

New York, Jan'y. 22nd 1846

My dear friend

First of all - pardon my writing to you on paper which is stamped with commercial emblems - I was in haste & could purchase no other at the time.

My last acknowledged yours of the 7th (I think it was) since which I have received nothing from you. Yet I will not complain knowing how often I need your forbearance. By this time you must be fairly underway with the Lowell Lectures, & your mind be fully occupied. The preparation of the illustrations has, as usual (I suppose) given you quite as much trouble as the lectures themselves. I am what you said in your last - Sprague will not be able to work for Fremont till till you are through. There must be at least a dozen plants in that last collection which I am figuring. We will work over the rest of when we meet in the Spring.

Would you like to see the specimens sent to me by Bailey (collected by an Army officer about Copacabana). There are some very curious things among them. How much I should be pleased to spend a month with you in studying new & rare plants!

This week I received from Blodgett the fruit of *Batis*. It is in fine condition, preserved in alcohol. Lindley was right as to the structure, as far as his materials would enable him to go. In my specimens many of the ovaries are abortive but there are plenty of perfectly ripe seeds. They are without albumen, the radicle

near the hilum. The cystidion are large fleshy & linear. obd.

The outcrop is concave. - the testis membranaceous. I have not both, with me for studying its place in the system. Can it belong to Urinaria? You shall have part of the specimens soon. If I made out the true structure of affinities, shall I send a note to Hooker friend, in Don. bot.?

When I left Princeton last Monday Mrs. Torrey was about as she had been for the preceding fortnight. The rheumatism is quite painful part of the time. I sincerely hope that it may not settle into a chronic form. As it is there is no much hope of her getting about for several weeks. It will not be prudent for her to be exposed to cold. I have advised her to keep in her room, & to maintain this in a steady & agreeable temperature. The girls & boys were all lively. Hastings has made up his mind to enter some mercantile office, as there is little prospect of his making a living by any profession. He tells Mrs. Torrey candidly that he did not love study. Such being the case I don't think it my duty to burden Mrs. Torrey with the expense of leading him. It was my hope that he would become him - then either study for the ministry, or follow the footsteps of his father - now however, he gives us little hope of being a scholar. Oliver is a more promising boy - with all his roughness. I hear from him now & then. Mary is doing very well at home - & I am sure her mother to be satisfied. Henry also begins to read at last & is picking up all kinds of knowledge besides.

== We have had a great snow in these dippings. With you it must have been severe indeed. The travelling south of Princeton is much retarded. I saw a gentleman to-day who left there at 10 o'clock yesterday - & did not reach New York till 10 o'clock to-day! On Long I heard the snow is said to be very deep. We at the Portman are concerned about the Librarian. There is great anxiety here to know what news she will bring. Surely the English will not commit themselves to hostile measures by the propagation of our Congress. The idea of war is so dreadful that I cannot bear to dwell on it. - Talking of war - did I not ask you for a copy of Fredricks' pamphlet? Do try & get me a copy.

I talked with Prof. Henry about the vacant Professorship in Harvard - but hardly think he will be a candidate - chiefly because the salary will not support him. He has here 1500 (or 1700 at first which) and a comfortable house - He was offered 2500 in Philadelphia without a house. I don't think he would leave his present situation for less than \$2000 & a house. He would be a great acquisition to Cambridge - but I suppose it would be impossible to get for him so high a salary. Indeed I don't know that I ought to desire his leaving Princeton for he is one of the few persons here with whom I sympathize.

Yours very cordially
A. A. Torrey



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