

Cambridge July 3^d 1818

Dear Friend

You have come to hand on the
12th of June together with the plants in safety. It gave
me great satisfaction to have you well. It was my
intention to make a botanical excursion this season,
but as yet it has been out of my power. Mr Bullions pre-
vious to his leaving New York called to see you but you
were gone. From him I learned that you had it in con-
templation to visit this part of the country, if so I expect
to have the pleasure of seeing you in Cambridge. If I could
have the company of such an one who could give me assist-
ance in botany I am sure it would be very agreeable. I
am here, alone without a single person who can give me
a single idea upon it farther than a few vulgar names
or virtues. However I avail myself of them as far as pos-
sible. I can find those who would be botanists provided
they could acquire the knowledge easily - but the difficul-
ties they will not encounter. I have been as I suppose
very diligent in collecting plants but have fallen behind
others. Mr James informs me 250 species have been colle-
cted in the vicinity of Albany while I have collected
only about 130. Either there are fewer plants here or I
do not see them enough or am lazy - I suspect the last
I must increase my diligence. However perseverance will
make up deficiencies sooner or later - The Claytonia of
which I sent you a specimen was out of flower before I
received your letter. When I first found it I concluded it

was different from the *C. virginiana*, but ^{distrusting} ~~forming~~ my own judg-
-ment I concluded it to be a variety of *C. b.* & this opinion I am
yet inclined to favour. Although the plants are generally like
those which I sent you, there is a variety but whether it approxi-
-mates the character of *C. b.* I am unable to say. However the matter
must rest as it is until the plant flowers when I will be more
particular in my observations. If you could forward me a spec-
-imen of *C. b.* to compare with it you would oblige me -
but if it is not convenient do not trouble yourself. I have
received a letter from Ross, he botanizes & has sent me some
specimens which are yet in Schumetady & which I will see
-in at the end of this month. I am about to answer him & to
send him some specimens. Your request I will attend to & pro-
-vide it as well as possible. I have a few plants & but few of
which I possess but one specimen. However I am not witho-
-ut hopes of obtaining duplicates as some of these were colle-
-cted last year & the place of their growth remembered they
may yet be perhaps obtained - they are probably described.
On receiving the new edition of the Manual, if I am not
very much mistaken I found one of them described - it
is *Cuphea viscosifera*. There are a number the names
of which I cannot determine - however I will refer to you
the first opportunity. Before I received your letter I wrote
to Beck, he has not yet answered me, but he probably is deter-
-mined to wait as long before he answers me as I waited
before I answered him. However when I want to write I
will send him a letter without fail. You have laid me un-
-der obligations to you in sending me these plants, many

indeed almost all of which I have never seen in this neighborhood. If health &c is spared I will send you all I can collect - but probably I will not send you anything and - The Grapes give me great difficulty & I am certain I cannot yet distinguish any of them correctly & probably it arises from this that I find very few species. I will endeavor to collect them. I promise myself when I become more perfect in the science of botany the discovery of lower species which I now pass by considering them the same with those which are now common. There is a young friend of mine who is at this time a student in College who appears inclined to become a botanist & if possible I am willing to engage him in the prosecution of the study. He is I expect collecting specimens as far as he has an opportunity & with him I am also to exchange. As he lives near me, when he is at home I see him frequently I expect to give a good account of him. I sent to Albany for the Manuscript - I received what was printed & the remainder will be forwarded me by Mr James in a short time - I delayed thus long in writing you in order that you might return from your excursion & perhaps have time to breathe before you were pressed with my responses - Write me soon & let me know what discoveries you have made - I have a whole letter full of difficulties that I wish to tell, but fear I cannot communicate them to you in such a manner that you would know what I mean - Adieu - I remain your sincere friend
Dr John Torrey. New York — Matthew Stevens

Cambridge NY July 9th 18th

John Jay. M &

Gunnich

New York



July 30, 1818

Matthew Stewart

24

[119.]

