

Washington City Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> 1847.

Respected Sir,

The time spent on your last visit here was short, and I doubt not, pretty diligently occupied; I should have liked much to have had half an hours conversation with you, but was deprived of the pleasure and advantage it would undoubtedly have afforded me; and I hope you will excuse me now, if I make a few inquiries, which I then would have made.

But in the first place, I have to inform you of the reception of a box of dried Plants by the National Institute, from Oregon; They were collected in the vicinity of Lapwai, on the Kooskooske, by the Revd Mr Spaulding, with whom I had a partial acquaintance: there are about 100 species in many duplicates, all in excellent order: the date of flowering, their localities, the native names of many of them, as well as notes on their utility purposes—whether <sup>have been added</sup> used by the natives or cattle as food or medicine; the Specimens are more complete in themselves for examination, than any that you yet have had from that Country—at least such is my belief: And I do wish, if by any possible means you

could come in possession of them soon, as they will only get ruined here any how, and you are the only individual who ought to have them, or who can do any thing with them; So that if you wish to have them for examination, and do not anticipate being in Washington soon, I would suggest to you the propriety of writing Colonel Peter Force, the present Vice President of the Institute. who is a liberal minded man, and who paid the freight on them, out of his own funds. (as said Institute is not worth one cent,) and by stating to him the advantages that would arise to the Country and the Institute, by your being put in possession of them at an early date, He might consent, and if so, I will pack, and send them on to you without delay, and I think they will please you; And pray excuse my suggestions.

Do you know of any work, where *Adiantum Chilense*, Kaulf. is said to be a native of California. I have seen it so stated somewhere, our plant from that country is distinct from the Chilean one. What is the North and Southern limits of *Adiantum pedatum*, Linn. in the U. States proper? we collected it in the Oregon. In what work can I find the Oregon

and Californian ferns, that are already ~~published~~<sup>described.</sup>

I hope my good Sir that you are progressing according to your wishes in your botanical labours. There is still a large field of that kind here to occupy. And I long to see yourself - or some one as able enter on it.

I am getting on but slowly with the ferns, at one time I am potting plants, then attending to some imposed petty affair, in the midst of all this I sometimes find time to sit down and identify or describe a few species, but I do expect with the assistance of some kind friend, to go through with the whole sooner or later.

Please to accept of my kind regards for yourself and family. And believe me my  
Sir

To remain

Yours respectfully

W. D. Brackenridge.



Laid.

5

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.



Washington City Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 1847.

Respected Sir



Yours of Aug 18<sup>th</sup> was received,  
and many thanks to you for the information  
it contained.

I have got Bot. of Berchtold's Voy. when  
Adiantum Chilense is noticed as from Concepcion,  
Chili, he found it abundant in the vicinity of  
Valparaiso, and as I said before, I have seen  
it mentioned in some work as being a native  
of California - and I believe in some of Sir  
W<sup>m</sup> Jackson Hooker's Scrap books, I would  
give almost anything to have Gaudichaud's  
Bot. of Brazil vol. 1. We have every thing  
in Works of that voyage but the Botany, do  
you know if it is to be had in Philadelphia?

I shall feel very much obliged for  
the loan of Agardh's monograph on Pteris,  
if you could send it on by Adams Express -  
it shall be taken good care of -

I regret very much that you did  
not see Captain Wilkes on his way North,  
as I doubt not he had matters of importance  
to talk over with you, regarding the botany of

the Expedition, and I do hope, that if any thing like a liberal compensation is offered, that you will take hold, and then we may expect something good yet to come out of it.

With regard to the Kooskooskie plants of which I wrote you, my advice would be, that you write Col<sup>r</sup> Totten, he has a good deal of influence with the Nat<sup>r</sup> Institute, and would at once see the propriety of your having them. My being connected with the Ex. Expedition, prevents me from urging their transmission, as there are people here narrow minded enough to believe that I wished through them to strengthen the botany of the Expedition, and in part this opinion is correct, but my motive for wishing you to have them, is based on a more liberal and broader principle, and as they are Public property and you are engaged on a Public botanical work on the plants of the same region, and further they are of no use to any body else in this country.

Doctor Pickering is now in Phila - correcting the proof of his Book on the "Races of Man?" and I think we shall have a good work of it, and it won't be like any production of

the Doctors - if it is not well understanded  
with Botany - and at the same time read well;  
Mr T. Peals work is also soon to be out,  
and judging from its size, it ought to be good.  
we are all waiting anxiously here to have a  
reading of both, for my own part I would  
rather see a book of our botany in print.

Please to accept of warmest regard, for yourself  
and family - And believe me

To remain

Young

Very respectfully

Wm J. Brackenridge,

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey. {



[Tried.]

Professor John. Drury  
Princeton

New Jersey.





Washington City Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 1847.

Respected Sir.

At this late date, I have to acknowledge having received your letter of the 14<sup>th</sup>, and at the same time Agardh's Monog. of Pteris. Many thanks to you for the loan of the book, and the valuable information contained in your letter.

I am now convinced from yourself and others that the Botany of Freycinet's voyage, is not to be had in Philadelphia. And it would be adding another, to the many favours you have already done me, if you would use your influence with Dr. Gray to get him to loan me his, for a short-time. And I will willingly pay all expense of transporting, & take good care of - and return it safe to him. I would like to have it by me the coming winter.

Sir Wm J. Hooker appears to be working slowly on his Species Filicium. No new numbers having reached me for a very long time, I hope he won't give it up.

I believe you are aware that I have adopted

Mr John Smith's system in the arrangement of our ferns -  
and such being the case, you will by turning to Hooker's  
Journ of Botany, Vol. 4<sup>th</sup> find that he has made a  
great many new Genera out of the old. do you think  
it necessary for me to give his Generic descriptions? and  
should I have occasion to add to any of them.  
be kind enough to give me the form for the same,

I have imported a copy of Presl's Tentamen Pter  
edographiae, it contains many good ideas, and just  
about as many hair splitting generic distinctions - but  
with all it is an invaluable book,

I like Dr Grays text-book on Northern Boty  
very much, it is just the very thing wanted.

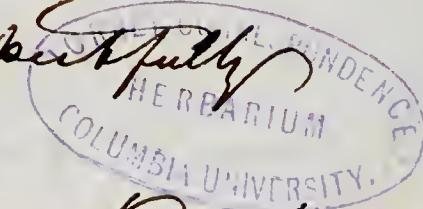
What progress are you making with the  
Oregon plants? I have heard nothing more about the  
Koostwoaster Collection - do keep the Ball a rolling.

Captain Wilkes is expected home sometime next  
week, I hope you have - or will see him before his  
return.

With best wishes for yourself and family -  
and expecting to hear from you soon - I remain

Yours very respectfully

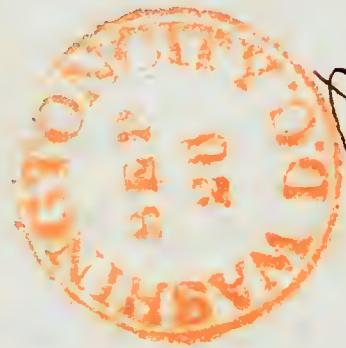
W. D. Brackenridge.





St. Jersey.

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton



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MAY 11



Washington City Oct 22<sup>d</sup> 1847.



Respected Sir

Yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. Came duly to hand, and had we not been busy tending our Greenhouse Plants, I would have replied sooner,

I am very grateful indeed for the exertions you are making to secure me a copy of the Botany of Grey's voyage, and I hope you will succeed, the Copy belonging to the Exped<sup>n</sup> went down I think in the Peacock. I am also much pleased to learn that Captain Wilkes has broached the subject of your "taking all the plants of the Exped<sup>n</sup> and work them up" this I view as the most judicious move he has yet made towards bringing the botany of the Exped<sup>n</sup> before the public. And even, when I take in my mind a survey of the large amount of material that would come before you, I then can not see, wherein the difficulty of your undertaking the work exists, particularly if assisted by such a distinguished botanist as Dr. Gray, and at the same time, the necessary works for reference be supplied you; And with regard as to whether I would "as having with Dr. Pickering collected the most of the plants" be willing or having any objections to distinguished European Botanists receiving certain portions of it to work up. In answer to which I would state, that any opinion of mine touching this point would avail little, particularly at head quarters.

and between ourselves. I would state, <sup>further</sup> that there will be no obstacles cast in the way by me, and at the same time I do not see the necessity of bringing forward the Captain's objectionable point just now, for should you undertake the work, no questions would likely be asked, as to the manner, and from whom information was received, provided it was done quietly, and I think your intimacy with Sir Mr J. Hooker, would secure that, and you know the facilities for transporting information &c. &c. are expeditions and convenient for you.

With regard to Dr. Pickering, I do not think that he ever intends describing any of the plants of the Epsd., his next work is likely to be on Geographical Botany, but I am of the opinion, that he would not like to see any of the Collection, <sup>described, or</sup> published, but by an American author, I would further state, that the Doctor has Confidence in yourself and Dr. Gray, and would I think furnish you with valuable observations made during the Cruise, over and above the notes in his Journal - the latter are Public property and an understanding should be had, that these notes are to be handed to you; And any thing, I can do in the affair will be done heartily. I would also remind you my good Sir, that it is a big job, and I hope to see Much Sam paying liberally for it. And it would be well for this Nation, that more of its money was expended as a reward for the kind of knowledge that is required in this case,

There has been no move made here yet about the Kwockoochie plants, if you are not coming on, pray do not forget to write about them.

Can you my good Sir cast any light on Pteris pedata,  
Linn. Mr. Smith places it in Kaulf. genus "Cassebeera", the  
veins of which are said to be forked, while Presl in his  
Tentamen Pteridographie, has it in his genus "Litobrochia", the veins  
of which are angularly reticulated, now you would oblige me  
by examining one of your U. States specimens of this species, and let  
me know what kind of venation it has, I am almost cornered  
for the want of authorities to refer to, the want of Raddi  
or some general work <sup>on</sup> ~~on~~ <sup>corresponding</sup> Brasilian ferns is much felt,  
also Gandishond in <sup>Mr. B. B. B.</sup> ~~Freycinet's~~ voyage on the plants of the  
Isles of the Pacific - is a great desideratum, Thank you  
for Agardh's Monog - on Pteris, it has been of great use.  
I ~~am~~ have now before me the Asplenium tribe, the French  
have figured a great number of the Pacific species, but their  
works are not here to consult, And I believe I am only  
fighting along for to get myself ultimately into difficulties.

Pray how are you progressing with the Oregon &  
Californian plants? Have never yet received Hooker's  
Species Filicinum (part 5<sup>th</sup>) but hope it is on the way,  
With kind regards for yourself and family, <sup>and</sup> with the  
expectation of hearing from you soon I remain dear

Sir

Your Respectfully.

W. D. Brackenridge.

Paid.

Professor John Dory  
Princeton  
New Jersey.

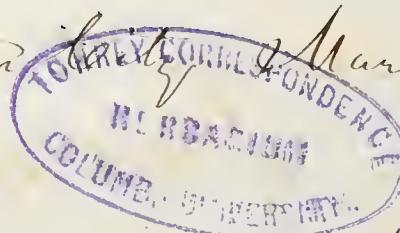


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Washington March 14<sup>th</sup> 1828.



