

New York, Feb. 15th 1850.

My dear friend -

It is a long time since a letter passed between us - but I believe the fault is my own. For some time past I have been occupied in some extra duties at the laboratory & my correspondence has ^{been} suffered to get in arrears. I hope you received a small parcel left with Mr Mayor to be taken by Agassiz. The 'Plants of N. Zealand' cost \$1.25 - less than I expected to pay - but the trouble of getting the parcel through the Custom House was unusually great. The above, I mean is half of the charges on both copies. It is strange that De Caisne's letter (the only information I could have had of any thing being sent by him) was enclosed in the parcel!

Did I tell you that Rich had brought me a small collection of Californian plants? The Conpositae - if I mistake not - were sent to you by Agassiz. Since these were received, a Mr. Fitch has sent another small batch - & I am daily expecting a good lot from crazy Bill Prince of Flushing. The box from Vasey has not yet arrived.

Agassiz has doubtless told you of his doings here. Gilman is trying to get up a Class for some lectures on Geology by the first man

but I have some fears that our New Yorkers will not come forward in sufficient numbers. I expect to hear from A.

that it is the general impression among the intelligent people of Cambridge, that Webster is guilty of hitting D. Cushman. At the same time I hope it will be shown that D. C. was killed in a sudden fit of anger.

What unpleasant news is that about Sol Webster! I hope the poor fellow will soon be released. His parents must be greatly distressed. Have you any particulars of the affair beyond the short paragraph ⁱⁿ the newspapers?

Johnson must have commenced his lectures by this time, at the Lowell Institute. You know that he spent a week in New York, & lectured twice at the Tchernock. His first talk (on the application of Physical Geography & Geology to Agriculture) I liked very much: the second was much less interesting. There is a great deal in the little fellow's note - & he is sure to let you know it. He is a thorough Tory, & not very well bred - but I think means well. Madge, who saw much of him at Prof. Huxley's, did not think him very polished man. He needs a sharp pen to be refused him now & then - & I once or twice wished he had been in your hands. Upon the whole, however, he is a good fellow, & is making himself very useful in "The States".

Have you printed the dried part of Fendler's plant? If it is done please send me a copy by mail. I hope you have done justice to Schell. I ~~was~~ have set him right on many of his new species.

You must be getting matters in order for your visit to Europe. It is a pity you undertook so many jobs, while the work of the Left-Edgewood was on hand - for whatever is not actually printed when you leave home, must remain unpublished till you return. The Report on Forest Trees, if carried out according to your last plan will require at least another year.

My course at the Medical College is drawing to a close - the anniversary of Examination next Monday. I am trying hard to dispose of my place at Princeton, so as to return to the city - not meaning, however, to give up my education at the College. I can board in P. during the hottest months, & then give my lectures there - or I can be absent two nights in the week, & deliver three lectures - spending most of the time here in town.

We are all well. Mrs. Torrey is sitting by my side. She joins me in sending love to Jane & to yourself. Kelly says tell Dr. Gray not to forget some hard plants, & seeds for the spring. He is studying hard, & is to accompany you to Europe! I wish me to send you his love. Yours affectionately John Torrey



Torrey, John. 1850. "Torrey, John Feb 15, 1850." *John Torrey letters* –.

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