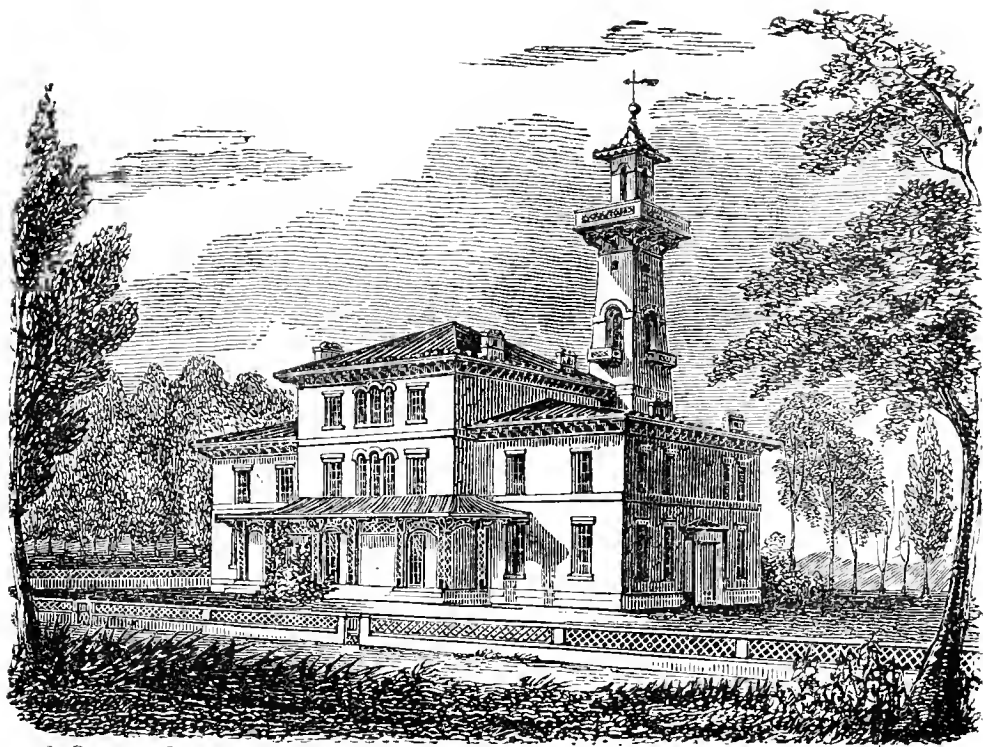
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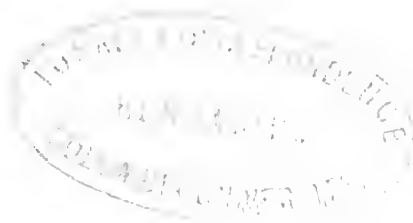
PAID



Dr J. Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey



E. PARKER CUMMINGS, ARCHITECT.



Freehold Institute July 17/48

Respected Sir:

I had expected to hear from Mr Prosch before this has he abandoned the idea of coming to Freehold? we shall be disappointed if he does not come - I think he could do a brisk trade here for a week or two.

As I have some young men who do not expect to go to college and who wish to look into Geology a little I am anxious to procure some drawings to illustrate the subject -

I should be glad to borrow some to copy  
as we have a good drawing teacher here  
can you put me in the way of obtaining  
something of the kind? I should like  
also to get some drawings to illustrate  
Botany — I have a mind to propose  
to Mr Holton that he should deliver a course  
of lectures on Chemistry next winter to  
my school — I am fitting up my Gymnas-  
ium — I hope Sir, that you will call  
on me this summer if you go to the  
shore — I have a class of 7 in Botany who  
are active and are collecting quite indus-  
triously so we shall soon know what plants  
this region furnishes. & if there be any thing  
new we shall be likely to pick it up  
and will give you due notice of any discov-  
ery