Respected Sir

I return my sincere thanks, for your kind Note and Books sent for use, through the politeness of Prof. Neesey; The Plantae Preissianae is dear in Ferns, but will be of great utility when the Gramineæ and Cyperaceæ of the Exped<sup>n</sup> come to be described, a goodly number of the former being in the Collection; Sir Mr. Hooker in his neat "Popular Guide to Kew Garden," pays our Expedition as near a compliment, and it pleases me much to think that he is friendly disposed towards us, and I hope your influence with him, will secure a continuation of that friendship,

I understood through Mr. Drayton, that you were authorized to purchase Botanical works for the Expedition, and on the List was Raddi's Ferns of Brasil, Now My good Sir, I ordered that work about 2 months ago through Mr Pennington, Chestnut St. Phil'a and expect its arrival almost every day, You may now not consider it necessary to order another; But I do wish you could procure Gaudichaud; a private Copy of which I understand is now in the Academy of Sciences of Phil'a, but it would perhaps be better if a copy could be purchased? —

I requested as a favour in a former letter, to know whether the Pteris pedata of the U. States had reticulated

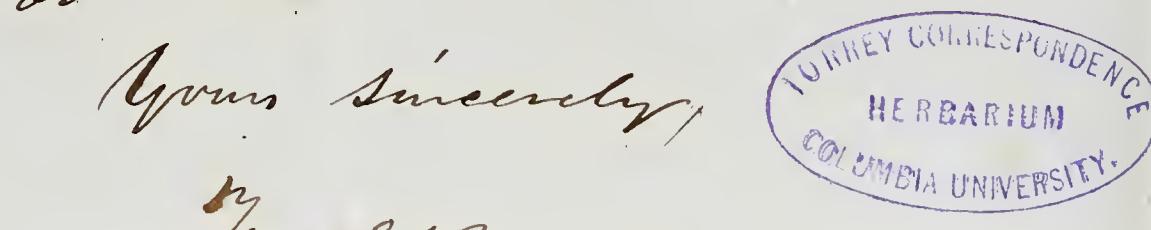
or forked veins, but in the hurry you had overlooked  
the request, would you be kind enough now to take a look  
at your specimens of that species - and let me know how  
it is,

I sent off the Fuci of the Expedition about two  
weeks ago, to Prof. Bailey of West Point, the collection is  
small, and I think he will be able to do it justice; I hope  
the Oregon & Californian Book of Botany of the Expd<sup>n</sup> is  
swelling on your hands, and that the same will be nothing the  
worse of the Kooskooskie collection, so adroitly got out of  
the hands of the Thebans here; I am very anxious to see the Bot.  
of the Expd<sup>n</sup> progressing; and when time permits - doing what I can  
myself. My fern Draughtsman is rather slow, and 'tis very  
likely I will be at the end of the Chapter before him; Pray who  
have you got to make your drawings for you?, I understand  
Mr Nattall is off again for Old England; No word lately of  
Dr Pickering or his Book; I have seen Mr Peale's <sup>Book</sup>, without the  
Preface, and it strikes me that the Fern Book will be about  
as fat - I mean Big - after it passes through your hands;  
Please my good Sir to write me soon - and believe me  
To remain

Yours sincerely,

Prof. D. Brackenridge.

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton N. Jersey





Said.

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey

W. H. Brewster  
Cambridge Mass.  
Ely  
Gymnopholus  
H. W. Job

Washington City. RECEIVED  
BY COLUMBIAN LIBRARY  
21<sup>st</sup> 1848.

Doctor J. Torrey,

My dear Sir, Yours of the 16 inst. came to hand yesterday; with regard to the Copy of Raddi, which I ordered from Europe, I would state; That the Copy was intended for myself, and not for Mr. Sam; I had requested nearly a year ago, that a Copy of it should be purchased; wanting the Book very much, and not getting any satisfaction, I ordered one myself without consulting Capt<sup>r</sup> Wilkes; So you will perceive my good Sir, that there was no "cross firing" in the affair. I told Capt<sup>r</sup> Wilkes today, that I had ordered a Copy; He says that it is not right for me to purchase Books for Public use, and thinks that if you would adopt ~~the~~ my ordering of the book - nominally - as you act, and admit the Copy to be sent on as ordered by me; That the Bills for both it and Gaudichaud, could be presented - and when paid, the amount of my Bill to Mr Pennington to be refunded; That is my good Sir, if you agree to this arrangement, And provided another Copy does not come to your order, which it may have been out of your power to command; In that Case I shall have to keep my own Copy, and not grumble; My object was to facilitate operations, a quality of character ~~of~~ not much known in these quarters. With regard to the Form work

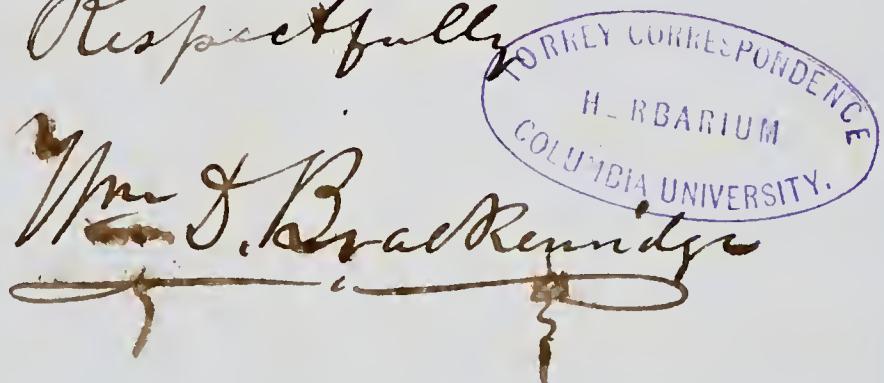
I have been able to get about 35 species drawn,  
and then make about 18 Plates, some of which are  
already Engraved, And I think I may now be about  
half way through with my part of the work; But time  
is much killed with me in other employment.

I think you would get a Draughtsman if you  
would press your application; If you think it worth  
I will get our young Draughtsman here, to draw the  
Californian Cercis, when in flower, and then wait for  
the leaves - that is if you say so - for it may perhaps  
not be new? Please to write first convenience, and  
believe me to remain

Yours very

Respectfully

Wm J. Brackenridge



P.S. In great haste }



Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.



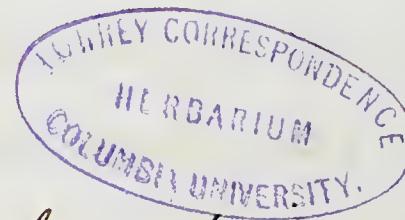
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Washington City April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1848.

Doctor Torrey

My dear Sir,



Yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst was duly received; But lack of time in this fine spring weather prevented me from answering it sooner.

With regard to the Sarracenia in our Californian Collection. it was found by myself on the Californian mountains, near to the Shasta Peak, about Lat. 41. inhabiting the margin of a very shallow stream - in Co. with a sp. of Parnassia and Epipactis. which stream I judged to proceed from a marsh- or swamp near the base of the Peak, the peculiar flatness of the ridge - indicating <sup>the existence of</sup> a marsh in that direction; Our party having gone on and left me alone, there was no time for me to follow this stream up to its source. The number of plants of Sarracenia seen, might be about 100 - irregularly distributed in patches along the margin of this shallow stream - in a very robust state of growth; And I am pretty certain, that there were only evidence of a single flower having existed on each scape, And in this I think the vestiges in your possession will bear me out, And these were the most perfect specimens to be procured at that season (Octo 5<sup>th</sup>), the season of flowering I suppose to be about the latter end of July; I speak with confidence in saying that the pitchers contain a considerable quantity of water, my attention

having been drawn to this particular, in examining the two lobed lid, which after the plant itself - was the first thing that took my eye. The specimens collected were a fair sample of the plant - as to size. I would also remark, that the flower stems - or scapes - are considerably taller than the pitchers. I like your proposed Generic name, and I hope you will be able to make it clear; The trail followed over these Mountains by settlers going from ~~or~~ too California from Oregon, crosses the stream described, which empties itself into the North branch of the Sacramento river; and a smart Hunter once in the vicinity of S. Peak. the character of the plant having been given him, would soon find it out, as the stream meanders through an opening in the forest, with patches of Lalycaanthus and Cercis bushes on its margin, And I believe by following it up, some fine new plants would be found towards the base of the Peak. I shall send a note to Capt<sup>r</sup> Fremont relating to it, as requested by you.

I have never seen "Planchon's views in regard to the affinities of Sarracenia," But its relation to Pyrola I think is rather far fetched, for over and above the latter having a solid petiole and dilated stigma, is not the vascular system - or arrangement of the Sap vessels very different in the two genera?

The Californian Cercis is just now opening its flowers. A drawing of it - will be made.

I am satisfied at your having obeyed orders in sending for a second copy of Raddi. The powers that be, declined furnishing me with it, when required. And I am something in this Book affair as Steve Gerard was with Mr. Ridgway "I can buy and then keep" thereby pleasing myself,

I am longing very much to have one of the two Copies - as well as Gaudichaud by me.

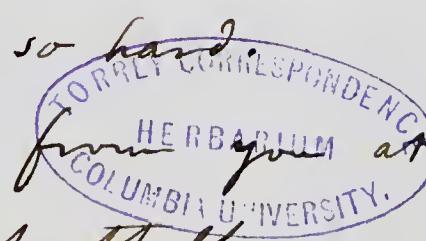
I did not mean my good Sir - as you appeared to infer, from one of my former letters, that Sir W<sup>m</sup> L<sup>l</sup>. Hooker was to be courted in order to help to get the Botany of the Expedition out; I once stated to you I think, that if you would only take hold as the principal, and secure the Bot. talent of this country as assistants - and the necessary Books provided - that the work could be as well done here as in Europe. Only - I always consider a good friend worth the taking care of. I see a number of new plants from California by Mr. Nuttall, has been published in the Trans. of the Phila. Acad. of Nat. Science. I hope it does not much interfere with your ground? Mr. Sullivan from Ohio - who has the Mosses of the Expedition to work up, is just now here. His drawings of some of our New Mosses are truly superb.

Doctor Pickering I understand is now on his last Chapter, and is expect<sup>d</sup>ed on in a week or two, I am inclined to think he will then lay hold of Geographical Botany. It is gratifying to learn that you are getting on so nicely with the Oregon plants, I can do little at this season on the Fly. And I must say that your last made my Exploring rheumatic<sup>d</sup> seized frame to quake, under the idea that I was excluded among the "Sluggish Gentry" of Washington, pray do not hit the hangars around the great Political Pot-house so hard.

I shall be most happy to hear from you at the earliest convenience.

Yours very respectfully

W<sup>m</sup> D<sup>r</sup>. Brackenridge



Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.



Washington City June 9<sup>th</sup> 1848.

Doctor Torrey.

My dear Sir,



I have perused your friendly note handed to me by Doctor Gray; And I can assure you that I had not the most distant idea that Capt<sup>r</sup> Wilkes was about to negotiate with Dr G. for to take hold of the plants of the Ex. Expedition, than I believe you had; And it was not till Capt<sup>r</sup> W. was in Boston, that I learned through Judge Tappan of the contemplated arrangement, and after what you stated to me in a former letter. I did not well know what to make of the affair. But at the same time felt pretty well satisfied that Dr G. would do nothing in the matter without consulting you; I shall be much pleased to learn - Should the Doctor and Captain close a bargain, the <sup>he</sup> gets a good price for the labour, and that no disagreeable feelings should arise out of the whole, as I am anxious to see the botany of the Expedition gone through with, and I did expect to see that done - or effected through your instrumentality; But still with your aid Dr G. will I am certain, be able to make a good job of it.

I find I will have to stand some heavy blows and knocks for not having collected Specimens with both fruit

and flowers, whether they were to be had or not I suppose?  
of this our broad shoulder can bear a goodly part. And a  
little philosophy will dispose of the remaining portion,  
I wrote Captain Fremont, and since that have had  
several very interesting interviews with him, He says that  
among the large collection of Californian <sup>Plants</sup> which he expects  
to arrive soon, that a plant answering to the description  
of Sarracenia is among them, picked up by him at the head  
of the valley of the Sacramento - inhab<sup>t</sup> moist grounds. I wish  
it may be all true.

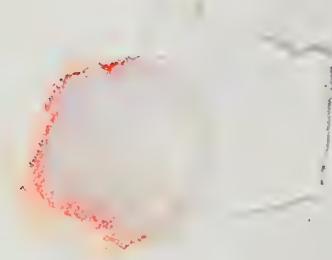
I am glad you are getting on so ~~very~~ nicely with  
your Bob<sup>le</sup> work. A drawing of the Californian Cereis  
has been made, and only a few leaves is wanted to complete  
it, these will be put in soon, and the first opportunity -  
if wanted - it will be sent on to you. You have got  
a perfect Job?

I had the pleasure of a long conversation with Mr. Ballou  
from Ohio while here, but nothing was mooted with regard to  
the arrangement now going on. Had also the pleasure of two  
long confabs with Mr. Trecal the Frenchman, and managed  
to put the idea out of his head of joining Capt. Fremont's party.  
I found that such a junction was not likely to suit either party.  
Please to write me soon - and believe me <sup>at</sup> 

Yours very respectfully  
W. D. Bradenridge

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Enquire what is the meaning in Pickering's note of  
"Top of mt to plain returning."



Professor J. T. Tracy  
Cincinnati, Ohio

was

Washington City

Monday June 26th 1828.

