

New York, Feb. 20th, 1843.

My dear friend,

The parcel by Adams' express came safely to hand last Thursday. I thank you for the kind letter it contained. I delivered Mr. Carey's last Friday evening. The parcel for Engelman & the note to Wiley & Putnam are also attended to. Hooker's letter was very satisfactory - but why was it so long on the way? He must long since have received mine, & I hope to receive an answer soon. What a splendid establishment he will make of old Herd! We must aid him in storing it with all desirable American plants, & we can do much for him in the course of a few years.

Carey has not looked at plants since you left New York! I fear he will relapse into total apathy as regards Botany. You may be sure he will do nothing with Hydrophyllaceae.

Buckley has opened half a dozen boxes of his bones, & I called at Carey's store, with Cozzens, to look at them. They are not so clean & well defined as I expected to find them, & the limestone cannot be entirely removed without great labor. Still the collection possesses much interest & I think it would sell for several hundred dollars, in London. Buckley does not please me altogether - but it is not worth while to particularize the cases in which his conduct is offensive. He lacks candor, & he needs plain dealing ~~to~~ ^{to set him} right.

I don't mean to give him information as to all the new
genera founded on ^{his} plants. He brought me an *Acantho-*
crus thing which he said did not agree with *Puellia* or *Durbinia*.
as, indeed, it does not. The plant is probably *S. brachneura* of
Pursh, but is probably one of Nees's new genera. Is it in a late
number of the *Linnaea* that he described some N. Amer. *Acanthaceae*?
I forgot just now. The fruit of this plant is very curious indeed.
Buckley says you told him I must describe the new *Discochloa*.
of he yields the point.

ps. I find that
it is
resubmitted
N. H. W. H. H.

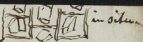
If I send the new *Santalaceae* genus
to Endicott, to whom must he look for pay? It can be
drawn & printed in two or three days. How many copies must
be added? & is the Stone to be reserved?

I like the proposal of Hooker respecting the austral collection
of the Exploring expedition - but can you persuade Pichery to
recommend it? Surely it is the best that can be done with
them. It will never do to work them up in this country until
Hooker's N. Zealand flora is published.

There is now little chance of the Oregon appropriation being
made - so that Lindheimer can hardly get a place in any
government expedition - but why cannot he go with one of the
trading Companies to Sitka? Or up the Niagara with the
few people? Buckley is urgent to accompany Audubon
- but he will hardly be in time.

Bailey has written long letters on the crystals in the
bark, wood & leaves of ~~these~~ shrubs & even of herbaceous plants.
He finds them in vast numbers in a great many orders - he
has measured their angles of determination their crystalline forms
of composition. In the bark of *Populus grandidentata* a slice as thick
as a letter paper contains 1,000,000 in a square inch - & as there are about

a single or hemispherical crystal in each cell of the bark - thus.



150 thousands of paper in an inch - there will be 150 millions of crystals
in a cubic inch! They are, in almost all leaves, scales of lime. He
asks whether a summary account of his observations would not be interest-
ing to the botanical public? Don't you say yes - certainly?

Can you copy for me the figures of *Ragwortis*, *Reed*, *Prind*, & *S.*
f. g. 10? They are taken from *Enallagma* of *Enallagma*, *Schub.* Did he
copy from *Schub.* or did he have original specimens? I sent to Hooker
for a copy of *Schubert's* figure. Last week I made very satisfactory
drawing of the venation, size, &c. of the fragment in my book. & with
the specimens loaned by Wright from Ecklon's herb. I can make out
quite a decent figure to be engraved for my report.

What do you think of *Messier's* work? He seems to have given
very little of his own - & the form of the book is very awkward.

Tell Dr. Weibull that *Platina* black is very dear & I
could hardly get him any in time for his lecture tomorrow.
It is made without much difficulty - & I presume he has
plenty of the scrap metal, fit only for *Explosion* in ag. rep.

I went home last Saturday & found the family as well
as usual. Little Robert's back was giving sore & I learn
that it is now quite painful so that the poor child suffers much,
& needs his mother's almost constant attention. Last Friday I received
a joint letter from Mrs. Toney & Eliza. They have all suffered
from the cold weather, & the servants are out of patience. Mary
Mumphy is to leave this week. Jim was so troublesome that
they sent him away - & he goes tomorrow to the fields. They
all with themselves back in the city. I must, if possible, get
a more comfortable house. On Friday I shall try &
finish my course of looking. for I am weary of this mode of
life - especially as I make scarcely anything by my labor of mis-
ery. Perhaps some thing will occur ere long. Yesterday I
heard Dr. Skinner, in the morning - & in the afternoon young Dr. Baerlein, who
has been laboring in our church for the last fortnight. There is much

sermoning among the people. & it is said that many of our churches are awakened. Have you any good news to send from Boston or its neighborhood? Our only hope for the world is in numerous & powerful revivals of religion. Oh that I had more heart to engage in the blessed work of spreading the gospel as far as my influence extends. - I must break off for it is midnight.

Asa Gray, M.D.
 Fisher Professor of Nat. History &
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, Mass.

Lobelia Texensis, Raf.
 a scarlet-flowered species
 Link, Bot. Skizzen
 DC. pr. Rar. Berol.
 t. 33. (lost in London
 hands, may)

Dr. J. Torrey
 My Dear Sir
 I have the honor to
 acknowledge the receipt of
 your letter of the 14th inst.
 and in reply to inform you
 that the seeds of *Ruellia*
 have been forwarded to you
 by Adams' Express line
 of the 15th inst. I am,
 Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours,
 J. Torrey

Tuesday morning. I ordered your box of plants sent off by Adams' Express line
 You will get it to-day or tomorrow. With you look at the seeds of *Ruellia*
 stuck as the paper inside. Dip them for a moment in boiling water & apply your best
 glass. I can only see imperfectly - but they are very beautiful. The sheaths of the
 threads remain entire & distinct. The threads are mostly like annular vascular
 tissue - but also in many cases contain a spiral filament. Have you ever seen such seeds?
 Write soon of behavior and cordially yours
 J. Torrey



Torrey, John. 1843. "Torrey, John Feb 20, 1843." *John Torrey letters* –.

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