

New York, July 31st 1860.

I suppose that Eliza writes to you Jane
& tells her about our doings on the Palisades.

Herbert remains there all the time now, having finished his first year at the Free Academy & received his sheepskin. He works daily on his farm. I wish it were in my power to help him cultivate it on a good scale - Eliza is managing her acres on the hill with much good judgment & success. The Cicadas, however, have done her very much damage this summer. I never knew them to injure the trees & shrubs to such an extent. They have killed a vast number of young fruit trees in our region. They appropriated even short branches of four years growth, & stung them to death.

I have much botanical matter to talk about - hope to see you ere long - & have a good time with you - but I may not leave home till after the scientific meetings - with much love to Jane - I am as ever yours,

J. Torrey

My Dear friend -

Will you go to the meetings at Newport? I had made some preparations for going there - but now care but little about it. I don't like the place of meeting. Should I go, it is my purpose to make you a visit of two or three days - if you give me an evening to look over some doubtful things. I know that you are hard pressed - & can ill spare the time - but you must do what you can for me. At any rate, I must, if possible, see you & Jane, if it be for only a day.

At first it was my intention to leave here on Thursday eve - & after spending Friday & part of Saturday at Newport, to be with you on Saturday eve - But you go to Beverly on Saturday - Upon the whole, if I leave home at all, I had better go next week &

not stop at Newport. I feel lonesome
& disappointed. but am in very usual health

I suppose that we shall get no proof that
my report was still Congress meet. It
is strange that Stuart did not urge the
points & make a beginning, so that the
work could not stop. Can Wilkes have
made this difficulty? At any rate you
had better go on with the Committee as
you can find odd hours now & then. Get the
job off your hands.

Thurber does not have much heart for working
up the soft-bodied grasper - so that I shall
probably have to do them afterwards. With
about a dozen exceptions, they will not be
difficult. Prof. T. would gladly leave his
place if he could get other employment. They
give him no money; the region is unhealthy,
& the mosquitoes are most annoying. It is not
such an easy matter to get a comfortable situa-
-tion

these times, when competition is so great. -
Baker comes to see me pretty often. He was
greatly tickled with his Diploma - which he
brought to me the day he arrived from Cambridge.
He says you were disappointed in his exami-
-nation - & was more than half determined to with-
-hold his degree. I asked him what questions
he missed - which he told me - But why, said
I, did you not answer them? - "Because I did
not know"! He commenced systematic botany
too soon, & did not lay a sufficiently broad founda-
-tion. When he begins to teach, he will find
out his defects, & supply them.

I picked up Mr. Austin the other day. He
had been herboring in NW. Pennsylvania (I think
he said) - & would send you a quantity of plants
that he collected there. Do you know that he
supports himself by lecturing on Chemistry - travelling
from town to town with a portable apparatus?
He says this supports him handsomely & enables
him to collect plants in various parts of the
country.



Torrey, John. 1860. "Torrey, John Jul. 31, 1860." *John Torrey letters* –.

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