Doctor Torrey.

My dear Sir,



Yours of the 1st came duly to hand, and I am very happy indeed to think that good feeling and sound sense prevails among those, who if an arrangement is made about the Botany of the Ex. Et., will have the work to do; I lost no time in letting Capt. Wilkes know that the Book had arrived - by handing him the Bill, and urging him to have it so arranged that they could be sent on soon - being much wanted; To which he replied - that it would be attended to, And I hope it will be so - as he starts for the South in a day or two; But in case he should neglect, if you do not send them on, secure them at least for future use, as they will be much wanted - particularly Gaudichaud for the Sandwich Islands plants.

I had no conversation with Dr. G. regarding considerations to be received by him for to prepare our Botany for the press; but we had a considerable talk about the time it would take, and I think I stated that with certain help - which was named, that he might be able to do it up in 3 years, but that is somewhat short of what it is likely to take, for it must be calculated upon, that a few small stumbling blocks will roll in the way, but these can easily be turned aside if we only keep united; And I hope Dr. G. will not be rash, but begin fair by making a good bargain for himself, and then to keep steadily onwards; As regards my small part of the

work, I feel rather uncomfortable with regard to it at the present-moment; For according to a distinct understanding some time ago - with our big folks, the Ferns were to form a Vol: by themselves, and I have arranged and worked them up so far - accordingly; But lately it has been hinted to me, that the whole Bot<sup>n</sup> of the Ex, Ex. is to be worked up in Floras; And if such is to be the rule adopted, then I shall have to split up and enumerate the same species - often in several floras; How is it to be? On which horn of the dilemma am I to hang my Hat upon until the big folks measure out the ingredients to make up the Pie? I would like very much for you to see that part of the work I have already done, I know it is but lame, but there is time, and with your valuable suggestions it might be made passable; The method I have pursued in the arrangements of the descriptions, is that laid down for the whole of the Nat<sup>n</sup> History of the Exped<sup>n</sup> of which Mr. Dana's book on Corals is an example; and if that is altered, then I am again at fault; Please to let me know what method you have adopted with the Oregon plants; I agree with you, that there should be uniformity in the productions of all employed, and I do hope that same definite style will be fixed upon, and that very soon, that is - if the old one is to be changed,

I called on Col. Fremont Saturday last, but unfortunately found him from home, He and Capt<sup>r</sup> Wilkes are at a newspaper war, about certain inaccuracies in observations made in the valley of the Sacramento by nobody, and by botto!!!

If Col. F's plants reaches Washington I shall try and get a peep at them, I had some ~~the~~ talk with him about having the whole of his Botanical collections drawn together in one Vol: and then on the way - with what he is likely to collect on his contemplated Expedition would make something pretty handsome, according to his own report of what he has:

Doctor Pickering is now in Boston, I had a letter from him a few days ago; It is likely to be first Fishy with him, and then Geographical Bot.

Expecting to see you in our city towards the latter end of Summer or Autumn I remain

Yours very respectfully  


P. J. Brackenridge

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.



Washington City Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 1848.



My dear Sir

Yours of Sept 26<sup>th</sup> came ~~already~~ to hand, and all apparent neglect in the answering of which together with your previous communications, will no doubt be overlooked, when I tell you that my family has been severely afflicted for the last two months - which resulted in the loss of our only Son; and that since the receipt of your last I have been laid up with a severe attack of Scarlet fever, and I am now only able to sit up and scrawl you a few lines.

I am pleased to learn that you have got hold of Col- Fremont's last Californian collection of Plants - do you find any thing like our *Sarracenia* among them? The Col- thought that he had something like it among them; He has taken with him this trip a Bot- collector with whom I am acquainted, but who I am afraid has got more consequence than knowledge for to suit the Col-, I like your idea of making public through the Smithsonian Contributions some of the more new and interesting plants of the collections, but you do not say decidedly from whose collections they are to be taken,

It adds pleasure in the prosecution of ones labours to reflect that all connected with the Botanical portion of the Expedition - feel satisfied; And I hope you were able to make some arrangement with Mr Drayton regarding such drawings as you may

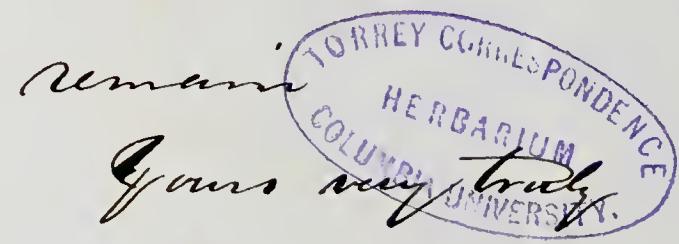
want to illustrate your Californian & Oregon collection. The Draughtsman that I have got would not suit you, being far too slow - too full of conceit, and will not study so as to improve himself in Bot. drawing. but he engraves elegantly. - And withall I am inclined to believe that between us we shall be able to bring out a set of fine drawings of Ferns - that will compare favourably with any thing of the kind that has yet made its appearance.

I have not seen the article in Sill. Journal - on W. American ferns by Kenige, but so soon as I am able to walk to the Library I will overhaul it. Of the little Fern sent in last note so far as I am able to judge of it with the naked eye while sitting up in Bed - I take it to be a true Asplenium - as you surmised. And belonging to Mr. Mo. Smith's. Dareia section of the genus. and may prove to be a new species - the specimens were very much broken up in the note - and by and by they shall be examined more carefully. Any ferns from the South or elsewhere I shall receive with pleasure - and report on them to you so far as my knowledge goes. Pray - have you got from California amongst Fremont's plants a Woodwardia? Kaulfuss - and he is followed by Hooker, has referred the Californian plant ~~with~~ to the Woodwardia radicans, Willd. a native of the Western Isls; If you have any <sup>Californian</sup> specimens, see if there are any proliferous buds on the rachis - near the points - and if the fronds are not erect; the proliferous buds are wanting in the <sup>Californian</sup> specimens - and the fronds are more upright than in the Madeira plant -

I am glad that Botanists in general are just now so busy, and particularly so far as it regards my good friend Doctor Pickering, and I only wish he may be let alone till he gets his Keop. Botany finished, 'tis my intention to write him and Doctor Gray soon; I have not heard from Mr. Sallivant of Ohio for some time, but so soon as I am able will send him a packet of queer little Mooses found in and among the Filicis; By next Spring I expect to be pretty well through with the body of my fern book, but I have too many other things to attend to.

Mr. Peale has left the Exploring Service, and now employed as an Asstt. Examiner in the Patent Office,  
I feel quite exhausted - and must give up, please to write me soon and believe me

To remain  
Yours very truly



Mr. D. Brackenridge

2 Prof. John Torrey  
Princeton  
N. Jersey.

52  
Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.

Washington City Sept-<sup>14<sup>th</sup></sup> 1811.

My dear Sir;



After the many favours you have shown me, I feel perfectly ashamed of myself in being so long in writing you, but to tell the truth my good Sir, I have had little leisure of late, having been harassed in various ways during the whole of last summer, so pray excuse this seeming neglect till I have the pleasure of seeing you face to face.

I hope that yourself and family are well, and that you at leisure moments are finding pleasure in examining some botanical novelty; I think that the last time I saw Mr Drayton, he told me that you had got all our Oregon & Californian plants worked up, if so, I hope you have also been able to get ~~all~~ <sup>made</sup> all the drawings of the same ~~made~~ - that you wanted - or at least that they are in a fair way.

I have got near 100 sps of Ferns drawn, these fill about 50 plates, the most of which are already engraved, but no proofs have been sent me yet; I have also got through some time ago with the descriptive part of the work. That is - if we except one or two small genera - of only a few species each, which I intend to take on to Phila

to compare with Specimens in the Academy.

I would like very much my good Sir, to know, when it would be convenient for you to overhaul my Mss.: there are many things about the whole work that I want your Council and advice about, before I make a copy of the same, And if you would state what time next month would suit you best, or any time shortly after that, I will come on and bring my work with me;

D<sup>r</sup>. Gray has sent on (by letter to Mr Drayton in Phil<sup>a</sup>) requesting that the Sandwich Island plants be forwarded to him, and under the peculiar way that the request reached me I felt obliged to write to Captain Wilkes before sending, but I have them all ready, and only wait the Captain's regular order to have them despatched; and I wish that the Doctor would address his requests to Washington at once, which would greatly facilitate our operations.

Mr W<sup>m</sup> Rich is expected to arrive in Washington from California some time towards the latter end of the present month; It is very likely he may bring some Botanical specimens with him—but I think there will not be many of them; he may now be induced to take up his Mss. and bring it out—or at least explain it!! Pray have you heard

from Capt<sup>r</sup> Fremont; judging from Newspaper reports  
he is not doing much in the Natural History way,  
the young man Mr Cretzfeldt who went out from  
Washington with him, as Botanical Collector, is now  
I am told perfectly crazy - from the effects of that  
great mishap which befell the whole party on  
the mountain, what a lamentable foolish undertaking  
that was!! What a state of despair the young widow of  
Mr King has been in ever since she heard of his death,  
both she and her friends are of opinion that his body  
was eaten by Cretzfeldt and Brackenridge,  
what a sad reflection.

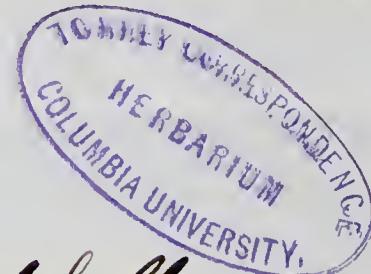
Captain Wilkes is now in S. Carolina,  
Dr Pickering is in Boston, and I was told a  
few days ago that he was about getting married  
in that City.

There are some nice Grasses for you in the Sandwich  
Island Collection, and I only wish they were in your hands  
tomorrow; Please my good Sir to write soon, and  
believe me to remain

Yours

Very respectfully

Dr D. Brackenridge.



Pax.

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.



Washington City Correspondence Decem 12<sup>th</sup> 1849.



Respected Sir,

Enclosed is a receipt for a box, which I have delivered to Adams Express. It contains a few Shells for Mrs Torrey, and also two pieces of Tortoise-shell, to make Combs for Miss Margaret; all of which I hope will reach you safe. They are a very poor gift to send to your Lady—and with all rudely packed, but no opportunity was offered me to do it more to my taste; and I would ask it as a favour, that my name be not mentioned in relation to them, so long as I am attached to Uncle Sams Ex. Co., and this I do for reasons which you will comprehend at once. And should ever Uncle S. be just enough to give me back my collection of Shells—for most of them I purchased; then I promise to send Mrs T. something more worthy of her taste and care.

I had the pleasure on last Saturday of meeting in the Patent-Office, Miss Torrey, and another young Lady from your Town, and was happy to have it in my power to shew them our Natl History Collection and other Nic Mack's, with which they appeared much pleased, and promised to call up again, which they did yesterday, during my absence to dinner, leaving you letter for me enclosing a note for Mr Rich, which will be attended to. He has given me but few ferns, and I think you will get the other plants, after he has got a little time to think over the matter.

Since my return I have been reviewing, rewriting & correcting  
and doing up some of the many blunders my MS contains. I wish  
we had been able to go over some more of it while together;  
but I shall try and profit as much as possible from the  
remarks and corrections you made, while I am copying that  
portion which we did not look over, and as soon as I get  
about 100 pages done, it is my intention to send it on to you;  
if I only was near to you I would get on like a Hooper!

With regard to the works of Swartz's and Forster; I  
shall make the references from them as quick as possible,  
and return them without delay; And I rest under great  
obligation, to you, for the interest you take in myself and  
this work of mine.

I have not seen Capt. Wilkes for these last Seven months,  
he is now in New York or Boston; and until I talk with him, I am  
unable to say whether a letter from you to Col. Benton, would do  
me good or not, in relation to the Public Ground affair, Col. B. &  
Capt. W. are on bad terms, so caution is necessary, but I will  
let you know all, by & by.

I know very little about Mr. Coulter, he was  
only in our City a few days; but he appeared to be a  
very good hearted sort of a man, although rather a  
little visionary I thought in some things; and I do not  
know whether he has got capacity enough, and a sufficient

knowledge of the science of Botany to enable him to deliver lectures on it before a polite audience.

The weather here, is very frosty and cold; nevertheless, the members of C. are steaming it up at the Capital, in trying to raise a Speaker, a task so far, which has beat them!!

