

New York, Jan^y. 9th 1861.

My dear friend -

We have been so greatly driven
by large arrivals of gold at our office, that
it has been almost impossible for me to
write letters when down town. At home I
am kept pretty busy in overhauling my herbarium
& preparing plants for giving. Hence I have not
been able to keep up a brisk correspondence, &
you must not think that I am indifferent to
your requests.

I have delayed sending the copies of Mex. Bound.
Botany, because I now think there is a prospect
of obtaining the plates. Baird is endeavoring to
have them struck off for us. We must print
a page of the worst errata to accompany the
copies distributed by us. When I go to Cambridge
I will get a list of what you have noticed of errors.
But it is uncertain how soon I can get off. As

long as the glut of gold exists. I must remain
here. It is probable that there will not be
more than one or two more heavy arrivals of
sovereigns. When we are reduced to the ordinary
business of paying California gold, I can readily get
off for a week between the arrival of two Reas-
ons -

I began to feel discouraged about our coun-
try. The disaffection seems to be general at
the South; even in the border States, & the
leading republican politicians are so divided, that
it is greatly to be feared that fatal concessions
will be made. There may yet be civil
war - & if it once commences, no one can tell
when it will end. I firmly believe that
we must stand by the entire platform, & that
if we yield to Southern threats, the advantages
gained by the republicans in their great contest
will be lost. The battle will be renewed again,
hence - & a dreadful one it will be. Still, I hope

that if patriots & christians do their duty - even
if politicians are false, we shall escape the
present danger -

As I may remove to Columbia College
early in the spring, it will hardly be worth while
to send all the Southⁿ West paper to my house.
I should like to receive half a dozen reams of
it at once. Will Rice & Kendall keep the remainder
for a few weeks till I know more about my
movements? If they will send me the bill, I
will forward it to Prof. Henry immediately. The
genius paper should be put in the same bill.

I send you ~~the~~ bits of the two Senate that
you asked for.

We have had charming weather for some days
past. The temperature has been scarcely down
to freezing. New Year's was glorious. It would
have given me great pleasure to have spent the
holidays with you. If I get certain fees for
proposed jobs - I will send Hubert, & perhaps one

of the girls to stay a few days with you -
We talk & think much about you -

Thurber spends one or two evenings every week
in my study - working on grapes. He would like
to remain in New York if he could obtain em-
ployment to his taste. Possibly I may get
him back into the Agray Office under Old
Abe. - but shall we have a U.S. Agray Office?

Give my love to Jane, & tell her that I
am mortified to know (if I may judge from
the duplicates retained by me) that so large
a portion of my preserved fruit turns out to
be very indifferent. Those air-tight jars are
not reliable. If the preserves would not have
been of first quality in jars of any kind let
her be patient, & (D.T.) I will send her better
articles next season -

Yours ever
John Torrey



Torrey, John. 1861. "Torrey, John Jan. 9, 1861." *John Torrey letters* –.

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