Yours with much respect —

O. B. Willis

To Dr Torrey

Freehold Institute April 30-1830

Respected friend  
Mr. Trueshem has been seeking me  
for several years to assist him in preparing  
for the prep a list of the plants of Mon-  
mouth. I have been so entirely occu-  
pied with the affairs of the school that  
I could not touch it. I am better  
off for teachers this summer than I have  
been and have got settled down into system.  
I shall therefore be able to give some atten-  
tion to Bosany. I have an active class  
that will scour up the vicinity I think  
pretty well. I should like to add to the  
catalogue of Monmouth, the plants  
of Mercer. We have no plan measured;  
can you suggest? Have you some catalogues  
to lend me from which I can take some  
hints? Have you any material for the  
list of Mercer? - If you have any plan  
to suggest or any catalogues to lend me  
please let me know immediately.

I am with great respect -

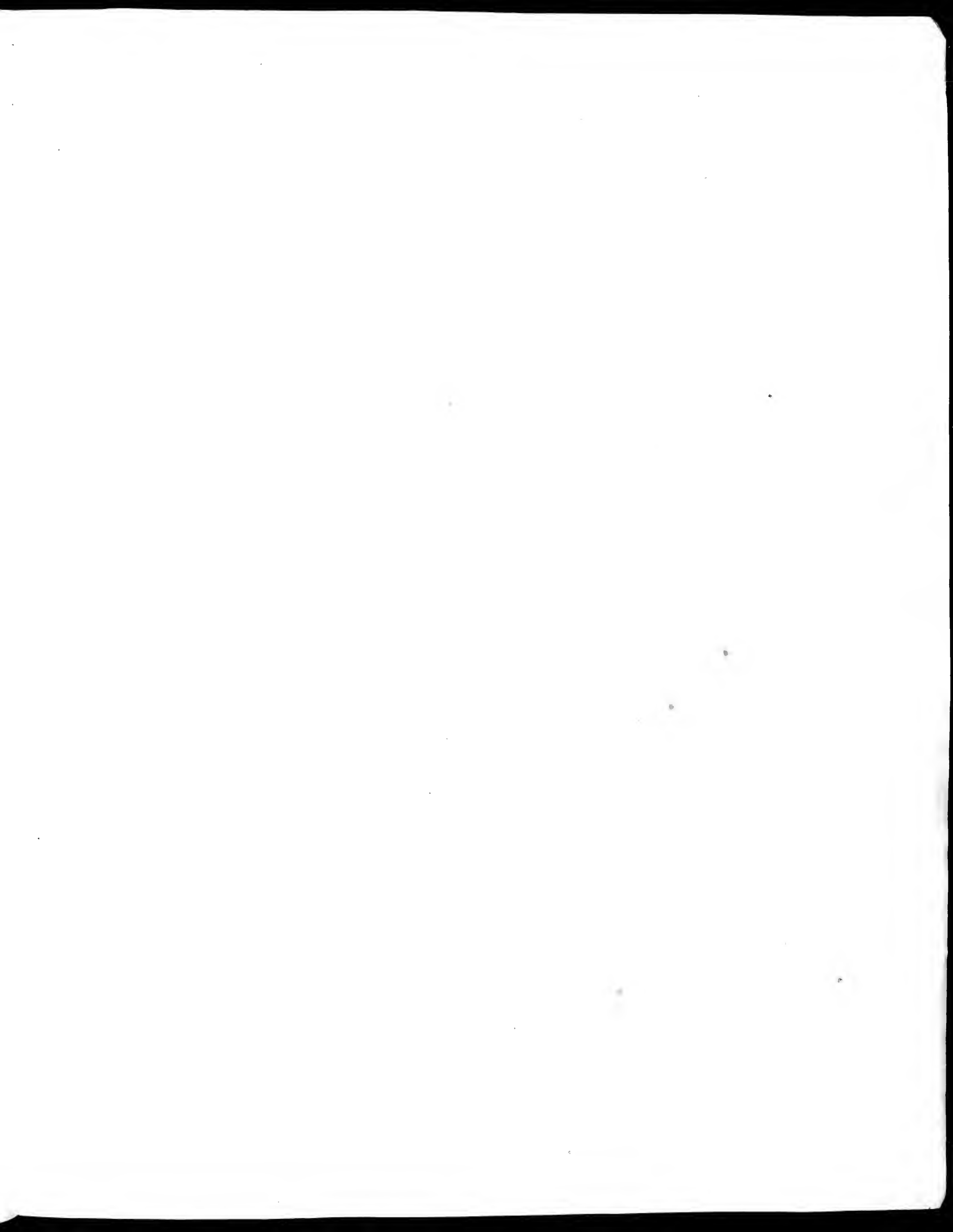
Your humble servant

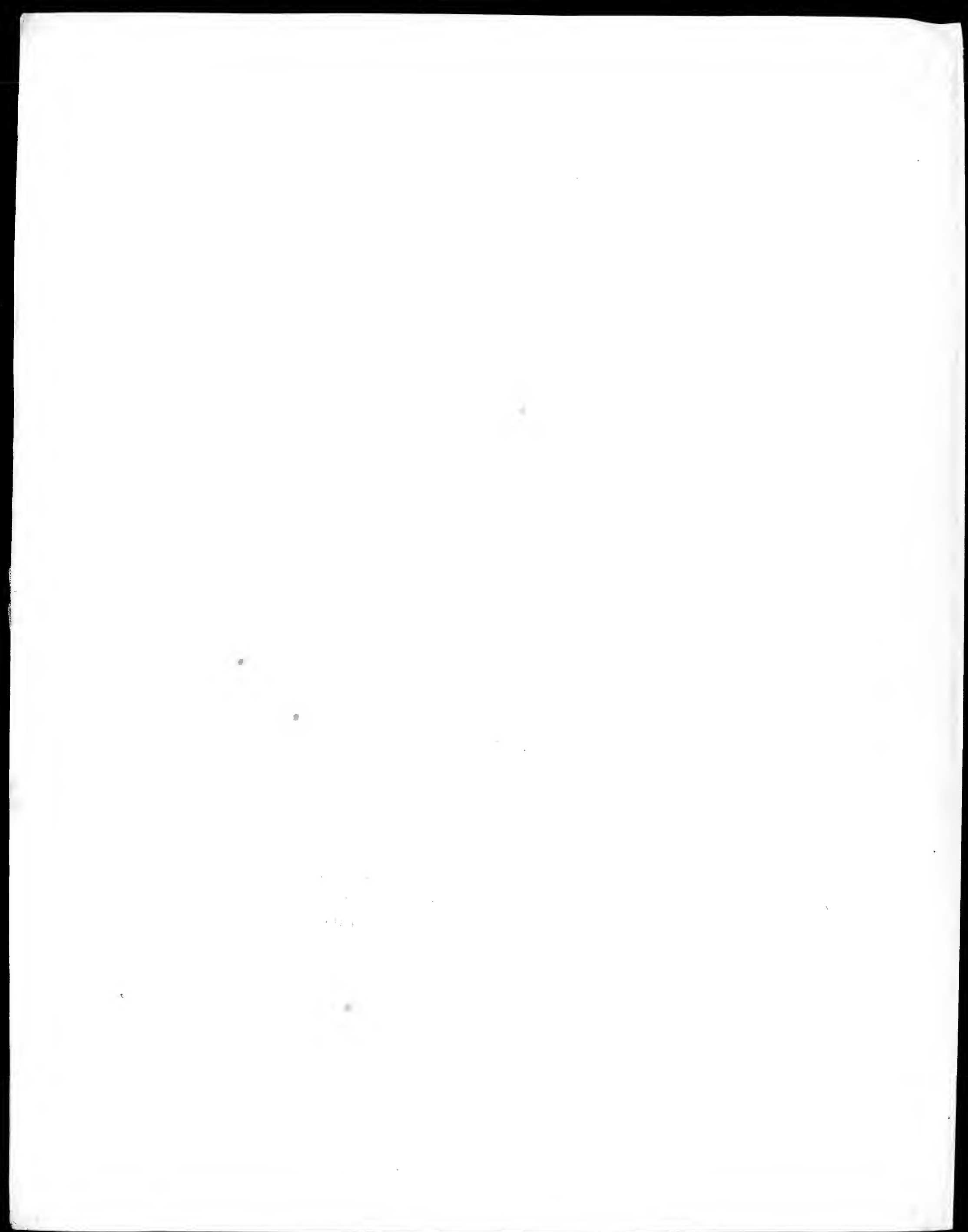
O. R. Willis.