Please to remember me kindly to Mrs Torrey and Master Herbert and believe me to remain,

Yours

Very respectfully

W<sup>m</sup> D. Brackenridge,



Professor John Torrey. {

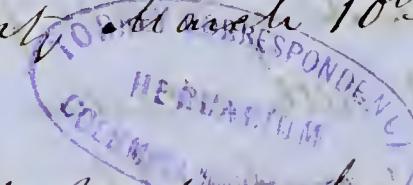
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PABLO

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.

Washington Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 1850.

Respected Sir.



I crave a thousand pardons for not having acknowledged before this time, the receipt of your favour of last 16<sup>th</sup>, as also a copy of Schwartz's Lg. Fil. received through Mr. Drayton; the delay was occasioned by my having to wait from day to day, for proofs of the Fern plates, which I intended to send with the descriptive part of the work, determining to write ~~to you~~ to you at the same time; these proofs I received a week ago today, (not complete) and without delay set about numbering and lettering those that corresponded with the MSS. I had then prepared, which amounted to 295 pages; this, and all the proofs (save three) of species figured belonging to MSS. sent, I have delivered over to Capt. Wilkes, to be forwarded to you through Mr. Drayton. And it may not be altogether agreeable ~~to you~~, that ~~the~~ great obligation ~~to you~~ has to be arrived at through this peculiar channel; but I could not well avoid it, being anxious that both Capt. Wilkes and Libr. Committee should be aware of the amount of labour on my work which would fall upon you to perform; and it is more than I at first calculated on myself. I do not know that much improvement has been wrought by me on the Copy of MSS. sent, from that which we partly overhauled in Nov<sup>r</sup> last, but at all events, in the few hours which was from time to time spent on it, I endeavoured to make many of the remarks more intelligible, and through the whole work, have transposed some of the heads - at your suggestion. Too small a space was left to insert the references to the Plates, as you will perceive that they are much crowded, and perhaps not altogether correct as to expression. In the references to Authorities, I may have inserted English, where it ought to ~~be~~ be Latin as and for et. and Author for Auct. My essential characters may appear sometimes long, but they are not more so, than some of Sir W. J. Hooker's. I would remark, that the Plates of some of the proofs sent; I am going to have altered, by inserting scales and hairs on certain parts where they have

been omitted, which you will find out by comparing the figure with the description, so that little alteration in that respect on your part will be wanting. You will also find, that I have given in many instances Mr. J. Smith's Generic characters verbatim, as I consider his system a good one, and having adopted it generally, I thought these descriptions would make the work better understood, and to have remodeled them from such material as I have to consult, so as to make them my own, would only have been a sort of a plagiarism; in some instances, I have given Presl's Generic ~~Character~~<sup>es</sup> in Latin, and when no authority is appended, it is my own. My specific names ~~I do it~~<sup>I fear</sup>, will not suit you; but in this as in all other matters appertaining to the work, I would thank you to suggest ~~and~~ adopt whatever you may consider most eligible.

The portion sent amounts to about three fifths of the whole work; and so soon as the proofs of the other drawings reach me, I will send them on, among them is a new Genus of mine, which I have marked with Pencil in MSS. as Graminopteris - or something meaning grass looking fern; and for this please to construct a generic name.

Over and above the great obligation of voluntarily giving me advice respecting my work, I do not see how you are to be rewarded for the time and labour which it will take you to bring my labours into such a shape, as to make the work worthy to be brought before the public; I speak this freely Professor, knowing that you have duties which must be attended to, with other engagements on hand to occupy your spare moments; but so far as I am personally concerned in this matter, my obligation to you ~~will~~ shall ever be in remembrance.

Please give me some hints as to what you think of that sent, and how I may improve on what is still to pass through my hands.

No conversation has passed between Capt. Wilkes and myself with regard to the Botany of the Expedition, I have seen him little this winter; the fact is, I do not want to talk to him about it, as I know we would differ on

many points regarding it; he has been pushing me hard for my part, but we have learned to understand him.

For these last 10 days I have not had the pleasure of seeing your daughter Miss Margaret; we have not met so often as I could have wished, her time and mine being very dissimilarly occupied.

Let me know when it would suit best for me to send on the seeds and plants for your place at Princeton: any time between this and the middle of May will suit the plants.

Professor Agassiz was here and delivered a number of lectures at the Smithsonian Institute, which gave great satisfaction.

Col. Prentiss is expected to arrive here very soon, I hope he brings some plants with him. I have only seen Major Rich once since he visited you.

thing is in great confusion in both Houses of Congress; no yet to make a removal of our Greenhouse and no one will talk to you about anything else but very and a dissolution of Union, what fanatics are we not bound to come in contact with.

What a pity Dr. Dr. Hooker has been interrupted in his operations in India.

Please to remember me kindly to Mrs. Forney, Master Herbert and the other members of your family, and accept of my best wishes for your own health and happiness — And believe me

To remain

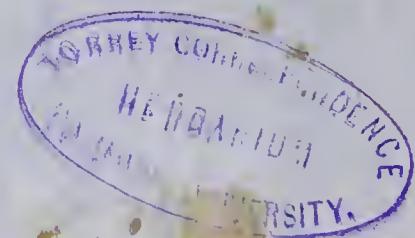
Yours

Very respectfully

Wm D. Brackenridge.

P.S. The copy of Swartz was returned with proofs and Mrs. {

~~se~~ many thanks for your trouble, did not procure Forster in Philadelphia.)



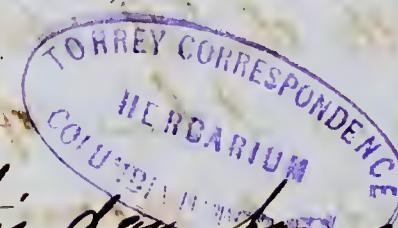
Professor John Torrey.  
Medical College.  
Brooklyn Street.  
New York.

on, an  
in Miss.  
Leave to

Washington D. C. April 24<sup>th</sup> 1850.

Doctor Wm Torrey.

Dear Sir,



I have this day forwarded to your address - per Adams and Co's Express, a box containing some hardy plants and seeds for your Garden, which I hope will reach you in good condition; some of them are marked for my young friend Master Herbert; and in the packet of Seeds there is a Compass and letter - for him also. I put one of my men to pack the plants, and I am afraid he made a bad job of it. If any of them does not succeed, I will send you some more. You ought not to sow the seeds till about the second week in May.

Now about my MSS. You have not yet given me your opinion respecting it; and I fear that you view it as being so poor a production, that you avoid telling me so, in order to save my feelings. Do not be so; I shall take any thing you may say, in good part, as I know that you will be candid. I hope that you and our friend Dr Gray have settled upon definite forms of type and arrangement of matter for the Fern Book. With regard to forms of type for certain matter, both of you ought to be good judges on that head, and against any style which may have been agreed upon, I shall say nothing - but thank you kindly for the advice; and as respects any great alteration or transposition of descriptions, references and remarks (after you have combed the bad English out the latter), I cannot conceive that much of it will be necessary. Dr G. and myself talked about allowing the name of the species to remain in the middle of the page (without the authority) and then to repeat it at the commencement of reference to authorities; and such an arrangement would I think

look and read well. The Dr think, that it would be ~~worth~~<sup>better</sup> to dispense with the "Brack." as my authority, to this I agree with pleasure; as I have often on account of a difference in scien-  
tiation transferred a species from one genus to another, and taken full credit therefore, which always appeared to me to be more dear the discovery was worth. With regard to giving the Character of the Orders, If you think ~~it~~ better that they should be left out, then do so. And as concerns the rule which I have followed in giving Generic Character, I would state, that only such were given, as had been recently formed, or an old one when I thought I could better it; now what is your opinion, do you think that if a number must be given, that we ~~shall~~ have to give all - or else none? I would state here, that the Mosses, Fuci and Fungi, are to go into the same Vol. - with my ferns - and this will make a large Book and I would not like any matter withdrawn from my part, which might tend to weaken its force —

There are one or two terms that I have made use of throughout the whole work, which are not always applicable to the part meant - as "Lacinia", when it ought sometimes to be segment; and "lower and superior", when it ought to be lower and interior, and for "lower and inferior" it ought to be lower and exterior; but these can be corrected in the proof.

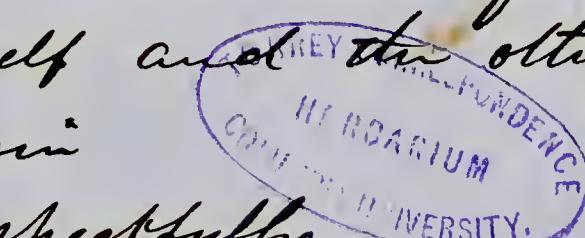
I would like to know what you think of my two new Genera sent you, please to suggest a name for each, in truth my dear Sir am troubling you to much about this work of mine. During the last two days Dr G. spent here, I only saw him for about five minutes, and he was then about starting to go down to the Cars, I think he told me

that things had been arranged to his satisfaction  
with Captain Wilkes; the Captain has been very sick,  
but now somewhat better.

I had your favours of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, many thanks for  
the interest you take in my behalf. I ought to have wrote you  
before this, but I assure <sup>you</sup> that for some time back, I have  
been so busy that I scarcely knew what to begin to  
first. The whole of the flowering plants of the Expedition has  
been culled out for the Doctor - their bulk is that of a  
respectable Hay stack: by and ~~as~~ <sup>the</sup> boxes to contain them  
are to be lined with Tin, the Dr. won't ~~suspect~~ like that -  
An appropriation of \$5000 has pass'd the Senate, to  
remove our living plants and erect a new Conservatory  
on another site - not yet designated; this bill has  
not yet got through the House, but we expect  
that it will in a few days; after which I shall  
be doubly busy.

Since I last wrote you I called upon Miss  
Margaret, and had a long talk with her, she looks  
remarkable well indeed. It has just now come to  
my recollection, that I have omitted to put into the box  
today - some Specimens of the Neopeltis for <sup>you</sup> but first  
good opportunity this will be attended to.

Please to remember me kindly to Mrs Torrey - and  
with best wishes towards yourself and the other  
members of your family - I remain  
Very respectfully  
Yours



W<sup>m</sup> D. Brackenridge.

Professor John  
Conant  
President  
Harvard

John Conant  
President  
Harvard

Washington City July 17<sup>th</sup> 1850.

Dr Torrey.

My dear Sir.



I have just now found time to reply to your kind letter of the 8<sup>th</sup>. I regret that my bad MSS. should give you so much trouble, but I do not know of any one who could overhaul it so well for me. Mr Drayton has just received another batch of it, with proofs of the drawings belonging to the same - to deliver to you; and with the exception of the Lycopodiaceae (which will be written up as soon as possible - and may amount to 25 pages,) this will be the last of the work.

Not being Latin scholar enough, I did not foresee that there would be difficulty in translating Mr J. Smith's nomenclature of Venation into that language. The veins of Mr Smith I do not think can be regarded as secondary Costæ of Presl, for the latter has primary and secondary "Veinulae", and his secondary "Veinulae" I consider as equivalent to Mr Smith's "Veinlets". If you will turn to Hook. Gen. Fil. t. 92. you will find that author's translation of the Gen. Chars of *Phloenopteris*, J. Sm. where the three kinds of venation are embraced.

With regard to the "obscurity" of the detailed description of *Goniopteris*, I shall have to examine it on return of Ms. I cannot imagine how the specific Char of *Polyodium undulatum* should be incomplete, the species being one of Hook. et Arnott. in Bot. of Benth. Vol. I thought that their Spec-Chars had been improved by me. Our specimens of the plant being better than what theirs appears to have been. Please to mark with a lead pencil, when there is a failure of this kind - and you will oblige me much.

The batch of MSS. now sent, was hurriedly overhauled by Dr. Gray and myself, and he objected to my mode of citing species from Hook. Sp. Fil. under that Author's Sub. Genera. and you will see where such references - and corrections of the same were made; and should you concur in such corrections, other similar ones will have to be made in part of the MSS. now in your hands. Viz. in Davallia, Dicksonia & Lindsaea.

