

Ponceña, April 23rd 1847

My dear friend -

Your - & Carey's letter (which shall I call it?)
came yesterday. I greatly regret that my specimens
of *Sclemis* &c. never reached you - I was distinctly warned
be putting them up - & I am pretty sure they all
went together. They are certainly not in my herbarium
- as I was obliged to go over the whole of my *Concepcionae*
yesterday, to find them. Every specimen of the whole order
in my collection, was examined. Ask Sprague whether
he has not put them in some corner - & show him
one or two of the same kind from your own herbarium
(to jog his memory). I shall be sorry to lose the specimens
for your own sake of course. *Sclemis integrifolia*
is ready for you & shall go by the first opportunity.
Perhaps you will find the last plant in some one of the parcels
forwarded from my herbarium. I keep a draw in my table

for you - which alas is now empty.

The six plates of your genera are very well done -
but have a little of Higginbotham's appearance about them - espe-
cially in the lettering. They do Sprague great credit -
& I have no doubt the letter press will equally make
worth.

Thanks for the sheet of Northern Biskay. It is well done & only needs a sprinkling of sprays to make it just the thing.

I may wish the Asclepiadaceae ready in time for you - but my views of the northern species will be found in N.Y. Biskay. I have been obliged to spend considerable time every day lately in poisoning my herbarium. The older portions of it have suffered from worms, & I must kill them off. What I have thus far done will never be attacked again. I mean henceforth to poison every specimen that comes into my possession. Have you looked into your willowher labels?

Mrs. Lorey has doubtless been much disappointed at not seeing you in New York. She is there still, & will probably not return till near the end of the week.

Mr. Carey must be up to his ears in the Ledger. I have a sort of promise that he will make a visit to Princeton, & he will be so fresh in Cuniculography when he leaves you, that my collection will be *play fulum*. I should be greatly pleased to go with him over all the N. American species, & thoroughly revise the synonymy. Tell him I know just where he is sitting - & how he knows every row of them as soon as happy day even. Would I not give a rifle to be at his elbow?

Will Sprague be able to look for me this season? Tell me how much you can spare him if at all.

Thursday. Mrs. Lorey has not returned yet. - nor have I heard from her for several days. We are enjoying the fine weather - the spring having opened upon us, & the birds making sweet music in our lawn. The *Populus tremuloides* is in flower, & the grass is beginning to look quite green.

Again have I looked for the plant that you wish - but they don't turn up. I may grub up a little *Polemonium* from one of Leavenworth's old parcels. Did you ever find another that figures in *mead. undul.* & *Scutell. denticul.*, was published? My *Eudiclis* is in New York - but I looked for it there, if I mistake not.

In describing the flower of *Asclepias* in the *Flora* of N.Y. I was not altogether pleased with the terms. The *corolla* will do for *Coron. staminea* - but some single word for *pl. crown*, or *corolla* would be convenient. What shall we render *gynostegium*? Have you *Decasium* *Sted.* *Asclep.* from the *am. s. nat.*? If so I should like to borrow the word.

What rare *Asclepiad.* have you? Strange to say I have not laid aside for myself a specimen of *A. rubra* L. (*A. acuminata* M.). Did I ever get back those specimens that you left with Decasius?

At last I have found, in a little parcel of duplicates, an
specimen of *Scleria* in fl. & fr. - together with some pods of the var.
with imperfect development. You can have them if the other specimens
are found - otherwise I shall send them for my own herb. I have
concluded to send the *Scleria* of Cleome by this letter - allowing them
to take their chance.

Henry returned on Wednesday evening. He is managing the
Smithsonian pretty well - but there are so many conflicting
interests that he is obliged to yield, or lose the whole. - Until
he brought the trustees over to some of his views, he felt him-
self in a very uncertain state, & ready to offer his resignation.
of the vote went Company to his sister.

Many persons are quite disappointed that Prof. Agassiz felt
himself obliged to decline lecturing in New York this spring - but
we shall (D.V.) expect to hear him next autumn. This, as you
once said, would probably aid our Med. College more than if he
lectured out of term time. If he could favor us pretty early in
August (when our preliminary course begins) & so overlap on
the regular lectures, we should be well satisfied. If he
is with you at Cambridge, give him my kind regards & I
remember me affectionately to Carey - who I suppose, has
not left you yet.

As ever, cordially yours

John Torrey

Write of *Scleria*! Mrs. Torrey is so
kind to have printed in *Scleria*



Torrey, John. 1847. "Torrey, John Apr 23, 1847." *John Torrey letters* –.

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