To Mr. J. Torrey









Freehold Institute

May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1880

Dear and Respected Sir:

My copy of Gray is so marked already that I thought it best to send you a new copy and have done so directing it to be left at the post-office. The driver is a drunken fellow tho. and may leave it at the Stage house. I saw your daughter at Washington a few weeks since, I would have spoken to her but I thought she might not recollect me and I did not care to be obliged to make myself known to a lady by any explanation whatever. She was in company with Mrs. Henry at the Stage house. I have a small specimen of that amber that I can spare you - would you

like a scorpion from S. America?  
When will you have time to make  
the book?—

I am with great respect

Yours truly  
O. Willis.  
C. Dr John Torrey

<sup>my</sup>  
Freehold July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1830

Dear and Respected fr:

Inclosed is a list of the plants I want; I have marked those that I have obtained already - You remarked in a letter that many on my list are so common that I can easily procure them, there are about 50 species that I did not intend to have printed, for they can be collected in sight of my house. My plan was to make a list of all I wanted to complete my herbarium of Mercer & Monmouth, which I did in manuscript and marked those that I ~~did~~ not wish to print. I then gave the list to my writing master to copy and told him to omit those that were marked and as he is generally very careful in such matters I sent it to the printer without giving it a close examination, But when the proof came I saw the blunder, I called on the printer to get him to take them out, he told me it would make so much additional labor that it would double the expense so I concluded to let it go much against my will; And that to mark those that I could collect here.

My object in sending you a copy, is to get you to inclose it to your friend at Lawrenceville, please tell him that a package will reach me in your care (via) Princeton, I shall be happy to furnish him with anything of which I have duplicates a list of which I also inclose - there are a few on it that are also on my list of wants, this blunder was committed

by the same person as I used the same list -  
to mark my list of duplicates and wants by;  
but used different marks; my own fault lies  
in not having carefully examined and corrected  
them before I sent them to the printer - it  
is now too late, but I have learned a good  
lesson by it - inclosed you will find  
and so pay postage on your letter to Laurencine

I saw Mr. Bush on Saturday last -  
he informed me that you expect to take a  
sow in the pines this week, can you not take  
Freehold in your way either as you go or  
return; if you can! you will please guard  
yourself on me, and I will visit the local-  
ities in this neighborhood with you - I am  
progressing with the catalogue Friestens has  
sent me his list upon which I find several  
that I had not down, I notice that quite  
a number are not marked in my book that  
I have seen growing here, did you know that  
Trillium cernuum grew in this co? Some spec-  
imens were shown me, by Miss Rankin one  
of the teachers in the Young Ladies Seminary  
here - they were procured within a mile of the  
village, I have not seen it growing - I shall  
be absent from home tomorrow and a part of  
next day but shall be home after that; and  
shall be at your service

I am with respect

Yours O. Willis.

To Dr. J. Loring

LIBRARY  
NEW YORK  
BOTANICAL  
GARDEN.