I have not seen Proofs of the few Sheets already sent by you to the Printer. But a few days ago I had a talk with Captain Wilkes in relation to the correction of the Proofs of the whole Book: and his view of the matter is this: that you should have the correction of the whole - from first to last, without giving me an opportunity of even seeing the MSS. before it went to Press, or even the correction of the second Proof; he giving as his reasons for this, my being here in Wash<sup>ton</sup> - and having so much to attend to, together with your knowledge in such matters; to this latter I felt satisfied - but to the other sweeping Cut-off I objected in strong terms, demanding to see the MSS. before it went into the hands of the Printer - after you had looked over it - and also of correcting at least the second Proof, in order to correct mistakes in references to Authorities, or any other inaccuracy which might have crept into the work, which you had not the means by you of detecting: So I left him, without coming to any understanding in the matter; but have since seen Mr. Drayton (to whom Capt. Wilkes no doubt had talked over the matter), and in your absence the following arrangement regarding the Proof - was agreed to - provided you concur. Viz. That the

Mes- should pass through my hands - after you had done with it, before going into the hands of the Printer; and that you - if you would agree to it - should correct the 1<sup>st</sup> Proof. and that the 2<sup>d</sup> one should come to me, and perhaps after that be looked over by you: but Drayton will talk the matter over with you: for my own part I do not wish to approach Captain Wilkes again on the subject, for as you know full well my dear Sir, we all are men, and we all have got feelings to be respected.

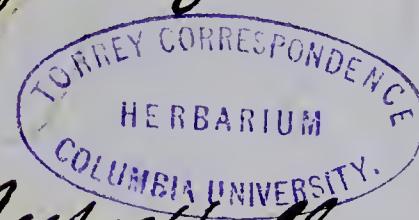
Since the late change in our Administration - I have not seen Dr Bigelow - who is going out on the Boundary Commission. I fear he is not much of a Botanist, but I may be mistaken.

Now - and for these last few days I have felt quite unwell; having exposed myself perhaps too much to the hot sun.

Tender my kind regards to your family - and believe me my dear Sir

To remain  
Yours very Respectfully

Wm D. Brackenridge.



(Paid)

Professor John Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.



Professor Dr. Torrey.

Washington City July 31. 1850.

Respected Sir.



"Note" and the enclosed yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> with the two proofs are now before me. I would have replied sooner, but some old friends from Canada made a visit here for a few days - prevented me.

In the first place, I do not like the type of the two proofs. the Characters of the Divisions, Tribes, Sections, Genera and Species being in Italic letters, destroys in my opinion the beauty of the page; and I have tried hard with Capt<sup>r</sup> Wilkes, to have this altered, but cannot succeed with him. I stated in one of my former letters, that ~~I had no objection~~ to the Characters of Div. Tribes and Genera being left out, and I am now more thoroughly convinced from what you say - and after having seen a page in print, that by so doing, the work would look much better. I do not now distinctly recollect all the Characters of ~~all~~ other authors which I added to or improved, or what the weight of such additions, or improvements were; but these additions, as you remark, can be carried to ~~the~~ these remarks down some of the species of the genus.

I do not perhaps comprehend to the full extent, the weight of your observations respecting the necessity of striking out the word "Reperante" in its connection with the term "Rhizome". I have always understood a "rhizome" to be an organ which either creeping, caespitose or slightly turned upwards. Some Authors call the trunk of a tree fern a rhizome, but this last I have called a "trunk"; but if you think that

The term "Candex" can be substituted for my "Chizoma"; then I would thank you to adopt it; as you will find I have several ~~forms~~ kinds of "Chizoma" - as Creeping and Cæspitose.

I do not know what to say about substituting the term "stalk" for "Stipe" &c &c in New York. In His Sp. Ed. (where the descriptions are English) uses the term "stipes" which is plural; and I find that Dr Darlington makes use of it in the singular. but you have my permission to use whatever term you think most eligible. I am compelled to laugh at your remarks on my "Counting-room Abbreviations" in the explanations of the Plates. I shall therefore thank you to supply the necessary "the" and "a" when wanted. In relation to the position of the ~~explanations~~ explanation to the plates, I would state, that a consultation of individuals was held ~~in~~ here some years ago (and among these was Dr Pickering) and all present thought that the best place was immediately after the specific diagnosis, in order the quicker to identify a species by a reference to the plate; but to me it appears that the position of the Explanations is a mere matter of taste but one thing I would here say in relation thereto, that should you think proper to retain them as they now are, that they ought to be set up in larger type, as too many different kinds of type disfigure a page very much.

I am glad you put in the "Sp. Nov." in place of my abbreviated name, I think I said something to Dr Gray touching this point. I got the work on New Holland plants, which you so kindly sent on by Mr Hooker, but I have not yet received from him the manuscript. I shall call for it this evening, and return it.

to you without delay.

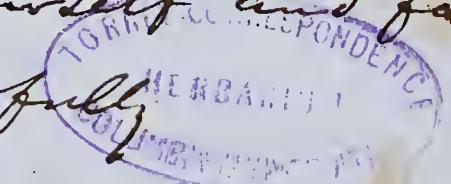
In my last I forgot to say that I shall be most happy indeed in Overhauling your Filices, so soon as you can find time to send them on -

What a state of Confusion Mr Bartlett the Boundary Commissioner has got his party into : My opinion is, that neither he nor Dr Bigelow are fit persons to send out on such an expedition. I am glad you recommended that the three Botanists, should all take the field, as in this way something good may be effected; their positions, otherwise being independent, there will be a striving between them as to who shall do the most in the plant collecting way.

Not knowing how all parties might feel, I did not think of stating to you - or talking about the number of Copies of the flora work which I intended to have printed for myself, but if I had concluded to have had only 10 copies - 3 of these were intended for you, also one for D. Gray and another for Sir W<sup>m</sup> Hooker, I am glad you thought of having a small supply for yourself, the number you state will not interfere with me. I thought of having 30 for myself - some of them to sell and some to give ~~away~~ away. What would you think of going equal shares with me and have ~~the~~ 60 or 80 copies printed? Say something about this when you next write! With kind regards to yourself and family

I remain Yours very respectfully  
P.S. in great haste - and }  
weather very warm }

J. D. Brackenridge.



*Professor James C. Jackson*

*Chancery Lane*

*West Kensington*

*Star*

Professor Dr. Torrey

Washington City Aug 3<sup>d</sup> 1852.

My dear Sir,



Yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> has just come to hand, and I hasten to inform you that the conversation which I had with Captain Wilkes, in relation to the Generic and Specific Character of the Nat= History of the Ex. Expedition being in "Italic letters" occurred many months ago when speaking with him on the appearance of Messrs Peale & Daniels Books; and although I insisted strongly then to have such a style excluded from my book - but to which he would not consent, yet I do not think he now remembers that conversation; and I have not seen him since you sent me the manuscript - I fact I do not at present Court a Confab with him on such matters. I think therefore it would be well for you to have the Book set up in a style in Conformity with your own judgements and good taste in such matters with the ideas contained in my last. I would thank you to examine and see if the term "rhizoma" will suit better through the whole work, than "Caulescens" for the root stock of ferns. To the stems of tree ferns, I have applied the term "trunks". this latter by some authors is also called rhizome.

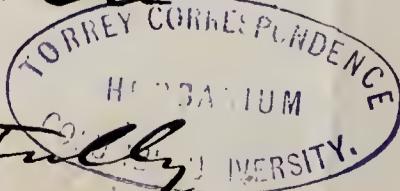
I regret not having stated in my last, the date when Captain W. refused to entertain an alteration in favour of the type of my book; as by ~~not~~ having done so, some feeling might have been saved. I do not think any interference will be made to your labours in assisting me & Mr Drayton would be the most likely man to cause it.

With regard to sending on Ms. to me, that had better be done through the Post Office as the safest mode, and I will charge the postage to the Ex. Expedition. I am in a bad fix with the Greenhouse and Botanical Garden; ~~the~~ we to many have got a finger in the Pie. I am dear Sir

Yours

Very respectfully

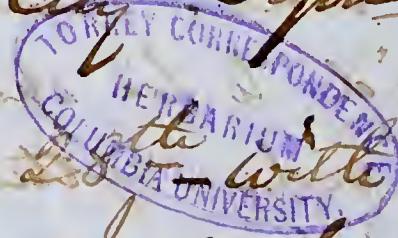
Wm D. Brackenridge.





David  
Professor Bro. Torrey  
Princeton  
New Jersey.

Washington City Sept 17<sup>th</sup>/50.



My dear Sir

Yours of Augt. 22<sup>nd</sup> were written a note  
of the 14<sup>th</sup> came duly to hand. I confess that I  
ought to have answered the same long before this  
time, and I only delayed doing it from day to  
day, with the expectation that the box of Cacti, which  
you mentioned your Nephew had been directed  
to forward to me might arrive, so that I  
might be able to give you an account of its con-  
tents; and so far as I can learn it has not  
yet reached our City; this I regret, as the pla-  
nts in it may spoil - which would be a pity.

The large bundle of manuscript reached me  
safe, and as my time then was very much taken  
up otherwise, I kept it by me a little over  
one week, and then returned it to the Printer.  
Your remarks and corrections I liked very  
much, and feel at ~~a thousand~~ times obliged to you  
for the pains you have taken to purge my bad  
English; You will perceive when the Copy is  
returned to you, that I have adopted almost  
all of your Corrections; and your hints in  
pencil I profited by, but could not well  
adopt the whole; and one of those which I could  
not with consistancy retain, was touching a  
species of Polybotrya, the fertile fronds of which

I had described as being sporangiferous on the under side: Now in the Generic Character, the species are said to be sporangiferous on both or only on the under side - of the speciform segments; hence the necessity of my stating that the species which I had under consideration, was only sporangiferous on the under side; or if it had been so on both, then I thought it was proper for me to say so - am I right in this?

I am of the opinion that after my work passes through your hands (though its size will be reduced) it will nevertheless make a creditable Book.

Soon after Mr Drayton came on here last: I had a long talk with him about the Book, and also about the part you were performing; and I found that he either had not the capacity - or did not wish to comprehend our plan; so I showed him that revise in which the Generic and Sectional Characters are left out, and led him to understand in very plain terms, that that was the style and arrangement which would be adopted throughout the whole work, and to this he offered no objection (this interview took place before I received your last). but the D. I am sorry to say is a timeserving man, and very liable to make mischief, yet he never can hurt you nor me, so my dear Sir - all we have to do is to be firm and stick to our plan, as neither Mr D. nor Captain Wilkes know much

about the subject, and I am glad you saw the  
latter to have some conversation with him about  
the work.

In the Note to the species which has been named  
in compliment to Mr. Knobell, is it proper to term  
him "Naturalist" - he may expect to be called Botanist?

With regard to the number of Extra Copies -  
~~I would~~ am of the opinion that we ought to  
have at least 60. And I proposed that each of  
us bear a proportionate share of the expense  
of that number, and both to receive an equal  
amount of proceeds of all Copies sold - in order  
to cover the expense of paper and printing etc.  
Such an arrangement as this I would like,  
as I do not wish to make money by the  
concern, and would not at the same time  
like to lose much by it, and I do not  
think you would be inclined to sink ~~more~~  
money in the affair either, and I consider that  
you ought to have a goodly number of  
Copies, and some of these Copies ought to  
pay for those you intend to present to your  
friends. So therefore if you like the above  
proposition, you could stand in the concern  
in all its bearings as a silent partner -

I would like very much to have Springs  
Monog. of Lycopodiaceae, before I finally turn  
the Mss. of <sup>that</sup> Griseb into your hands. <sup>will</sup> It put  
you to too much trouble to procure it from Boston?

I have got all the other works mentioned  
in your note which treat on that topic.

I am glad that Dr Parry's plants have  
reached you.

Have you heard lately from Dr Gray. I  
would like to know how he is and how  
he gets along with our Botany.

It is a fact that our appropriation was thrown  
out in the House, but it will be introduced  
again in the Senate and struggled  
through the House on the last night of the  
session, the amount is \$25000.

I am labouring hard to get our Greenhouse  
all up before frost sets in, but I fear I am  
to be beat through a parcel of lazy me-  
chanicks.

Remember me to Mrs Govey. Miss Margaret,  
Master Herbert, and with best wishes for  
yourself and the other members of your  
family. I remain

My dear Sir

Yours very

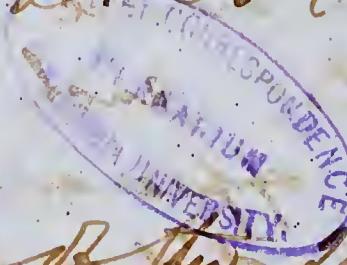
Felix W. Packard.



