

Princeton, Dec. 25th 1845

My dear friend.

It is now late a Christmas night - & I am once more in the bosom of my dear family. I did not come home Saturday last - so that my absence from home has been longer this time than usual. I had felt a little anxious about Mrs. Torrey's health, for she had been quite indisposed for week or two before I left. & on my return I was pained to find that she had been seriously ill. She has suffered a pretty sharp attack of pleurisy which confined her several days to her bed, & required active treatment. It was thought best that I should not be informed of her illness, unless it increased. She is now so much better that she came down stairs yesterday; & this afternoon we had her company to dinner. The danger from the pleurisy is quite over - but I have fears about the after effects.

My time has been so much occupied in the city that I have not been able to write - at least such a letter as I wished to send. Two of your letters are before me - one of them at least a fortnight old (it is without date) - the other received a few days ago. (likewise without date - except "Thursday ref. "). The parcel of accompanying notes were received yesterday - & to-day immediately after my arrival. I delivered the very acceptable presents to the girls. They will all make their acknowledgements in a day or two, when they get settled down a little. Madge came home & brought with her Mary Shaw, Eliza Urnston, & one of her schoolmates. So we have a lively house. This evening Mrs. Torrey enjoyed their sports in the dining room (for the large parlor will not be

ready till Saturday) - & I think the holidays will pass quite pleasantly.
Mr. Holten spent the evening with us. He gives what time he can spare
to Botany - & is daily making progress in some departments of the
science.

Thanks for that specimen of *Guttoscheda*. It came in very good
order, - but I have not yet had an opportunity of comparing it with
G. Californica.

I have seen Carey twice - & by this time he is in Buffalo.
He seems to have recovered much of his former zeal for Botany.
Surely he is mistaken in saying that I ~~am~~ look poorly. I am,
to be sure, not very fat - but my general health is good. The better
next, possibly of opinion that I commenced show that my appetite
has not diminished - & the bunches only troubled me for two
or three days early in the season.

I have not yet forwarded the parcel containing *Thermopsis* plants
- nor can you with it just now - as all your time must be taken
up in preparing for the Bot. Lecture. I will, however, if your
time is, look over the specimens, send the parcel immediately away
when to the City.

The specimen of maize (with involucrate grain) shall be sent
in the parcel - as well as the debate on the Bot. election at Edinburgh.
Your letter for Martin was put into Mr. Robert's hands - & I dare
not say that it was certainly deposited in the letter-bag of the Haver
packet.

I received letters from Hooker & Arnott by the last Haver
- the latter I enclose, as it is quite characteristic.

I am to remain at home (Dr.) till the Monday after next -
which will enable me to rest, & look a little at Botany. Our
house is now pretty comfortable - & in the spring I hope we
shall have a pleasant visit from you. - Then you will
be able to find us some advice about staying out the long.

Does Grape mean to do any more drawings of *Thermopsis* plants?
The new specimens will afford some good subjects - & you must
select from them, when they arrive, such as it would be desirable
to have figured. I have been expecting for the last fortnight
some botanical drawings sent home by *Thermopsis*. Mrs. G. told
me in a letter that Mr. Drayton (who is her cousin) would
forward them immediately. I suppose they were delayed by
the Scotch Gardens who accompanied the expedition. But
if they are not, whether then the specimens of his work sent to
me by *Thermopsis*, they will only answer to those that I send first - &
Colours of the plants, & new drawings, must be made from them
with the aid of dried specimens. I will forward the drawings as
soon as they arrive.

The girls are all in fine health & spirits - & the boys are
pretty well. Harkins goes off to the fair, tomorrow. I
must now stop for tonight.

Friday Morning. I have as yet seen only Olga this morning, as the
rest have not made their appearance. Mrs. Torrey has a headache - but
is not otherwise worse than yesterday. It is now the midst of winter -
& the sleighing is good. I should be glad to hear from you, this hot
vacation - but having been so much absent from my family, of late I
cannot spare the pleasure of spending the winter at home. Besides,
you are coming too busy to visit me just now. I think you must stay.

this season - to study without being run down with company; as has been
the case for some time past. I hope they ^{will} come off well. How glad I
should be to have such a fine set of illustrations and maps here made for you!
Then I could decline with some pleasure

Harby is up & busy at my side. He is the first to rise every morning - being
impatient to use his carpenter's tools. Harry & he agree exceedingly well.

"Tell Dr. Gray" (says Harby) "that I send him my love - & please send my little plant case."
I wish him a happy Christmas. All the rest send love - & Mrs. T. will write, or dictate
a letter very shortly. Yours affectionately John Dorey



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