Freehold Indisuse Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Mr Leroy,

Dr Sir;

I expected to be  
in the city this week, but shall  
not be able to accomplish it. I  
shall be very glad to get the paper  
you so kindly offered me, and also  
those volumes of the History of N.Y.  
that contain the Botany, Geology,  
and Agriculture, if you will  
put them up in a package and  
have them left at Shepard's in  
Broadway (Spalding & Shepard) my  
brother in law will call for them  
on Saturday next and bring  
them to me, and I will return  
them when you say. I shall,

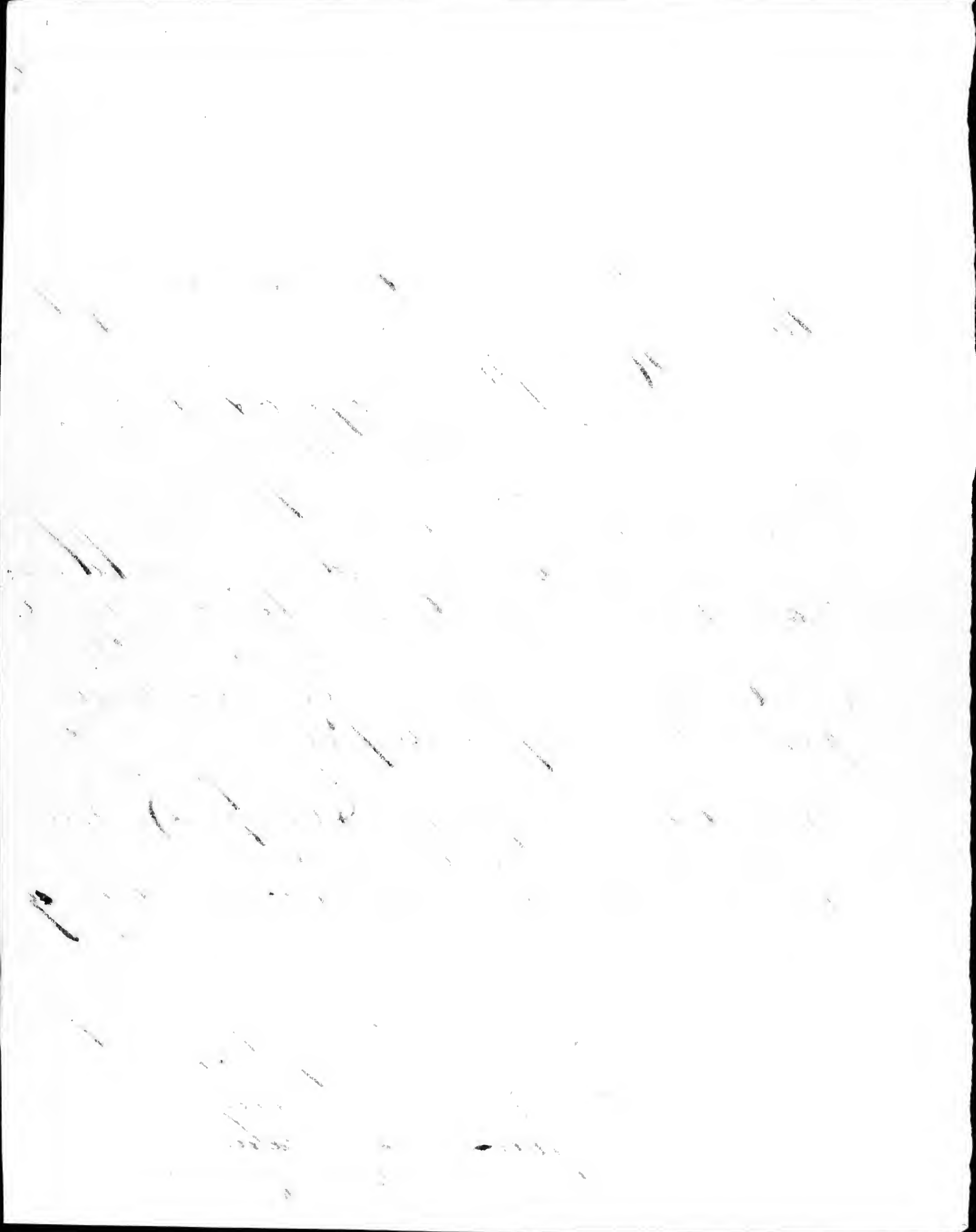
I am looking up the plants  
of the neighborhood pretty thoroughly  
and will give you any thing I may  
find that you may want.