Washington D. C. Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 1850.

Professor Jno. Torrey

My dear Sir



Yours of the 1<sup>st</sup> is before me,

and by it I felt satisfied - on learning that the  
~~books~~ containing the Cacti had not been forwarded;  
at the time my last was posted I was afraid that  
it had got lost by the way.

George is the beginn<sup>g</sup> of their heart - before the  
adjourned voted \$ 25000 for the further publication  
of the results of the Ex. Exp. and before this appropriation  
is expended I think that we will be able to have  
the Fern Book out. But I regret having to inform  
you that the Library Committee have decided that  
the English specific definitions is to be inserted in  
the work immediately after its Latin translation,  
this decision so far as I can learn - was drawn  
from the Committee through Mr Bragdon placing  
before them proof of the work in the form we had  
adopted, and Captain Wilkes is of the same opinion  
as the Com<sup>tee</sup>, and when I remonstrated against their  
decision, I was told that it was a rule laid down  
by the Com<sup>tee</sup> at the commencement of this publication,  
"that in the Nat<sup>n</sup> History part of the work of the Ex. Exp.  
that the specific Chal. should be printed in both Latin  
and English - so that every one could read and under-  
stand the work," and nevertheless that I showed

them - that there was a detailed English description  
of the species suited for their purpose, they insisted  
that the rule should be adhered to; now - do you  
not think that such an arrangement will very much  
destroy the appearance of the Book?

You did not tell me in your last, what  
the Assemblage of Scientific Gentlemen down East  
thought of the Fern drawings - or rather ~~photo proofs~~  
of the plates - I feel somewhat anxious to know  
the opinion of the great ones respecting them, so please  
speak to this point in your next.

It will give me great pleasure to overhaul your  
Collection of Ferns, so soon as you can find it  
convenient to send them on, but I would state to  
you frankly, that the first leisure time I have  
from my out of door duties, I would like to  
work up our Sycopodaceæ, and I wish you  
would do your best to procure for me Sprigs  
Monos. of Sycopod, I hope Dr Gray did not  
lack it up. Pray! when did you hear from the  
Doctor? he still in Engl? when you write - please  
remember me to him kindly.

I am in a fever about our living plants -  
for although the weather is fine, yet the year is  
fair advanced, and we may expect John Frost  
about very soon, and yet our Greenhouses are  
not yet ready to receive any thing. Professor -  
as the old saying has it - "too many Cooks spoil  
the Broth." and then are too many who have got

their hand into this Greenhouse Pé - who ~~do~~  
know nothing at all about such matters.

If there was a good opportunity - I would  
send on some Tulip roots for your Lady & Master Herbert which if planted this fall - would  
bloom finely in the early part of next Summer -

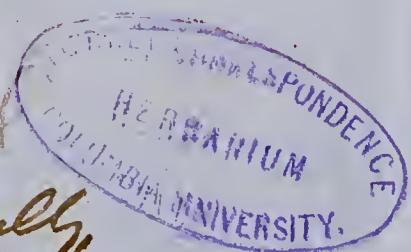
You need not if you choose - say any thing  
to Mr Drayton about the 60 Copies for our  
joint use, as it might give him something to  
make a handle of, I told him that 60 copies  
would be wanted - but did not say for whom  
or for what purpose - as that is our affair  
alone.

With very kind regards for yourself and  
family - I remain

My dear Sir

Yours  
Very respectfully

J. D. Bradwardine



Joseph John Jones  
Princeton

New Jersey

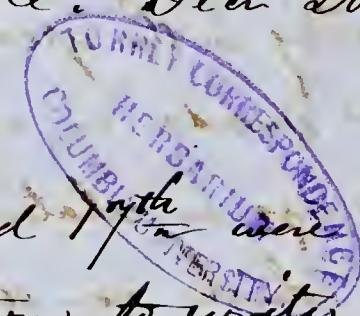


And, day 6<sup>th</sup>

Professor Jno Torrey

My dear Sir,

Washington D. C. Decr 20<sup>th</sup> 1850.



Yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> were duly rec'd,  
and I would just say - that it was your turn to write, but would  
still further remark - that with a friend I never stand on such  
points of etiquette when I have any thing of importance to communicate.

The collection of dry plants from the Salt Lake Valley which you  
spoke of in your last, reached our City only yesterday, and the name  
of the Officer who conducted the Expedition to that region is Capt<sup>r</sup> W.  
Stansbury of the Top <sup>cal</sup> Engineers Corps. I am well acquainted with  
his brother - who gave me a note of introduction to the Capt<sup>r</sup> on whom  
I called yesterday morning - and found him very clever and communicative,  
and during the course of conversation. I found that he does not yet  
know what disposition may be made by the Dept<sup>r</sup> of his collections, but  
he thinks that a report of his Exped<sup>r</sup> will be published in a shape some-  
what like that of Col. Emmons's and St<sup>r</sup> Alberto's to embrace in like  
manner the collections of Nat<sup>r</sup>. History left in by him. The Capt<sup>r</sup> knows  
you well by reputation, and also what you did to assist Fremont and the  
Gen<sup>ts</sup> above named. In introducing your name - I only did so incidentally  
and he appeared to have had you already in his eye as the one that might  
help him, but hinted as much as if Col. Abert the Chief of the Top <sup>cal</sup> Eng-  
Corps - would have to be consulted in the matter; Now my good Sir, you are  
well acquainted with Col. A. and I would advise you to drop him a  
note - and another to Capt<sup>r</sup> S. at as early a date as possible. The collection  
of Plants I did not see, but the Capt<sup>r</sup> S. invited me to call soon and  
have a look at them. I am inclined to think that there must be some  
good things, as a Naturalist accompanied the Exped<sup>r</sup> but left  
it at Salt Lake.

I am beginning to feel somewhat unpleasant about my Form Book, owing to the great notice that Mr D. Capt Wilkes and the Liby Com. and me have made in regard to it. I had a very earnest talk with the Captain a few days ago in relation thereto, and I feel quite satisfied that he had seen the letter which you sent to Mr Drayton, he stated also that the Liby Com. were decided upon having my English Specific Character to follow its Latin translation. Within these last few days I have had sent me from Phila by Mr D. a number of proof sheets of the work, in which both the Latin and English Specific Characters are given (though by an error some of them have been omitted). And it is very likely that Mr D. has forwarded to you a similar number of proofs, if so, pray give me your opinion with the usual candour as to how the work in this <sup>shape</sup> is likely to rec'd by the Scientific world. It would have been pleasing for us to have gone on our own way, and completed the work, when ~~the~~ <sup>no</sup> difficulty I think would have arisen in relation to ~~the~~ <sup>giving you credit</sup> cost for the labour and time you have so freely bestowed in bringing my Nsp. in proper shape, and I am glad to find that you still intend to aid me with your advice and helping hand notwithstanding the breaking in of the Liby Com. on our plans. And it appears to me that the only way left for me to appear right before the world, is to state distinctly in the Preface the action of the Committee in relation to the arrangement of the Subject matter of the work, and in this I have nothing to fear, having all along <sup>acted</sup> in a straight-forward manner towards all parties concerned, and intend doing so to the end.

Drayton will be here in a few days, and I will learn what is meant to be effected by the proofs sent on, as ~~not~~ note came with the packet.

The box of leacti came safe to hand, and I was quite surprised to find the Specimens in such good condition after being so long confined; there appears to be 5 species in all - 2 Mammillaria, 2 Lerurus and 1 Echinocactus; many thanks to you for

them, and I am doing my best to get out of some of our  
Institutes <sup>Public</sup> on funds - means sufficient to go to support a Collection  
of plants for the Botanist as well as for our Garden here, and you  
can assist me very much in this work, and you might do it in  
the following way; A. J. Downing Esq<sup>r</sup>, Newburgh, N. Y. Editor of the  
Agriculturist, ~~has~~ through the instrumentality of others and myself, has  
been invited by President Fillmore - through the Commissioner of Public  
Buildings - to lay down a general ground plan for the improvement of the  
Public Squares here, and in a short time he will be on to report to the  
proper authorities; he was here about a month ago and expressed an  
earnest desire to see collected together at Washington all the hardy  
trees and plants from the N. West regions, now my good  
Sir could you not find time to write him a few lines in relation to  
this affair of interest to all of us, as to how it might be carried out  
through his influence combined with yours - in which I shall help-  
by consulting with Mr D<sup>r</sup> when he comes on here.

I have not yet got all our Greenhouse finished, and for  
want of proper shelter our Collection of plants ~~is~~ beginning to look  
bad.

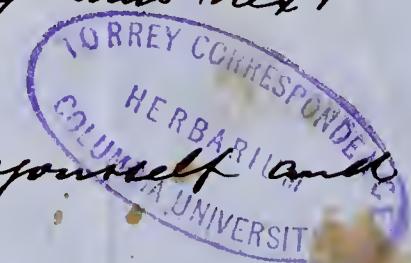
Nothing would give me greater pleasure than the  
receipt of a letter from my esteemed young friend Master  
Herbert, and you will please to tell him that, whether he  
condescends to write me or not, that I have got some nice things  
in the shape of plants &c &c which I intend sending him next  
spring.

Please to accept of my warm regards for yourself and  
family - And believe to remain

My dear Sir - Yours very truly

W<sup>m</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Brackenridge,

Please write soon - look on  
Cover for Capt<sup>r</sup> S. address



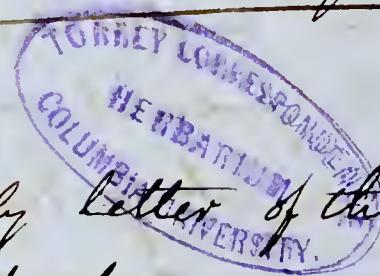
Dear Mr. McPherson  
of the U.S. Geol. Survey  
of the U.S. Geological Survey  
of the U.S. Geological Survey

Professor John Wesley  
Princeton  
New Jersey.



Dr. Jno Torrey  
Respected Sir.

Washington D. C. Jan<sup>y</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1851.



Your very friendly letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst was duly rec'd, and I really do wish that the same could be answered so as to prove satisfactory to us both, but I deeply regret that under present circumstances it cannot be so.

In relation to the Fern book, the Library Committee seem determined to have the English specific Character to follow its Latin translation; and that my name is to be prefixed to the new species - in place of Sp. nov., now with regard to these specific Char<sup>s</sup> I would state to you as I did lately to Capt<sup>r</sup> Wilkes, that when the Ms was written, that it was not intended that they should be printed at all, otherwise I would not have drawn out such detailed descriptions - but would rather have made my remarks more full on the species individually; and with respect to my name being attached to the new sp<sup>e</sup>, I would state that, I very willingly through the suggestion of Dr-Gray and I believe you self - agreed to have Sp. nov. substituted for it. But my book the Committee says must just be like Dr- Dana's in the arrangement of its matter, and you will see that this is impossible, for as you will perceive - there will be 1<sup>st</sup> the Latin Specific Char<sup>s</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup> the same in English and 3<sup>rd</sup> a detailed specific description, which will form a regular piece of Tautology from beginning to end. In fact I am heartily sick (after all my labour with yours combined) in contemplating the present state of things, and what may be the end of this crooked affair. You truly say that ("if my position was an independent one") that we might do certain things, and which I agree we could, and the stand that

I would take if I was free, would be a sturdy one; but I do not think that under existing circumstance it would be prudent in me at the present moment to take a determined stand against the wishes of a set of men, whose position - not knowledge of the matter under consideration - would be ~~sure~~ to crush me; but I do hope that the time is coming when justice will be done me in some other quarter -

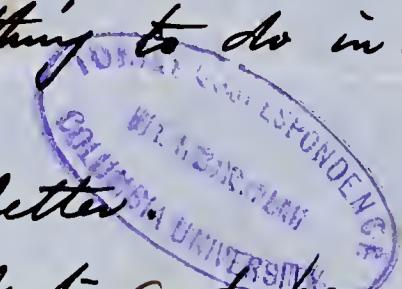
I have had by me for these last two weeks about 20 pages of Proof wherein both the Latin and English Sp<sup>c</sup>Characters are given, and I have corrected some of the more glaring errors of the press, which is a new kind of work to me. Mr Drayton is to call on <sup>thursd</sup> Monday, to take - or have these proofs sent back to the Printer.

