

New York, July 5th 1862

My dear friend

In several days past I have not felt like writing letters, or doing any thing else. The condition of our afflicted country, & the great battles that are taking place, keep me agitated, & unfit for business. To day matters look somewhat more favorable. At any rate the army seems to be safe, & the enemy has been foiled, after making the most desperate efforts to destroy McClellan. They can hardly fight so hard again. Still, the end seems to be far off. We can not be ready to approach near to Richmond again till we receive very heavy reinforcements of drilled men. Before they can be furnished & placed in position

the sickly season may commence & then the
troops will suffer as much from disease as
from gunpowder. In the mean time the
enemy will not be idle - but they will be busy
off for most things needed by their soldiers. We
must yet adopt the only effectual means of
conquering them, - confiscate their property, &
liberate their slaves. -

I would send you the amount due you, if I were
not afraid to trust money in a letter. On Monday (it
is now rather late on Saturday) I will get a check or
draft of remit it to you.

So you got the books without my help! I was
out of town (on a trip to the prison) when your
letter was left at the Agency Office, & while
I was preparing to comply with your request, a
second letter informed that I was too late.

Yours of July 22d. was received this morning.

As to observations on the precociously fertilized
flowers of *Specularia*, I don't think that I have

said any thing about the pollen-tubes: but just now
I have no books on the subject at hand. Are
there any other plants besides *Asclepias*, & *Opuntia*
that were known to produce pollen tubes while
yet in the anthers? I will look, when
I go home I will examine those early flowers
of *Specularia perfol.* which are so curious, & of other
similar flowers - such as occur in *Diphysa* anthers
or *Hebe* &c.

Maggie has been spending some days at Staten
Island. On her return yesterday, she received
Mrs. Gray's letter. You did not tell me about
good Mr. Loring's severe accident! I am really
glad that he is getting better. What a narrow
escape!

I am getting the Canes ready for Beattie,
& will send them, - of the Pentstemon for
yourself - on Tuesday next.

Give much love to Jane, & tell her
not to work so hard. Maggie tells me
what she is doing! Yours ever

Alfred Torrey



Torrey, John. 1862. "Torrey, John Jul. 5, 1862." *John Torrey letters* –.

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