I am your truly  
O. K. Willis

from the J. J. Crooke Collection

Given by A. M. VAIL.

MAR 4 - 1907

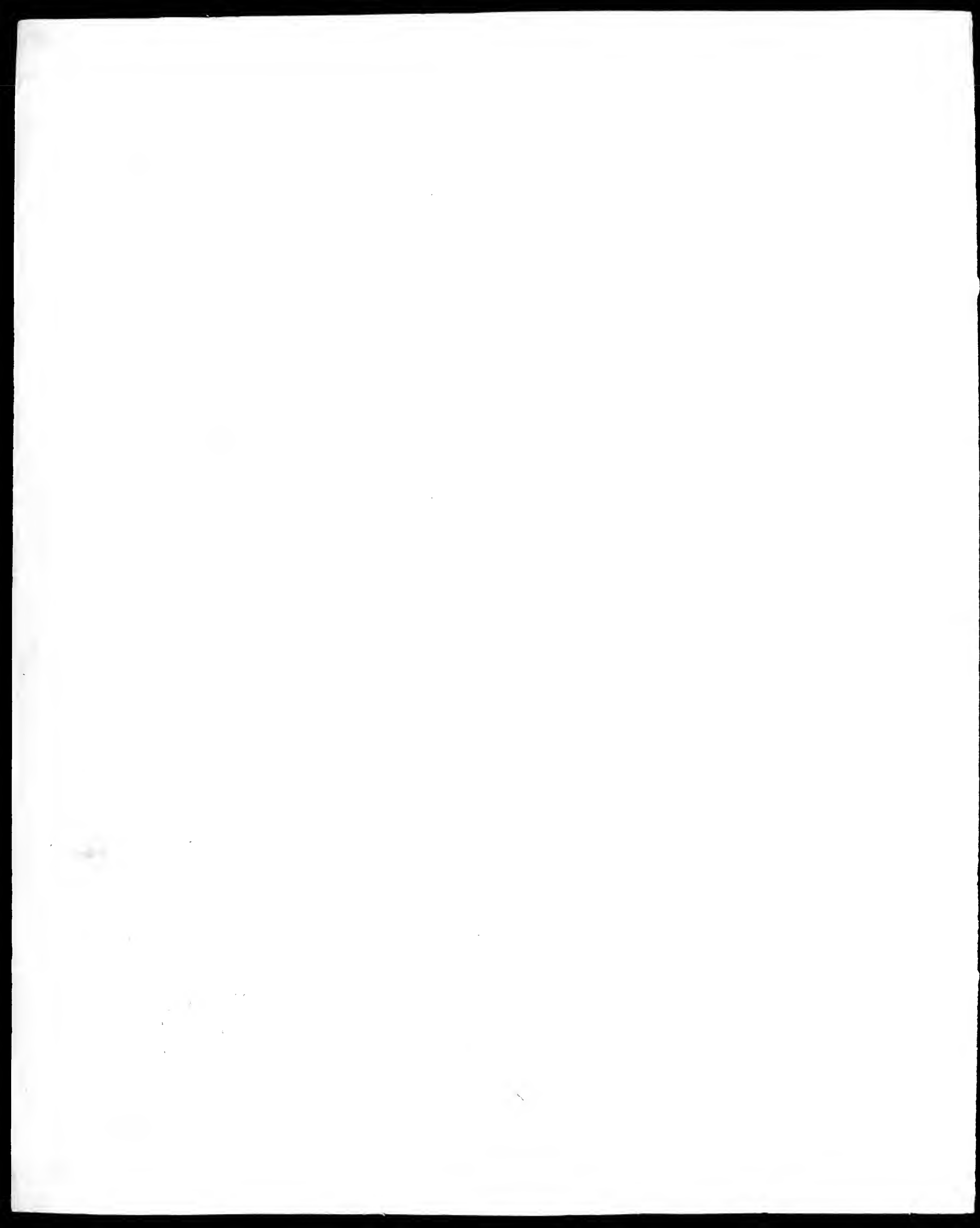




Trincomalee Sept 14-1880

Dear Sir: I called at your residence yesterday but did not find you, I have a small package for you in which are some specimens of *Gemm Strictum*, in flower, when I collected them I found none in fruit; and the next time I visited the locality it had been mown, - there are two plants in the package that I am not certain about, - the one marked No. 1 I found near Key Port - the one marked No. 2 near Amboy but - it grows also near Freshold. Please tell me what they are and oblige me very much, - I saw Mr Lanning yesterday and left my flora with him to mark any plant he may know to grow in Merce, which is not marked; he says he will give me a list of the Mosaic of Merce, do you think well of it? (i.e.) to publish!

In great haste  
I am with respect  
O. Purdie



Freehold New Jersey June 22-1832

Dr. Torrey

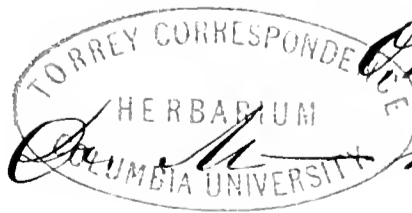
Grand Respected Sir,

Inclosed you will find some fragments of a plant which I take to be Vaccinium pallidum? I have not seen it in flower and can find no description which satisfies me exactly, I saw some plants at least 12 feet high and one not less than 3 inches in diameter, I am not at all satisfied about it, will you enlighten me on the subject? if the fragments which are inclosed are not large enough to decide upon, I can get a good specimen for you.

I had a present of a collection of plants from the Alps not long since from the highest valley on mont Blanc!

I am very respectfully and truly  
Yours,

P. S. Remember me to



O. R. Willis.

O. R. W.

200.

