

Answered
Mar. 22

Medical College, N. York. Saturday evening. March 1st
1834

Dear Doctor

I closed the Chemical Course last evening, & as you may suppose, I feel not a little relieved. Still I have an unpleasant task before me, - the examination of the Candidates for the Degree of M.D. By way of relieving the tediousness, I mean to scribble a letter to you - thought I proposed writing to you as soon as the College business was concluded. With Mr. Clark's assistance, & a little extra exertion on my own part, I was able to make all necessary preparations for the lectures. The young men behaved very well to the last hour.

I hope you had a pleasant journey home, & that you found all your friends in good health. Here, we continue very much as we were when you left us.

Within a week I have received some packages of plants. 1. A choice collection from Prof. Fischer of St. Petersburg - chiefly collected in Siberia - all neatly labelled - & Fischer's own name written on each paper! There are about four hundred plants in this lot - many of them species new to me -

2. A collection of very nice things from North Carolina - sent by the Modest Mr. Moses A. Curtis - whose letters have amused you not a little.

3. A good collection from Florida - the parcel alluded to by St. Alden, as sent in his box of books. I only received it yesterday!

I received a few days ago, a letter from Dr. Loomis one of the compilers of the Newborn Catalogue, informing me that he had transmitted a small collection of plants to me - principally species that I had wanted in this list. The parcel is in town, but it has not been called for yet.

Mr. H. B. Groom, the other author of the Catalogue has written to me from Tuscaloosa, informing me that he had taken up his residence in Florida, & would collect plants for me as far as his feeble health & professional duties (as a lawyer?) would permit.

One of our Students, who returns soon to New Orleans, & has been with G. W. Clinton, volunteered to collect largely for me in Louisiana. I think he will not disappoint me.

I have received duplicate bills of lading of my plants &c. shipped for me at Haere so long since - but the vessel which has the box on board (though long since due) has not yet arrived. ~~It is~~ not yet despair - but "hope deferred" &c.

Mr. Oakes has written me a long letter. He is still working very busily at his New England Flora, but he will not publish in less than three years - not until I have come out with the Synopsis. He complains, with good reason, of the great number of nominal species with which our Floras are crowded, & says we must not spare them,

I do intend to cut them down with mercy. & have already designated two or three regiments.

Leconte was in the laboratory last week - He has received no answer to his enquiries respecting the Cavalry Expedition - neither has Maj. Delapfield heard from Washington on the subject.

I have almost made up my mind to deliver a course of popular botanical lectures in this city, previous to my going to Princeton. My friends say that I shall succeed, & that a choice clasp can be raised with a very little exertion.

I shall probably lecture at Nibbs's Saloon, a very respectable place, & conveniently situated, for the rich people of the "West End". It is said that I can have the hall of

Columbia College to lecture in - This would save me at least one hundred dollars, but I could hardly expect so large a clasp there, as at Nibbs's. When I have completed my arrangements I will write to you again. If I do lecture in New York, I shall not leave the city for Princeton till the middle of May next.

Yours truly

P. S. Mr. Mayhew. We are all well this morning. I am chatting as usual a few minutes after breakfast. The children often talk about you. They say that they do not have such pleasant rides on your back, as they used to have. Mr. T. desires me to send you his kind regards, & Edward wishes to be remembered to you, & says that he thinks you might soon write to him another - P. S.

Asa Gray, M.D.

Utica, New York



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Torrey, John. 1834. "Torrey, John Mar 1, 1834." *John Torrey letters* –.

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