

New York, April . 1849.

My dear friend -

You must think me either very negligent, or very busy to keep silent so long. I have, indeed,

had my hands very full, but you are daily in my thoughts. Your letter of the 17th. came in due time.

I have been waiting ever since for an opportunity to write, as well as to select a few more plants for Sprague

Are there not two or three Compositae that deserve to be figured. You know them much better than I do, & can tell which most need illustrating.

We must not forget that strange genus allied, perhaps, to *Fremontia* & *Cheirostemum* - yet with very different fruit. You know the one with entire leaves, a one-celled fruit & with a perianth that had separated.

We must do our best to make out its affinities. I have better specimens & draw from them than the one you have. The *Quercus*

longiglandes (is *macradenia* too near *macrocarpa*?) is a noble species, & apparently new - Should it be well to figure

it? I send a sketch made by Fremont's painter, from the recent plant. Sprague can make a good figure from

this & the dried specimens.

I send also, (poor specimen, to be sure, but sufficient) a
new *Adiantum* - a genus nearly allied to it, & yet of different
habit. Try & make something of it.

If you are not satisfied with that engraving of *Pteris* -
it had better be done over. It is not exactly the thing. I,
I fear, don't do justice to Sprague's drawings. I expect

to be in New York next Wednesday, & if you have a chance
to send the drawings by Thursday, I can get them & have
them forwarded to Berkeley. As to the appendices of
Baker, I think that Lindley has come very near the
mark - & that you so in one of your letters. See if he be
wrong. I cannot say now as to the attachment of
the seed of your new *Schneeglocke*. Sprague is usually so ac-
curate that I should hesitate much before differing from him.

As Benthams has published so full a description of *Chenopodium*
I would not think of figuring it, if we have enough without it
to make an *Index*. I have tolerable fruit - which is put
up in the parcel for you.

That was, indeed, sad news from Fremont. I think he was
imprudent in setting out so late: yet if his guide had
known the way, he would have accomplished the purpose of
the excursion without much risk. I saw Mr. Fremont

& Mrs. Benton in New York. Madam then knew nothing
of her husband's disaster. After all I trust she will meet
him or he arrive in San Francisco. Mr. B. means to get
an appropriation for working up Fremont's plants, & to write
about it off nicely. I had a full supply of paper. He
is a queer looking chap - like, as our folks say - all the
botanical collectors.

Dr. Parry, after going all the way to N. Orleans, & not finding
my letter for him there (as he ought to have done - it having
been sent). returned, intending to spend the summer in Virginia
- but on arriving at Cincinnati, thinking he might yet have a
chance to accompany Drury - came to New York. I got him
off in the Crescent City; & he will probably find the Niger at
the bottom - as he was there when I last heard from him
- he having been detained for want of funds that were promised
him. He goes as well provided, at Uncle Sam's expense.

He is to spend several years at the bottom (while the
R. Road is building) - & will have fine opportunities for collecting
plants.

Banckes has sent me a grand set of *Cyberaceae*. Is he a
Doctor?

Banckes is a candidate for the office of *Ag. Gardener* to
the public grounds in Washington. Cannot you send him a testi-
monial, addressed to the Secy. of the *War* Department.

Last night I received from D. Royle, a set of Griffiths' works - pub:
lished in India - You have probably got the same - Griffiths
has a capital & original observer - but a little too daring - like
his master, Lindley.

What do you think of Bailey's article on Microscopes in the last
Albumen? I scolded him for being so amiable & told him
if you had attacked Duckett, he would have cried p^{ec}cori! Yet
now that I look at the matter calmly, it appears that Bailey was
right & took the best course -

It is about a month since I was in the city & I have
not yet seen Cary in his new quarters. I stay to another
day or two to work with him. We had a capital time over
the Big weeds of the Exploring Exped. just before he removed.
Next week I hope to be with him again. He is greatly im-
proved in health & seems to be in very good spirits.

I greatly regret to learn that Jane is so poorly: She was
improving slowly when you wrote last, & I trust she will
soon be strong. Mrs. Torrey is not well. She has
been near a fortnight in bed, receiving the benefit
of Dr. Delafield's prescription. Maddy is there still - Her eyes
are very much improved. The other girls are at home. Hubert
went with his mother. The country is delightful. Our Cherry
trees have been in flower several days. The late frost did us
some damage. Give my love to Jane. Yours ever
John Torrey



Torrey, John. 1849. "Torrey, John Apr. 1849." *John Torrey letters* –.

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