

New York, Augt. 1838.

My dear friend.

Last week in passing up the river in a Steamboat I was introduced to President S. E. Dwight, & although I avoided him, yet Col. Stone, who was also in the boat, seemed anxious that I should argue with him about the pretended magnetic discoveries of Dr. Sherwood. I, of course, took a stand against Dr. S. & on enquiring of the learned President whether he had read a piece in the Princeton Review, he seemed to be much annoyed, ~~that~~ & made some severe remarks respecting its author, which I resented warmly. He acknowledged that he had merely glanced over the article, as he was unwell when Dr. Sherwood showed it to him. I reproved him for condemning what he had never read - but he said, that he did not possess the work, or something to that effect. I did not enter into any discussion with him, as to Dr. S.'s claims, partly because I did not understand the subject well enough - & partly because I knew him to be quite ignorant of it. He made several assertions, (I seemed fully to believe them) as to those discoveries, & I should like to know from you what they really are. If you have an extra copy of your article I should be very

glad to see it. For I am unacquainted with any human
whotakes the Review. Perhaps, if the article is not long,
you will get one of the students to copy it for me. By the
way President D. seems to have been ~~down~~ disappointed
- & I think he is an unhappy man.

Dr. Gray has not returned from Michigan. We received
a letter from him to day. & he speaks in the strongest lan-
guage of the beauty of the Country & the enterprise of
the Managers of the University. I regret to learn, however,
that they have employed Davis as their architect - for I
don't entertain a very high opinion of his science. Dr. Gray
thinks as I do about him. The Dr. says, that the plans
which they expected from Mr D. had not all arrived, & that
the architect thought it best to go on to ~~Detroit~~ Michigan
& see the grounds himself. Dr. G. will probably visit
them for him. & then return to New York. He says,
that the Council are determined to make one or two pro-
fessorial appointments in the autumn - of that you will
be one of them - Keep this close. I will give you more
particulars when the Dr. returns. Mr. Whipple, an
old friend of Fossil & mine, who was at West Point when I
was Stationed there. is one of the chief men in the University
& can carry any reasonable plan. He will be in New
York in a week or two. & stop at my house, both on his
way to Philadelphia & on his return. It may be well for you

to happen this way when I give you a hint.

I hope that the account of Sherwood's discovery did not
reach the British Association, & thus expose us to ridicule
before that noble body. We must do all in our power
to ~~put an end to~~ quackery in our land - & every man must feel
so jealous of his own particular Science as to refute all
pretended discoveries.

Did you get the plants for Jaeger? They were not
exactly what he asked for - but I sent him some rare
species, in lieu of those which I have not on hand at present.

I am working at the Flora every day, but have not much
time for the labor, when I have to pay all the cost of
get scarcely any returns.

My very kind regards to Mrs. Henry & all our good
friends at Ponchartraine. Yours sincerely
John Torrey

Tuesday Morning. Dr. Gray has just returned from Detroit. He says, that a meeting
of the Council will be held on the 10th prox. when it is probable that some appropriations
will be made for apparatus. They will probably begin with \$5000, part of which
will be expended for chemical apparatus. This money will be for foreign app^{ts} only. Now
Dr. G. wishes you to sit down & make out a list of apparatus in your branches, with an
estimate of the probable cost of each - to this amount - say, of \$2000. I will furnish a
catalogue of the chemicals. He wishes to send the statement immediately to the Board.
Get all ready by Friday, when the Doctor will make you a visit. Yours J.T.

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My very kind regards to Mrs. Henry & all our good friends at Pomfret. Yours sincerely
Whitmore

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Make out also a list of books in Natural History!

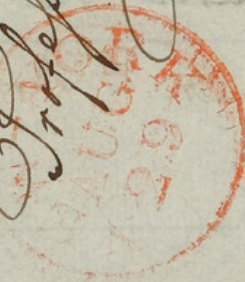
Dr Torrey
- meets at double
the woods go

Aug 1838

New Jersey

Princeton

Professor L. Henry



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Torrey, John. 1838. "Torrey, John Aug. [29], 1838 [to Joseph Henry]." *John Torrey letters* –.

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