

New York Jan'y. 14th 1858

My dear friend -

Here I am at my table in the study using the notes that I made in Cambridge, & putting my last words to Asclepi-
saceae, - which are now tolerably satisfactory. - I mean the species belonging to Mex.
Bourdig.

I had a pleasant time at Hayes's & we talked Chemistry till towards three morning. The good soul had me out of bed again at 6.30. & Mrs. H. made breakfast for me before 7 o'clock - so I was comfortably seated in the car in a half hour later. I found all well at home - Maggie not, to be sure, quite well - but in good spirits.

My ride home was very comfortable, & I was able to read nearly the whole distance.

I see you now poring as you seek, & your good dame reading an interesting book in the small study. My class-
room is not sufficiently distinct in

I have rec'd a letter from Hockaday. He will come here soon. Faunt says his publisher in Philadelphia, who is setting up a splendid ed. of his reports (3 new ones to be added to those printed by Congress) will have a few of the more interesting plants figured. - G. & W. Hockaday shall do the drawing.

I spent all last evening with Dr. Alary, ^{and} examining the famous "flower" that grew on a boy's leg - of which you have doubtless read wonderful stories in the newspapers. It is undoubtedly a vegetable - a fungus. I succeeded in finding the thecae or spore cases. - of the spores themselves are innumerable. If the plant had grown on the earth I should call it Alaria. - so much does it resemble the figured species, ~~it~~ even in the form of the spores & their thecae. My love to Dame. - & kind regards to Wright. Ever yours. John Torrey

regard to Mr Wright - but I think I see
him also - busy at his own table over the
Hemp Knaps. What a pleasant little
gathering it was at your father's! I feel
quite at home there. I know that I
am not envious - but whenever I see a
happy mother at the head of her family
I appreciate my own irreparable loss -
- now as greatly as ever. If I cannot
so constantly employed I should be un-
happy indeed.

How kind your Jane was to me! I can
make no return, but gratitude - & coldly thank
- & remembering her & you in my poor
prayer.

Sept. 19th! Regret again - but I
have been much pleased - & I lost
this note after I commenced it - & it only
turned up this morning.

I wish to finish the *Utterings of*
Enryi plates - but there are several
that I wish your opinion concerning - before

deciding on the names. Have you
examined *Tehuacan*? If you remove
it to *Trichostema* - shall the specific name
remain unchanged? I suppose so -
I wished to give *Salizaria* (which was
first called *Cyclicalys*) - a specific
name that would be suggestive of
the Mexican Commission office. What
think you of *S. limitaris*? Is that
too far fetched?

I cannot see in what *Acanthocylis*
Engelm. differs from *Mormisia*. The
N. Mex. species seems to be undoubted.
Is it in your set of *Berland. N.*
- & has it been named by any European
botanist so far as you know?

Polyala cucullata - Aenth. must be
P. nutkana! Some of my specimens
show radical flowers. What say you?



Torrey, John. 1858. "Torrey, John Jan. 14, 1858." *John Torrey letters* –.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/310915>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/343294>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia (Open Collections)

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.