Cambridge April 3^d 1820LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

Dear Friend

Your letter of Nov^r 4th came to hand about the beginning of December and was very acceptable as it resolved many of my difficulties. I would have answered it sooner but I had nothing of any importance to communicate, and even now when I have an opportunity my notice of it has been so short that I have only time to scribble you a few hasty lines. As to *Byzopsis*, I consider the one I sent you to be entirely distinct from *B. melanoscarpa* Muhl. & to be *B. asperifolia* Mx.

I collected *B. asperifolia* Mx. May 8th it grows on mountainous situations of a light soil and even in rocky situations - I have also observed it growing in low grounds but much more rarely.

Cordia does not become black when old - Panicle never more compound than in the specimens sent you. The specimens sent you exhibit the plant in full perfection excepting the ped, of which I collected some but it is now mislaid. *B. melanoscarpa* Muhl. does not grow in this vicinity - I collected it on the sandy plains near the Hudson river in September & found only one specimen. This last agrees with Muhlberg's description. The position of the leaves is very different in the two plants - in *B. asperifolia* the principal leaves grow in a tuft about the root - while in *B. melanoscarpa* Muhl. they are placed on the culm. I have begun a Catalogue of the plants growing in this vicinity for you, and wish I could forward it to you by this opportunity, but I have never had time to complete it - I fear it will go from me very imperfect whatever pains I may bestow upon it - However I will forward you ere long as accurate a catalogue as I can and trust to you to paper over the errors it may contain -

~~My success~~ I am much pleased with your intentions of writing a flora of the Northern States & if any assistance from me will

Given by A. M. VAIL. from the John D. Brooke Collection
MAR 4-1907

advantage you I will willingly endeavor to give it - I will willingly
forward it in any way in my power. I have also a Mineral which
I intend sendⁱⁿg you by this opportunity - as I am no Mineralogist I
cannot tell whether it is of any importance or not. As far as I
can learn only a small piece of it has come into my possession.
Some 3 or 4 years ago it was found in the interior of a large rock which
was blown at Schaghticoke Point for the purpose of securing
the ~~space~~ axle of a water wheel of a factory - A considerable quan-
-ty of rock crystals as they were called were also found along with this
but I never have been able to find any of them. This is the history as
I learned it, whether it is correct or not I am unable to determine.
If it is worthy a place in your Lyceum you may present it - if
not return it or dispose of it as you think proper - At all events
let me know your opinion respecting it. I send this by the
Rev. Alexander Bellows - Perhaps he may call upon you -
If you find it convenient write by him - He probably will
remain in New York a week or two - If I think of any-
-thing before leaving this I will add it as a P.S.

I remain your sincere friend

Matthew Sturison

Dr. John Poney Greenwich

P.S. - If you have determined anything satisfactory respecting the
grapes which were not named in your last, inform me, as I intend
studying the grapes this summer I wish all possible information
respecting them - I also find them considerably difficult and also
interesting. I know many of the Caries were not far enough advanced
to be accurately determined but I did not revisit the places where
they were collected when they were farther advanced & of course was

unwilling to send them in the condition you received them or not
send them at all. If I recollect aright when in New York,
I showed you a specimen of *Mitella* with one leaf only upon the
stalk & that then we considered it as a variety of *M. cordifolia*.
I think it is rather common for a more variety & also the leaves I
think differ somewhat from *M. cordifolia* although but slightly.
I do not know that it is anything more than a variety. It grows
in company with *M. cordifolia* & is nearly as common in that place
as *M. cordifolia*. I never have seen it in any other place although
I now know the localities of *M. cordifolia*. The difference between
them if it can be called a material difference is that it has a leaf on
the stalk & the curvatures of the leaves are ~~an~~ acute, while in
Mitella cordifolia, there is no leaf on the stalk & the curvatures
of the leaves are obtuse. All this is only conjecture as
it respects their being distinct plants for I cannot say there
is any distinction between them more than a variety.

