

Fort Thorn  
August 12<sup>th</sup> 54



Professor

Your favor of June date, received and for it I beg leave to express myself much obliged.

The present position from which I hail is by no means as good as one for herborizing as Dr. Webster, from the vicinity of which all the plants forwarded have been procured. - Still I think of the very few yet observed here I have perhaps several species of interest. - The finest and perhaps rarest plants found about the Sierra del Cobre infloresce in August - a few upon dry soil are to be procured principally in April and May. - The August plants are mostly found in the Mountain Canons by the side of hills - and when in full flower are frequented by such immense numbers of the humming bird - (T. Anna) that their perpetual buzzing resembles the noise made by a swarm of bees - - These are the only localities where this tiny bird is to be found in this territory - But to plants - There is no plant in my collection of whose time of inflorescence color of petals or sepals - and habitat - is not remembered by me at sight - for that reason I did not append those important particulars. I have passed some of my time among the bears and foxes that every plant tho' unfamiliar by name is yet so by sight - I had expected to carry in my own plants - till Capt. Pope applied to me -

My limited Knowledge of Botany Comprehends only the principal  
Common plants of New York State - and the rarer plants  
I profess myself but little acquainted with Scientifically. -

- Many of my specimens are poorly prepared - for the  
reason that in my long hunts I was not prepared al-  
ways with a very extensive arrangement for preserving them  
properly. I used mostly a book - till I could transfer to  
sheets of newspaper. But among most of the quadruplicates  
you may be able to single out one or two good specimens. -

- Where one attends to as many things as I have done - Some  
will be executed unequally well with as others - Between  
Collecting and writing in regard to Birds - fishes - and plants  
beside packing when collecting, a heavy rifle and Convinience  
for preparing birds - plants would sometimes suffer - altho'  
I took pains to obtain every one at all apparently unknown -

I found that many Common plants were to found here - such  
as the ~~Thypha~~ Eriocha, Potamogetons, varieties of Ribes and Salix  
Menthas Malvas &c but did not collect them - merely taking  
note of their existence. I never saw the Datura Stramonium  
anywhere in America but at Fort Webster - I believe it is rare  
here - The Common Sun flower springs spontaneously everywhere  
when the ground has been cultivated never I believe - unless -  
Land shells I never met with beyond the Commonest of Helix -

- It will be a matter of the greatest pleasure to me to furnish  
you with notes for the specimens obt'd - if I am so fortunate  
as to be in New York some time hence - Even if you only have  
these notes for your own private specimens they will be of use.

- Our mails are so extremely unreliable that I hardly like to  
send you many plants in paper (and those I may send will

be within long envelopes - I send one or two upon this occasion which may or may not be new or rare. - You are probably aware that almost all my birds plants &c have to be collected as it were with finger on trigger - redskins being plenty as black berries - and rather uncivilly disposed to say the least. But it would seem highly unnatural time now to feel that I was out of the reach of constant danger when it has long been the case that a yard of red with a feather above and at any moment might on the occasion of any little sainted Garrison rally - noisily intrude upon the scene of our operations - Strange how easily we become accustomed to anything under the sun - But I was prepared for all this long ere I saw New Mexico by frequent excursions to Hamilton and Essex Counties after Moose and deer - But a trace to anything like typhoid - I wish I knew what plants here were most valuable I would paint specimens to forward - a model is often adopted to find the names of birds new to me -

I shall have an opportunity of sending you a few plants - I think for May Richardson who will soon leave here - or leave - They will be all from this vicinity only - and but few in number - Notes shall accompany them - if I send them - I send you a plant which in the way of shape of Corolla bears a slight affinity to *Sarracenia* but grows in the sandiest kind of soil - flowers in July - yellow - The dissected plant gives you a poor idea of the true shape of the flower which is like this - two of the petals lying down over the main peduncle while the others



formed a deep cup - I will see if I can find one now in blossom & if so will paint it and forward.

The specimen here I send you is a very bad one - for I send my  
wonderfully by mail. It is of a kind very difficult to press well  
as you must be aware -

I have not been able to find the plant now in blossom -  
- Having Dr Steck our Indian agent as a fellow hunter and  
a very scientific and able cradler - beside my special friend  
I trust to be able to make some long excursions ere long

Yours truly

Very Respects

Wm. H. Sargent

Washington D.C.

Washington D.C.



Prof John Torrey }  
New York }