

Meyers

Truster Room, Medical College, Feb. 2nd, 1843

Here I am at the examination table, & you know what a stupid business it is to gauge the brains of thick-headed students! I finished my lectures on Friday evening last, & the next morning went to Princeton - where I remained till yesterday noon. All were as well as usual - but Mrs. Loney was a good deal exhausted by nursing Herbert. The dear little fellow was beginning to show his spirit with considerable fulitude - & till I left home, he was gradually improving, so far as to enjoy himself & to sleep tolerably well - but I don't think his disease is at all abated. He is very affectionate & endears us to him more & more every day. I was pleased to hear him make an extempore prayer in his simple way - & of his own accord, to hear him say "Bless Dr. Gray". He talks about you, & I trust you will see him some time within your next vacation. When I was about leaving home, he said, "Father, I wish you to bring me a pair of crutches from New York, & then I can run about like sixty". These little matters would appear trifling to a stranger - but I know you will be interested in any thing that relates to one who is so dear to us both. - Jane accompanied me to New York, & is spending a few days with her friends. She expects to return with me on Saturday. Eliza & Madge

are studious, & make decided progress with their present excellent teacher.

We are probably to have a change in medical College - Some days ago the Regents sent a notice to the Trustees, that unless sufficient reasons should be presented, they proposed, at their next meeting, the suppression of the chair of physiology - or rather, to merge it in Anatomy. The Trustees have sent up a remonstrance (prepared at a small meeting) - but it will not be regarded.

Webster has sent me another letter - inquiring what chemical text-book I would recommend for a class of boys - I could not help him - for I need a text-book myself - I mean one that will answer for Concordia.

A small parcel, addressed to "Asa Gray Esq. Concordia" was left at the College yesterday. It shall be sent to Wiley & Putnam. They put me up a copy of the "New pal of the Flou" - It looks very well, - & is dog cheap at a dollar!

Since Friday last, I have not seen Buckley. He must have his Catalogue nearly finished - & after I have looked it over it shall be sent to you.

Will you look over your specimens of *Conchocoma*, probably, & see if that green plant with a stipitate

ovary can be the same. In none of my books, do I find any account of an exserted ovary in that plant. The places are said also, to be dried - whereas they are entire in Fremont's *Conchocoma*. [Now they are slightly dried.]

Dr. Fisher has returned from Washington - He says that a bill was prepared, containing an elaborate plan for a National Institution, based on the Smithsonian legacy - but it was concluded not to bring it up till next session of Congress. The end now aiming to about \$700,000. There will doubtless be a professorship of botany - if he was told that if the bill passed, I could have the place - Pickering, has said very plainly, that he does not wish it. So, there is a faint prospect ahead.

March 30. Buckley came in this evening, & brought his Mss. acc^t of his N.C. excursion. I shall take it home with me tomorrow, & send it again a few days. *Sprengelium maculatum* n. sp. Buckley has been added for the *Urticaria puberula*. He left a blank for a Subgenus name - but I entirely declined the responsibility of naming this thing, as we have the first sp. - He has 4 *Phacelia* (three of which are new. I have no confidence in them - but we have hardly *Cary* & *Adone* - want for them. He has written out the new *Descurainia* - with the name for me to fill up. This I understood you to say was to be for me to describe, as well as to name. *Andromeda recurva* stands in - *S. Zosteria*. There are 3 new *Carex*, *Hamamelis villosa* (p. 200). *Strum. polymorphum* he does not find - but says at the end of his title "likely *S. quercifolium* Nutt." *Frag. pennsylvanica*, *Vaccinium lucidulum*, *Myrica asplenifolia*, *Andromeda (descurainiae)* *Andromeda*, *Scutellaria agitata*, *Angelica canadensis*. There is a "Suppl. containing descriptions of some new species from other places" - *Salicium* *Deale* *Descurainia* - changed from *Macbr.* *Descurainia*. *Juncus viridifolius*! *Malva laevis* n. sp. Several from specimens given to him by Leake. *Rhus alabamica*, *Salix pubula*, *Urtica glaberrima*, *Sabbatia alpestris*, *Delphinium halimifolium*, *Quercus grandifolia*. We shall find in examⁿ some more. Some have been rejected - more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of all the candidates.

March 6 (Monday evg.) I spent Saturday morning at Carey's, finishing Fremont's plants - & at 2 left the College to call for Jane - who was to ~~leave~~ return with me by the 2³⁰ train for N.B. - but I was detained a few minutes to long, & had to take the 5 o'clock train afterwards. I found all the family very well. Dear Herbert has been quite comfortable & happy for some days past - but I don't know that his disease is abated. This can only be ascertained after a considerable time. He talks much about you - & says "I love D. Gray" - & "I mean to write to him when I grow larger" - Yesterday, when lying on his bed & seeing the children playful around him, he said (rather in a humorous tone, than complaining) "what is the use of having legs if I can't use them?" He asked his mother what wicked thing he had been doing that God made him sick! - Carey says you did not wish under genus *Bigelovia* that the name had been used by Smith for *Borja* & *Forebaird*. If

7 M
 Asa Gray, M.D.
 Fisher Prof. of Natural History
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, Mass.



This letter was directed before I left N York - & before Mr. B. see? your last letter - or I should have omitted the full title.

I mistake not, however, DeCandolle himself mentions Smith's genus as one of the demolished *Bigelovias*. Carey received lately a few seeds from Engelman for you - & sent them to Wrey & Putnam. Jane gave me the portion of your letter intended for me. - I did not know of Don & Kippist's obs. on the seeds of *Acanthaceae*. ^{White hairs} These of Reuell. & Stephens are different from those of any seeds that I have seen. They rise up when moistened, having been apparently glued down or appressed to the surface of the seed. I have not the part of the *Linnaea* containing Nees' gen. of N. Am. *Acanth.* You may be sure that the Silliman's will not agree to your plan respecting Collaboration - & sooner or later we shall have a new journal. I will endeavour to see Henry in the morning & communicate to him your message. - Mrs. Torrey received your letter this afternoon, & I suppose will answer it soon. I shall be anxious to hear about the success of your first lecture - after that is over you will feel more comfortable - tho' your hardwork will not be over. I am now fairly at work on Putnam - & hope to get my report ready in three months. - Yours with much affection John Torrey.



Torrey, John. 1843. "Torrey, John Mar 2, 1843." *John Torrey letters* –.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/310915>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/343058>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia (Open Collections)

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.