I wish you could become acquainted with Mr. Belliers. I
think you would find him an agreeable man, but now I
recollect he called upon your father but did not see you
on a former visit to New York, & you will of course know some-
thing about him. I thought to make a short letter
when I began but I have scribbled, till I have nearly
finished my paper. Adieu

Yours &c.

Dr. J. Torrey & Co. —

Mr. Stearns —

D. J. Johnson considered to examine the ^{the} history of ethnology
and to make a collection of minerals, you will please get
attention the specimens as I wish obtain all the property
can collect N. J.

Matthew Sewster
April 30, 1870.

Recd April 9th

Dr. John Torrey
Greenwich
New York

Cambridge October 11th - 1821 -

Dear Friend

It is now a long time since any ~~communications~~ ^{communications} have passed between us. How it has happened that our correspondence has been discontinued I do not know. The last letter which I received from you was dated April 11th - 1820 and in that you charge me with neglecting my friends. Perhaps I was liable to the charge and must say I regret it, but in my answer of October 18th - 1820 I stated my willingness to correspond more regularly with you and regretted my inability to communicate information which would make my correspondence ~~more~~ more desirable. Although I had not received any answer from you I intended to have written you last spring, but was prevented, and although you have not yet written me I embrace this opportunity of sending you a few lines. I forwarded you an imperfect catalogue of the plants of this vicinity & it was my intention to have sent you one more complete this fall, but the person by whom I intended to forward it goes to New York so much earlier than was expected, that it is not yet prepared.

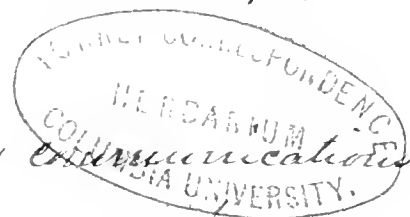
The *Triplicium hybridum*, the seeds of which you had the goodness to send me, although sown in an unfavourable situation has grown very well and it is my impression, it might be very useful in this part of the country. In the package I found a few seeds of a Tetradynamous plant, which I have not yet been able to determine - I expect to be able to forward you a specimen of it. Although I still continue the study of botany my progress in collecting specimens is very slow - this part of the country being nearly exhausted. I have a few which I intend sending you by the first opportunity.

I have very little to write you & my principle object in now writing is to inform you - that I have not yet forgotten you & to request you when convenient to send me a few lines; and to inform me what you are doing & how the Lycium succeeds in collecting specimens.

