

New York, Feb. 17th 1847.

My dear friend -

I have allowed too long a time to elapse without writing to you - My time has ^{been} greatly cut off for a week or two past - & we are now in the midst of our examinations. Every night I am engaged till 12 o'clock - & in the day it is necessary for me to study when I am not taken up with company. Every day I have purposed writing to you - but have hitherto been prevented. Last Saturday I did not go home - but I heard yesterday that all were well. Next week my College labors for the season terminate.

It is probable that we shall remove to the city. For the good of the College I ought to live here - & I am convinced, also, that Princeton is not the place for my children. It is very pleasant there on many accounts - but there are serious objections to my remaining there much longer. A gentleman is negotiating for our place & I rather think he will purchase it giving me rather more than it has cost me. Perhaps we may go back to our old house in McDougall St. - If the Princeton place is sold very soon I shall almost certainly keep our house here. I have not rented it yet - but the present tenant will be glad to have it.

Henry has gone to Washington again - & will remain there much of the time till Summer. He saw Wilkes there a few weeks ago - & as the conversation turned to the Exploring Exped.ⁿ - he asked what was going to be done with the Botany. "Ol" said "W." that is all arranged. He understood W. to say that the

Fans were to be done by Breckinridge - Some other Crafts
by Tuckerman - & he does not remember whether any other
Craftsmen had been employed - Perhaps W. thinks that
Rich has done all the rest. I am pretty sure that
W. will oppose any more of the plants being given out - for
he can hardly be made to understand the difference between
such a work as *Prunus* & *Prunus*, & *Prunus*, *Prunus*. I have
written to F. Schlegel to know whether any further action will be
proper.

So Agassiz has made some new engagements in Boston!
Dr. Reavis, delayed ~~was there~~ nearly a week before he conveyed
to Ag. the resolution of our Board of Trustees - but I don't think
it would have made much difference, had he been informed by the
next mail - for Ag. was sick & bed - & had already partly
permeated some lectures on glaciers. His course in the med. college
seems to have been speeded up after our proposal reached him.
He could not send me invitation much earlier, as it was necessary
to be sure of a class first. I think that in case of failure, the
Lepo theme would come on afterwards who were prominent in
the matter.

Fuchsweyger, who was in Boston some
weeks ago, has been circulating a report here, that has caused
some unpleasant feelings - but he is such a fibber, that I cannot
believe him. He says that Dr. Gould told him, that he ^{Ag.} did not
wish to lecture here - that the Trustees asked for nothing but
to make money, & there was no love of science among us. Now
although there may be some little truth in these charges, it is
impossible that Agassiz ever made them. - Yet Fuchsweyger

assured me when I met him two or three days ago, that
Dr. Gould said it was so. Don't say any thing to Agassiz on
the subject.

My lectures ~~on~~ on Botany give considerable satis-
faction to the Class. If I had time to dress them up, they would
be more useful - & especially if I had a better set of illus-
trations. I have tried to touch up those notes on Campan-
ulaceae &c. but must now wait till the class is closed.

That queer shrub of Florida, sent by Chapman is nearly
allied to *Sabicea* & may drop in there for a while as a
supplement - but some of its characters are so peculiar that
if there were "a few more of the same sort" it ought to be the
type of an order. I found one or two flowers in ^{some} ~~each~~ spikes,
that were hermaphrodite - bearing a single stamen each - as
in some willows. There is a regular torus, as in *Salix* - but no
fibril enveloping. The early anthers are just like those of many
willows - & have exactly the same scales. The ovary seems, however,
to be monocarpellary, & contains but a single ovule - the structure
of the labrum is like that of willows. & the position of the embryo is right.

Do you wish to write a paper for the 1st N. B. Smithsonian Trans?
Prof. Huxley will pay well - at least \$3 I hope.
Tuesday. I wrote this for at Dr. Parker's last evening. Last year we commenced a new
mode of examⁿ - meeting in pairs at each other's houses, & after work we have a nice supper! I
ask that an improvement? - Some letters of Dr. H. have just arrived - in which he
says something that I wish paid. I get plants and flowers most of them. Wood will not stop it to have
types. Your book will drive his off his back - but I cannot that you wish to lend it - it had for
body good. Better take your chance when the storm is done than make such a slave of yourself. The

Was it that you told of in the 1st N. B. Trans?

may find some things worked up tolerably well in the State Flora - of course I mean in the part which extends beyond Fl. N. Am. *Sarracenia heterophylla* is only a var. of *S. purpurea*. . . Endreott is clearing out several sets of the State Nat. Hist. having got some letters at Albany - of releasing the lithographic stones as his own. I advised him to break up several of the sets into parts as they will sell better in that way. Of course I shall endeavor to get several copies of the Flora - of them you shall have one. The numbers of Fernald's list I will



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Massachusetts.

get when I go home on Saturday. Maj. DeLafayette's letter to Agassiz was not intended to benefit the Boyerant School - but was intended to record an appreciation for the members of the Lyceum expected to attend the course of Ag. in Corby St. The other school was taken by surprise. The Boyerant people are getting tired of the Lyceum of there have been several sharp spots already. They would be glad to eject the Society, finding its value & there is far less than the rent of the rooms (1200 doll. a year!). Remember me kindly to George - & present my regards to Agassiz - Yours cordially John Torrey.



Torrey, John. 1847. "Torrey, John Feb 17, 1847." *John Torrey letters* –.

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