

Proctor, July 12th 1847.

Dear friend -

I was absent in Washington when your letter arrived - so it would have been answered before -

The enclosed specimens are what you asked for. I hope they will answer you - perfectly

I went to Washington (at the expense of Uncle Sam!) to see Lt. Emory of Topog. Eng^t. (just appointed Maj. of Cavalry) who collected some nice plants on a march from the frontier to California in the autumn of last year. He has given me the whole of the specimens in fine order. His most important collections were made in going from St. Lee to St. Diego. He descended the Rio del Norte for some distance - then struck off to the west till he reached the valley of the Gila - which he followed to its confluence with the Colorado - when he again proceeded west to St. Diego. The plants are very good - especially those from the Gila - which, being California, must come into the Herbar. I will bring the whole with me to Cambridge

Mr. Lowell, Bot. Mus.
of Cambridge

I have recd. a letter Maj. Eaton, informing me that he
had sent by a Mr. Atwood - a collection of plants from the
North of Canada. They have not come to hand - but I expect to
find them in New York. - He said that another officer (a
Doctor) was collecting largely for me.

Can Mr. Sprague make about 50 drawings for Maj. Eaton
before next winter? - or sooner? He would like to have
them for his report, to give it interest. Maj. E. would, I sup-
pose like them done like those of Fremont - & would pay the
same price for them. He had a painter with him, who
made pictures (that show the habit of clothing) of more than 100
species - but they were left in California. Maj. E. was obliged to
return at half an hour notice, so that he had only time
to make his botanical specimens. He gave orders for
the drawings, & follow him - & they are expected daily.
My wife and Mr. Sprague to some extent.

The Mc. Gilverays' came here at the last of June & remained
only three days. They were to accompany me to Washington
- but Mrs. M. G.'s health gave way - & they were obliged to
give up the trip. I suppose they will not even go to
Boston - but are by this time on their way to Canada.

They will remain till next spring at their Station.

The time of my going to Cambridge will depend on you. for it
is hardly worth while for me to go while you are so busy.
- I might, perhaps, be of some little use to you for a day or
two. Is Carey in New York? I should be glad to see
him here -

As to the Philadelphia business I can give you but little
information. that is satisfactory. The appointment is deferred
till September. There are many Candidates. Ellet of
S. Car. Coll., Little Bessy, The Rogers' family, Page of Washington,
- probably Patterson of the Mint &c &c. Some of my friends
have put me on the list - but I have taken no active measures.
I do not mean to take any till I am assured there will be at least an
even chance of success. I am going to meet Bachman this
morning at the R. R. Depot. I travel with him to N. York, with
Prof. Henry. that I may talk the matter over. The date
means will be reduced one quarter (the number of students being
thousands) - & some apparatus will be needed. Then I shall
probably have to relinquish Botany. I know not what is best -
but shall endeavor to find out the right path. If I keep my
place in New York, I can probably have work at Washington for
several years, to the amount of \$1500 a year. - Henry has

informally proposed a place in the Smithsonian, viz. to take
the Department of Organic Chemistry, & attend to the Natural
History - particularly Botany - his plan was not definite
& I will talk to him about it. The salary will be \$3000.
The place will not be ready for occupation till next year
I must break off, as it is time to get ready for meeting
Bache. -

Yours faithfully J. Torrey



Torrey, John. 1847. "Torrey, John Jul 14, 1847." *John Torrey letters* –.

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