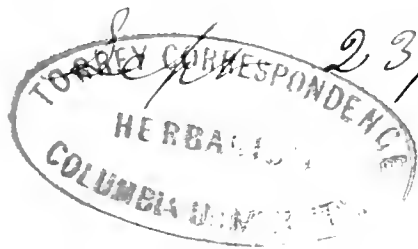
— 8. 16.

9. 1800.

□	<u>209</u>
	1881
	1800
	<u>3681</u>
	<u>2500</u>
	1181
	<u>2362</u>

— 11

White Plains



Dr Torrey  
Dr Pi:

Enclosed please  
find fragments of a species  
of Ranunculus, about which  
I am not satisfied, it  
corresponds in all respects with  
(or rather) in most respects with  
your Pennsylvanicus, but the  
flowers you see are too  
large!

I am quite busy  
in collecting, tho I am not  
able to work up the locality  
for want of time, I have with  
my own hands collected and  
preserved several hundred  
species, this is a prolific  
region - Prof Chauborne -

of William's College has  
a large collection of plants  
many from Europe, he  
has invited me to  
spend a few weeks with  
him during my next  
vacation and aid him  
in arranging his collection  
and Botany in his her-  
barium! I hope you  
will keep me in mind  
when plants come into  
your hands, I have intended  
to visit you but  
have been very busy since  
I came here in organiza-  
ging my school, we are very  
successful here making  
more than a living at  
the start - Have you  
moved into your new  
house? - Do you know  
any young Botanists

with whom you can put  
me in correspondence?

Dr Gray has promised  
to help me to some plants  
and some other friends  
also have made kind prom-  
ises.



I can respectfully  
and very truly yours  
D.R. Willis

P.S. Have you ever in your  
practice had a case of an  
adult afflicted with Ascari-  
des? I have been for about  
3 years afflicted in that way,  
my Physicians have been un-  
able to relieve me except  
temporarily.

Yours D.R. Willis

The plant is poisoned.



Shirley  
Sept 23/62