I deeply regret that Capt<sup>n</sup> Wilkes should have penned you such a letter as you describe, and he certainly made a mistake in saying that you were not asked to do any thing for me but "translate the Specific Characters" - as he knew full well that I went twice to Princeton to consult with you on matter altogether different from translating; he knew also full well that I had little knowledge in drawing up MSS. for printing, and that you had at my request generously condescended to help me all that you could, and I do think that a due respect for your feelings and mine, might have suggested a different course on his part; and that would have been to have let us alone and finish the book, and to have allowed you something handsome for the translation, at least. And I further regret this difficulty between Capt<sup>n</sup> W. and yourself - as I look upon myself as being somewhat <sup>as it was concerning my affairs</sup> the Cause thereof - but I am deeply indebted to you in addition to your kindness in other

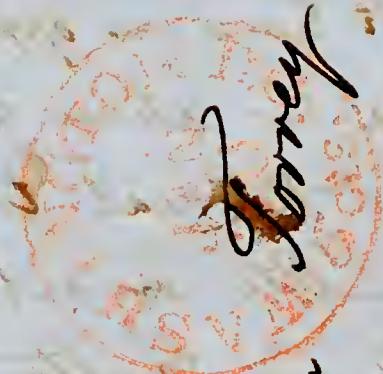
matters, for having acted so prudently under such exciting circumstances; and I do still hope that the difficulty in regard to my Book may be removed through your influence in conjunction with Prof<sup>r</sup> Agassiz - who I understand is to be in Washington soon - on his way to the Florida Keys - although at the same time there are doubts in my mind in regard to the Committee changing their opinion in this matter - on account of the peculiar way it has been brought before them; for my part I have been trying to have an opportunity of talking the matter with Mr Pearce, since his return to the City, but have not yet found him at leisure, but the real truth of the matter is, that no one <sup>here</sup>, either in the Committee or out of it, know anything at all about the nature of the matter contended for by us -

I am pleased to hear that you have - or are about to get possession of the Salt-Lake plants; I find that by playing our Cards right, that you can secure all collections of the same kind that come this way. In regard to these Salt Lake plants, <sup>I learned</sup> that a certain individual was after them, in order that he might describe and have them published in the Smithsonian Transactions, but this same individual had neither Books, Brains or Nerbaria at his command to effect such an end - Prof<sup>r</sup> Henry had nothing to do in this case.

I would like much to see Capt<sup>r</sup> W<sup>r</sup>'s letter. I am very busy just now among the living plants - and have not much time to attend to Book making - in fact it is a kind of a cold water job. Please to write at first convenience, and believe me in my kind regards to the members of your family and believe me Sir to remain always very respectfully Wm D. Brackenridge.



*Paid*



*Professor John  
Conrad  
New Jersey.*



Washington D.C. Feb<sup>r</sup>y 27<sup>th</sup> 1857.

Respected Sir,

Yours of the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. I should have answered sooner, but owing to the great confusion that prevailed, and feeling convinced by individuals here in relation to the Fern Book, I could not till now communicate any thing intelligible to you touching that work.

On the same day I rec'd your letter - I had one from Doctor Pickering, in which he is very candid and friendly in his remarks regarding all that transpired between you and him in relation to your labours on my Book; my motive in asking the Doctor to call upon you, was to bring about a state of things here at head quarters, which no writing of mine to you could have accomplished. I am very much pleased indeed to learn by your letter - and the Doctor, that you are willing to go on and finish the translation of my specific Characters into Latin, and permit the original English ones to stand, which last arrangement is much against my wish - as I know it is against yours - and I may add - all propriety.

You may rest perfectly satisfied that I never for a moment entertained the remotest idea that you wished to claim for yourself any undue credit for the part you have taken in assisting me to prepare the Fern Book for the press; and if I had, you may rest assured that I would have been candid enough to have stated the same to you without laying the matter before a third party.

and I had made up my mind to give you full credit  
in the preface for the kind suggestions and time spent  
in looking over my Ms - apart from the translations;  
but unfortunately a difficulty in relation to the work  
occurred, which I fondly hope will not effect our friendly  
relations for the present or future.

The Committee being anxious to have the Fern Book printed  
with the least possible delay, and at the time when it was  
uncertain whether you would continue the translations  
etc etc, I was authorized (if I thought proper) to employ  
some capable individual to perform that work - and to  
correct the proofs - and for which a fair compensation would  
be allowed; and having informed myself about what  
round amount the Committee would be willing to give  
for that purpose, I find that I cannot exceed One hundred  
and fifty dollars (\$150); and preferring as I do, to have  
you to finish what you have already proceeded so far  
with, I therefore on behalf of the Committee offer you that  
amount, to be paid when the work is completed; should  
you accept of that consideration, it would be presumption  
in me to tell a man so versed in the Science of Botany  
as you are, what amount of labour you are to bestow  
on my Ms: but the Committee expects the individual  
who undertakes the task for the sum above stated, to  
make all the translations - and correct the proofs in  
part at least; and I shall on my part solicit of you  
as heretofore - to make such suggestions and corrections  
as your critical eye may detect; and for this latter  
you shall have my thanks - and for the whole, due

Credit shall be given you in the proper place. And in regard to the old arrangement of having 60 extra copies of the work printed for ourselves - each having an equal share in the cost and profits, I see no cause for making alterations - that is - if you do not.

As the English specific descriptions are to follow the Latin translations, it will therefore - as far as is consistent with a proper style in such matters, be necessary that the translations are <sup>given</sup> as literal as possible; I have been looking at some of those you sent me, and find that in some of them the translations are <sup>exactly</sup> not literal, but perhaps my descriptions were too lengthy; and <sup>should</sup> you undertake to assist me further, we must have some understanding on this head.

The packet of Californian seeds came safe to hand, please to thank Master Herbert for his kindness, and tell him that during this Spring I am going to send him a box of plants, seeds and some nic nacks. Remember me kindly to Mrs Forney and the young ladies; and please to write me soon. and let me know what you <sup>intend</sup> doing in regard to my offer, and what amount of <sup>my</sup> Mss you have ready for the printer, and how long it will take you to finish the remainder, (I have still 30 pages of Mss to send you yet) the Committee being anxious to have it out.

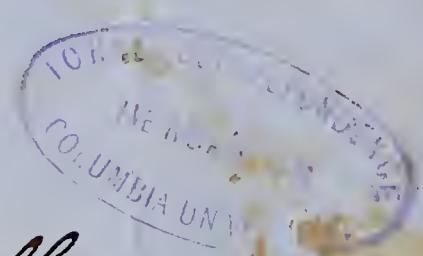
I remain

Yours

Very respectfully

W<sup>m</sup> D. Brackenridge

To Professor Mo-Forney }





Paid  
to  
John Brown Company  
Princeton  
New Jersey.

Washington Hall. March 24<sup>th</sup> 1851.  
Professor Dr. Torrey.  
My dear Sir.

Yours of Feb 26<sup>th</sup> enclosing a letter from Doctor A. Gray, was duly received; and after weighing well in my mind the nature of the contents of both letters, I concluded that the best course for me to pursue - was to hand the one from the Doctor, over to the Library Committee - which I did; and I do not doubt but by this time the Committee have replied to the Doctors letter through you. It was perhaps better that the Committee should now be made aware of the Doctors opinion on the style in which he thinks the Botany of the Expediton should make its appearance - than at a more distant date.

I herewith enclose you the Doctors letter.

Did you receive my letter of Feb 26<sup>th</sup>? it contained proposals from me in relation to the Fern Book, if it came to hand - please be kind enough at your first convenience to reply to it.

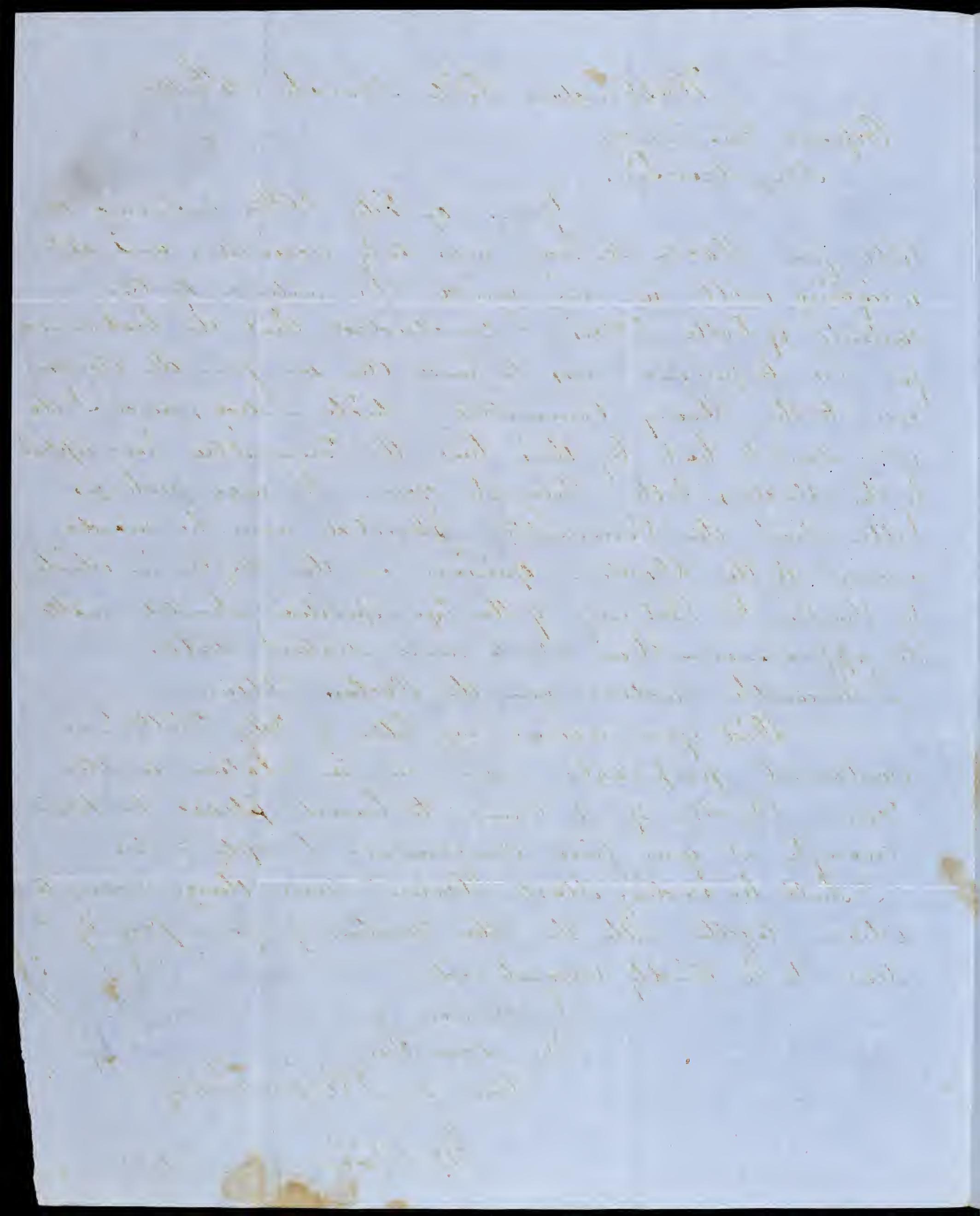
I shall be sending Master Herbert some things soon, - to whom - together with the other members of your family I desire to be kindly remembered.

