

New York, April 29th 1831

Dear Sir,

I have just found a note on my study table, left by Mr. F. Brown, informing me of an opportunity of sending a parcel to you on Tuesday next. Unfortunately I am in the midst of the confusion of removing my quarters, & my collections are so deranged & un-come-at-able, that I fear it will not be in my power to send you much at this time. I will, however, try & put up a few specimens for you, for I hope, on Monday next to have at least my own apartment in order.

If you should visit New York the present season I hope it will not be when I am absent at Princeton - for I expect to spend about 9 weeks at that place, commencing with the first of June next. My residence in the city is No. 30 Mc. Dougal St. - on the corner of Prince St. - where I shall be very happy to see you.

I am at present much occupied with botanical pursuits. The 2nd. vol. of my Flora is at last resumed, - & I am engaged in superintending the printing of an American ed.ⁿ of Lindley's new work, entitled "An Introduction to the Natural System of Botany" It is an 800. ed. of about 400 closely printed pages - & in the best style of that distinguished botanist. It is the very work which has been needed for years - for it is the 1st treatise on the Subject in the English language - if we except the

Translation of *Carpinus* by Dr. J. P. Smith. I have prepared an Appendix containing all the known North American genera, with the authority for each genus - a few synonyms - & the number of species hitherto observed within the limits of our Flora - that is - from Mexico, north - : the whole arranged according to the improved Orders in the body of the work. There will be also a few tables exhibiting the relative proportions of the different grand divisions, tribes, & Orders. I have also prefixed to the principal work a very excellent little introduction to botany by the same author.

I have, the present season resumed the study of Muscæ & have commenced a general account of the species hitherto observed in North America. The skeleton of the work is already prepared. & a place provided for any new materials which may come to hand. You will oblige me very much by collecting for me all the Muscæ which you observe. I look ~~very~~ for a large quantity of each species - so that when I have determined a number I may have enough to last for some time. The specimens should be in fruit if it is possible to obtain them in that state. I am sure we have many new species in the Middle & Northern States. For I showed my collection to Mr. Drummond the great Scotch Muscologist a few days ago & there were many in it with which he was unacquainted. This gentleman, as you are probably already acquainted, joined Capt. Franklin & Dr. Richardson in their last expedition to the North.

He spent two years (most of the time among the Rocky Mountains) & made extensive collections, especially of the Muscæ. On his return he published 50 sets of dried specimens, each containing about 280 species of Muscæ - one set I have just received. This gentleman is just now on his way to the regions west of the Mississippi for the purpose of collecting plants. He sent out two tons of paper round by the way of New Orleans. So that you may judge how extensively he intends to collect.

~~The~~ Muscæ. I particularly with Hepaticæ - these growing generally with the Muscæ can be collected with them - let them be collected even without fruit. Though I have mentioned these tribes I do not wish you to confine yourself to them - I want all the rarer plants - and also such as are somewhat peculiar to the region around you - In return I hope to furnish you with European specimens authentically named. & also such plants as grow in this region, that you do not already possess.

We have but little botanical news here - indeed there are but few workers left. Mr. Schumacher has just sent to Germany, to have printed his great work on *N. American fungi*, in 3 vols. Mr. Halley is preparing a Catalogue of the Cryptogamous plants growing within 50 miles of New York, & I am getting up a new catalogue of the Flowering Plants, according to the Nat. Method.

I am Dear Sir
Your truly
J. Torrey

Dr. A. Gray

Bridgewater

Oneida Co. N.Y.

Fav: of Mr. Clarke



Torrey, John. 1831. "Torrey, John Apr 29, 1831." *John Torrey letters* –.

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