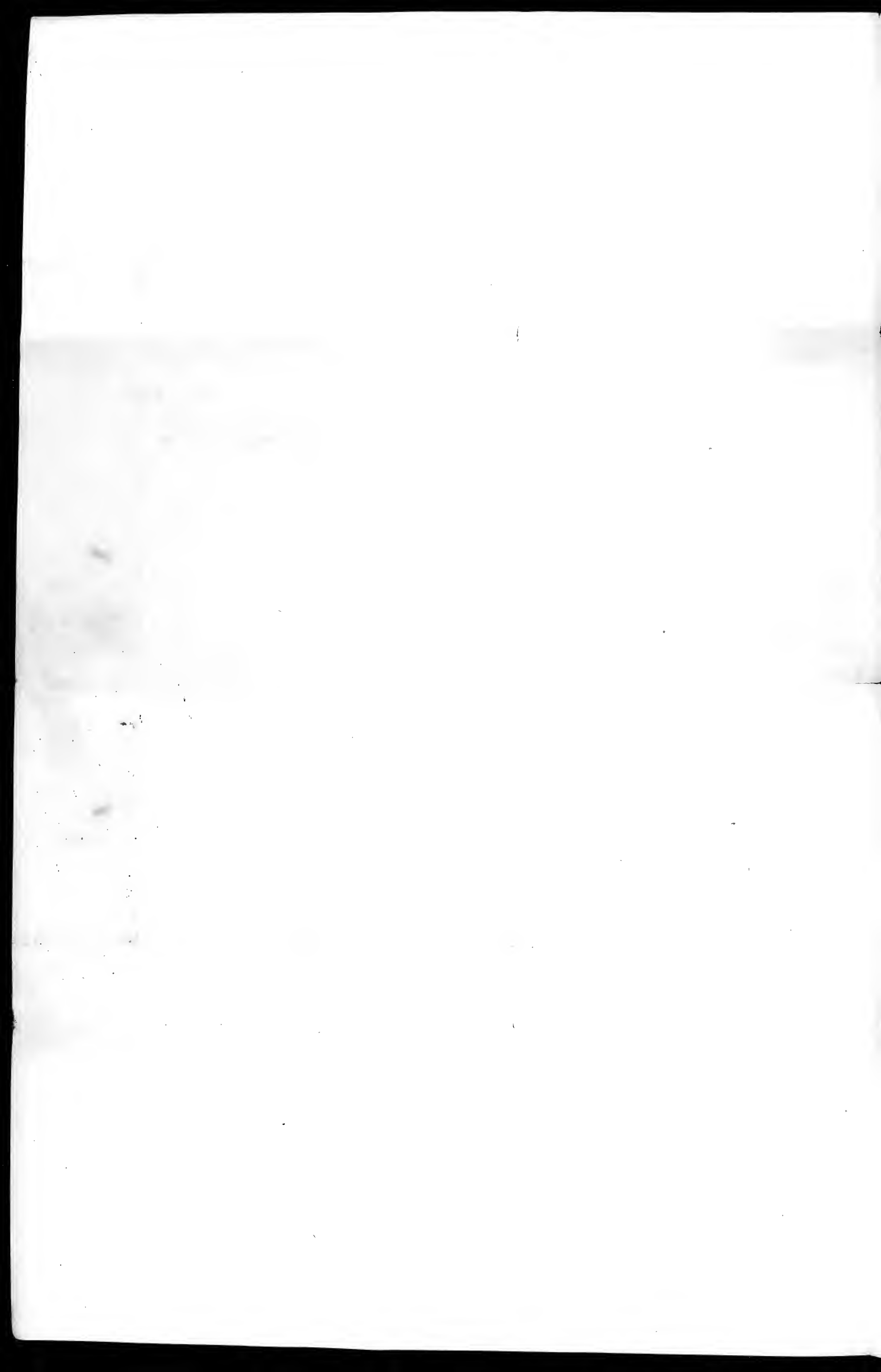
Your friend

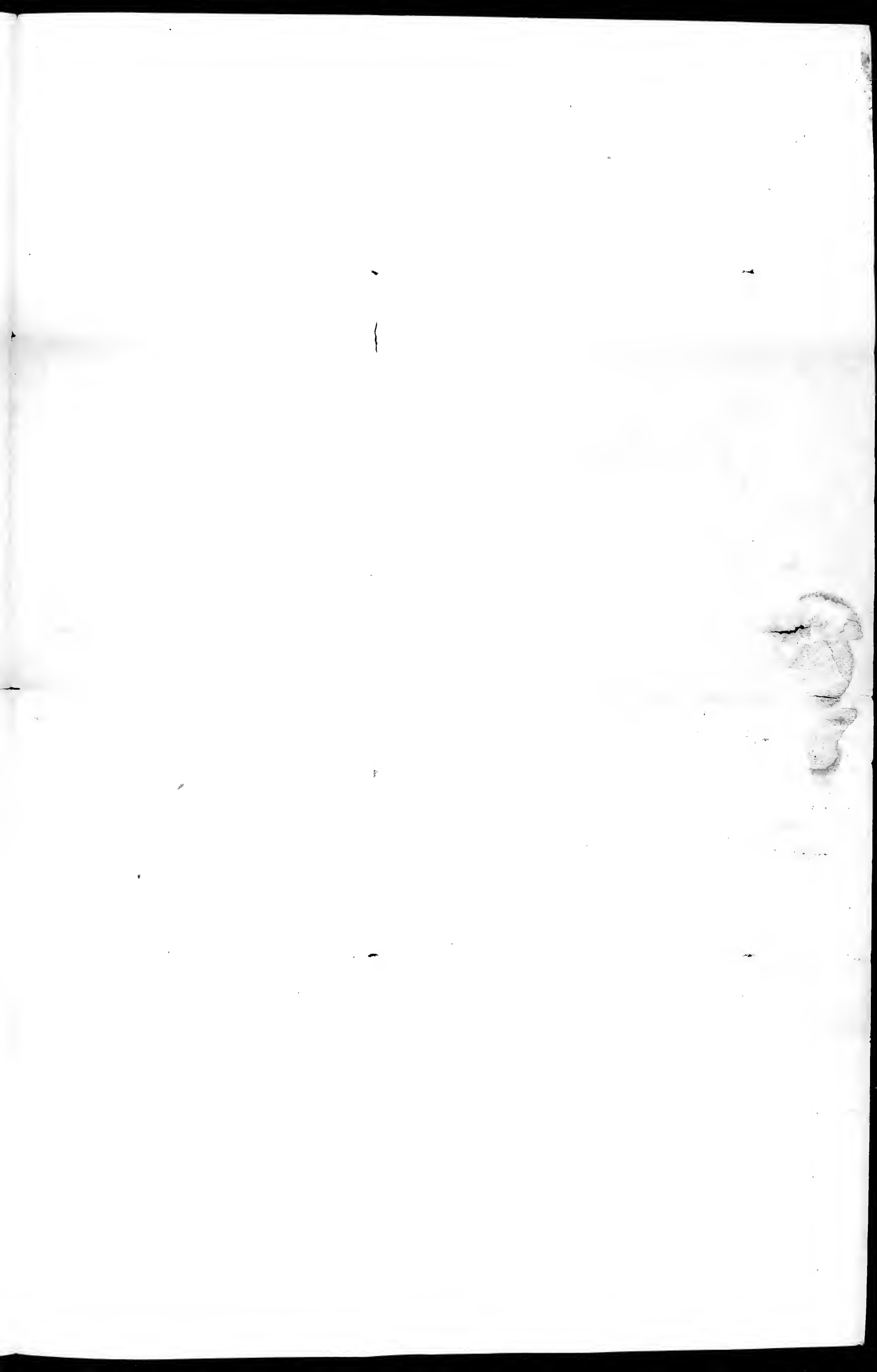
Dr. John Torrey, N.Y.

Matthew Sturson



HERBARIUM





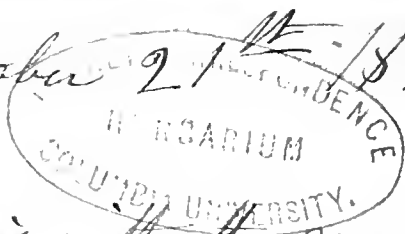
Dr. John Torrey
Greenwich
New York

Matthew Stevens
Oct 14, 1821
Recd Oct 31st



Subscript of
Mr. J. M. Haughton

Cambridge October 21st 1820



Dear Friend

After so long a silence it is with the greatest pleasure that I write you a few lines. I suspect you will conclude I intended to neglect you, and perhaps, you may have grounds for your opinion, from my long silence. You may rest assured you are the last of my correspondents whom I would willingly neglect - consequently you will be troubled occasionally with my letters. I wish ~~my~~ my correspondence with you was more frequent - and if I possessed any information worth communicating I would write oftener, but I feel a reluctance to trouble my friends with empty letters. You are not altogether correct in your opinion respecting the cause of my silence! I am yet in the blessed state of Celibacy - but have as much medical business as I could expect. Indeed it has greatly abridged my time for botanizing and often it has been out of my power to attend to anything but Practice. However my leisure time is devoted to my favorite study. I attempted to collect minerals - but this is a barren place for that employment. I greatly fear my engagements will prevent me from making any progress in Mineralogy. There is a young man here of my acquaintance who has paid some attention to the study & is very fond of it - I requested him to preserve duplicates for you of all he collected & he has engaged to do it - I will forward to you all I may receive from him & I expect you will obtain more from him than from me - Had it not been out of my power I would have obtained from him for you specimens of what he supposes to be pure and unalloyed oxide of Iron. It is time to answer your letter - The plants you sent me were a great addition to my collection & I had laid me under additional obligations to you. I consider them as peculiarly valuable both from the place where they were collected & the celebrated botanist by whom they were named. I possess no European Cryptogamia & if you could send me a collection they would be very acceptable - neither have I any European Grapes from you and would be pleased with any you could send me - but I really do not know how I am to repay you for them as it is now out of my power to collect anything more but of value to send you - I attempted to collect seeds for you but was unable to devote time sufficient to collect any of consequence.