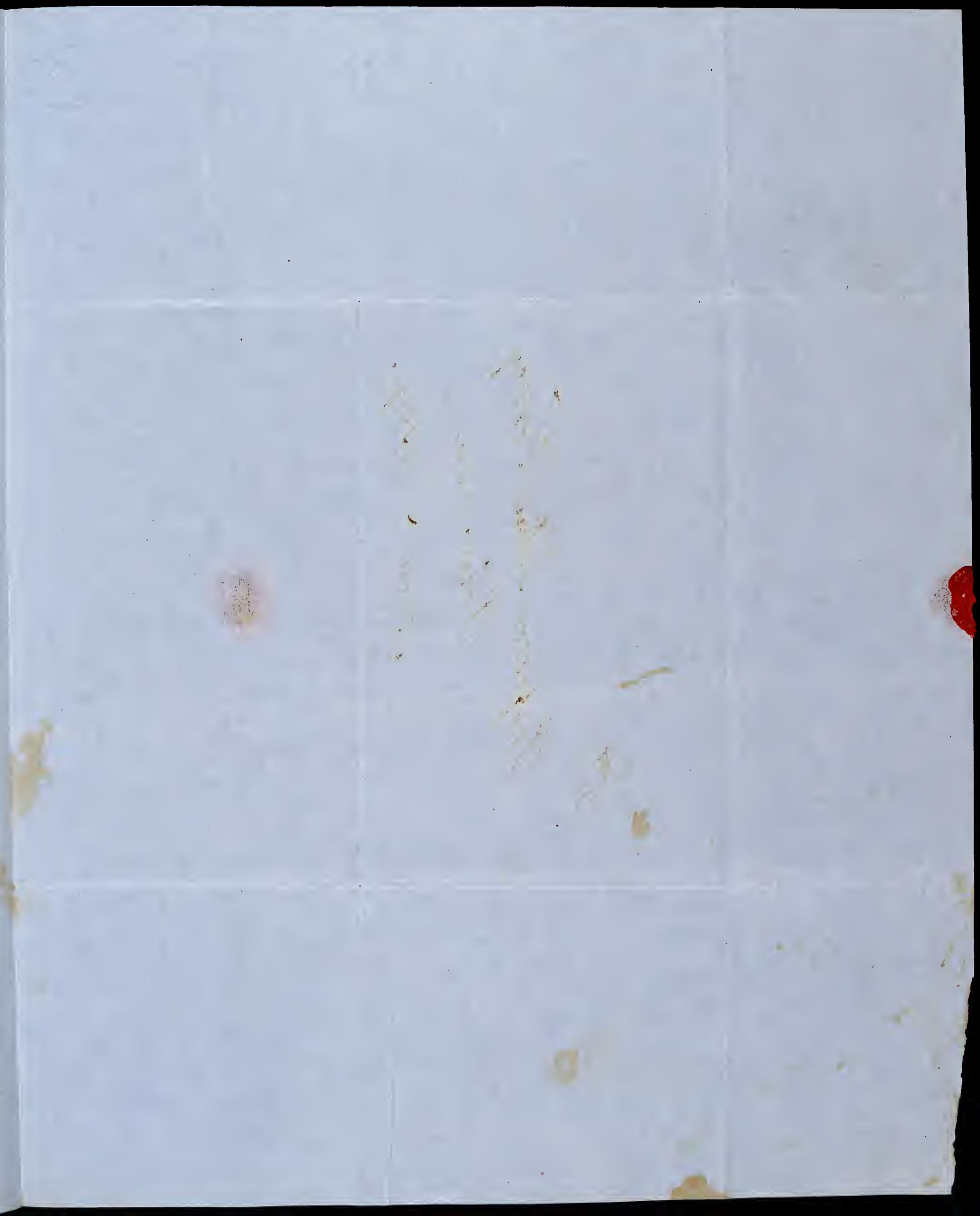
I remain  
My dear Sir

Yours very Respectfully

Wm L. Brackenridge.





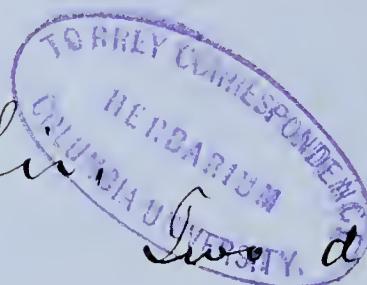


*Protopeltis* Gurney  
Princeton  
New Jersey.

Washington City. June 7<sup>th</sup> 1857.

Dr. Jno Torrey

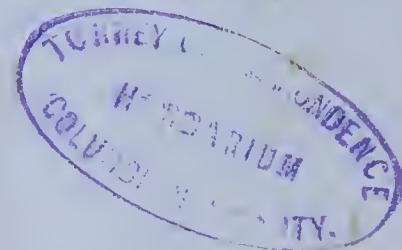
My dear Sir

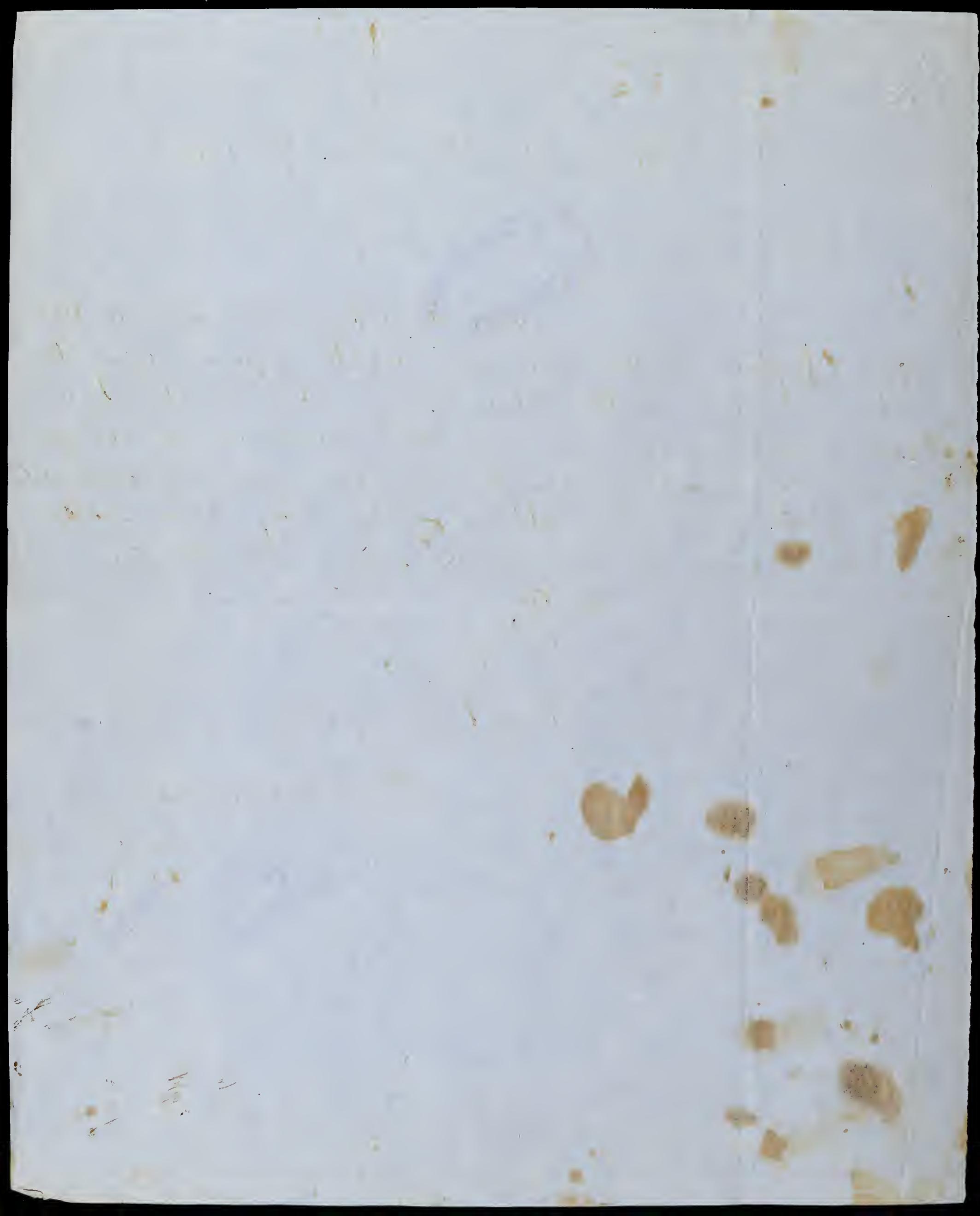


Two days ago I received a note from Captain Wilkes, directing me to request you to return to me - all the Manuscript of my Fern Book in your possession - at an early date; and in so doing, I would request of you (on my own part), to send all the Notes and Translations you may have made, as these will be valuable to me individually.

I am  
Sir Y  
ours  
Very respectfully

P. D. Brackenridge.





Dr. Low Gray.

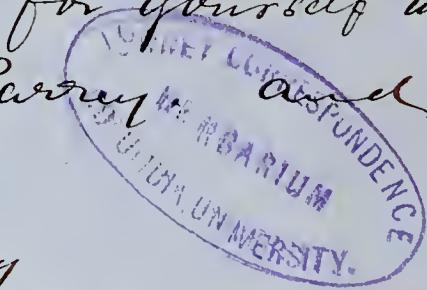
Many thanks to you my good Sir for your Note of May 15 - accompanied by the Packet of Californian Seeds, I shall do my best with these Seeds.

Dr Grays letter to the Committee - is quite to the point, and we shall wait patiently to see what effect it will produce in that quarter; I herewith return you the Copy of the same - and thank you for the perusal.

I tried yesterday to get C. W. to withdraw his instructions to me - to send for my MSS - but did not succeed; and I do not think that you look for an explanation from me in relation to the fact of the MSS being sent for, as I believe you to understand my feelings in relation to yourself and this affair perfectly.

Please to accept of my warm regards for yourself and family, and remember me kindly to Dr Parry.  
I believe me to remain Yours  
Very sincerely

Wm D. Bucknidge



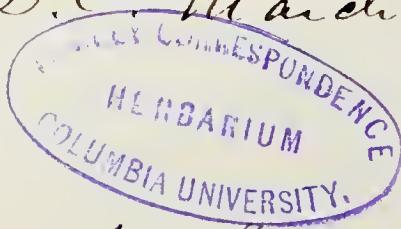
Washington D.C. 1

June 7<sup>th</sup> 1857.



Washington D.C. March 12<sup>th</sup> 1855.

Dr. Wm. Torrey  
My dear Sir.



Yours of the 18<sup>th</sup> ult<sup>m</sup> with specimens  
of Ferns - came safe & hand, and I would have replied  
sooner, But having purchased a place in the vicinity  
of Baltimore, I have been absent, making the necessary  
arrangements - previous to removing my family &c  
to what I consider is now likely to form our per-  
manent abode. This new place is on the Great  
York Road, near the village of Govanstown, about 14  
miles from Baltimore, and consists of about 30 acres  
of good land - on which is a good Orchard,  
Dwelling House, Stable, Barn Greenhouse &c &c. price  
\$400 per acre - a big sum you will say, But I  
think it can be made to pay. At all events  
I shall be my own master, which is no small  
consideration to an independent Scotian."

Since my return I have examined the Ferns sent.  
No 1, is ~~a~~ decidedly a Nottochilceana, and do not  
find that it differs in any important character from  
the N. sinuata, Kaulf. No 2, is a Chitronia,

and I think the species is the Scariosa of Presl.  
& Kaulf. as also the Acrostichum scariosum of  
Swartz. collate with your copy of that author.

N<sup>o</sup> 3. I do not see how this can be distinguished  
as a species from the Platyloma andromedifolia,  
I. Sm. the Pteris andromedifolia, Kaulf. A native  
of California, I have compared the specimen anti-  
marked "Texas", with one from "Hills. vicinity of San  
Francisco", and find that the Rhachis & stipe of the  
Texan plant is slightly grooved in front, with the points  
of the pinnales slightly macronulate. But you know  
my good Sir, that the effects of location & climate  
would effect these slight distinctions; it is very  
likely that you have specimens of the Fern referred to,  
from California - so please to collate. N<sup>o</sup> 4, is  
only a form of N<sup>o</sup> 3 - grown in the shade.

Some time ago. I saw an article on Mexican  
Ferns by M. Spring. in the Memos Acad. Scien.  
Brux. par. 15. Perhaps that might throw  
some light on the Ferns now under consideration.

Prof. Henry appears to have got over his troubles

for the present, but it is only for a short time,  
and here I the Professor, I would - so soon as the  
sun shone bright upon my acts, resign the whole  
concern in a dignified manner.

I am glad to hear of the fine batches of Western plants  
now under your consideration. But I am more  
anxious to have all the Ex. Expedition published. Dr.  
Gray & yourself will no doubt be able to get each  
a vol. published before the \$29000 is expended, which  
has lately been appropriated for that purpose - and  
I understand it.

I cannot get either the latter prep copies of my  
Book, or copies of the Plates, which have been in the  
hands of the latter these last 5 months, and if I  
thought that they would use you in the same manner  
that they are now treating me, I would advise you  
to be careful in seeing before you go to Prep - that the  
way is clear.

With the expectation of having the pleasure of seeing you  
in person in N. York - in the early part of December.

I remain Yours - very truly

W. D. Brackenridge.