Perhaps my leisure may permit me to collect them another season -
I am of your opinion that this place furnishes more Cryptogamiae
than I have collected, but I have not been so fortunate as to detect
them. I have collected no additional grapes this year except the one
which I send you. Indeed this place appears to be exhausted as the
few ^{plants} I have found this year were collected at a distance from this
place. My catalogue is long in forthcoming - I will send you a
list of the plants I have collected as far as I have determined them -
I am preparing a catalogue with localities at my leisure - if you
desire it you shall have it when finished, but it is so imperfect
that I am not fond of showing it - Any plants in the list which
you may wish shall be forwarded if possible. *Cephaelis viscosissima*
still eludes me & there is very little prospect of my ever finding it
again. Let me know whether nos. 1 & 2 are the same or distinct
species - they were found in different places - perhaps no. 2 is *Mitella*
-lla cordifolia & no. 1 *M. prostrata*. Also whether nos. 7 & 8 are distinct
or varieties. I feel a little mortified to find you so very few plants
but they are all of any consequence which I have collected -
I send you a few specimens of *Corydalis formosa* & a *Salibanda frag-*
-aroides - these are all I have at present, I will send you more
of them as soon as I can collect them or any others you may wish.
Nuttall observes of *Corydalis formosa* that it agrees with the genus
in having two tricuspidate filaments - I have examined great
numbers of it for the purpose of testing the truth of his observation
and I never found it correct in a single instance. Both *Corydalis*
caerulea & *formosa* (and they both grow here in great abundance)
have 6 distinct filaments -

Inform me of the progress you are making towards completing your
flora - and whether I can be of any assistance to you either in
forwarding or managing it - also how far Elliotts flora is
published - whether Cleveland's second edition is published -
Do you know anything of L. C. Beck, as I wish to write to him -
Inform me what progress the Lyceum is making -
I received the seed of *Trifolium hybridum* which you sent me - I
know not how it will succeed - I could not find the *Megacarpus*
seed which you sent me. I lately observed a plant which was sent
to me, but so few advanced that it could not be accurately determined

It may perhaps be *Hypoxis rupicola* - this is only conjecture -
I would have sent you the stones which I have collected were I
not of opinion that they are of no consequence - The only speci-
mens which I have obtained of any consequence this season are
a few of *Dryites* - I received a short time since a letter from
Mr Robert Prince requesting the seed of *Monarda Kalmiana*
& *Cuphea mississippiensis* - the latter I could not find him - the
former I have together with the seed of *Santhus cuneatus*
They are in the package directed to you if you will give them
to him when he calls for them or forward them to him it
will oblige me. There are enough for you to keep a few if
you desire them. If he should have a letter for me with
you if you will forward it to the bearer of this before he
leaves New York it will reach me in safety -

I send this and the package by Mr. James M.
Knighton. He will put his direction on the
back of the letter. If you write me he will take charge
I assure you it is very unpleasant for me to be so totally
unable to send you either plants or minerals - I have
come almost to a determination to prosecute the study of bot-
any & mineralogy as far as my limited resources will allow
I be contented with that - for if I request correspondents it is
not in my power to repay them for their favours -
As often as your leisure will permit write me, for it is one of
the greatest sources of pleasure to me to receive letters from
my friends - The bearer of this will remain in New
York about two weeks -

Your sincere friend

John Torrey Greenwell

James T. -
Matthew Storer



P.S. You must make allowance for haste - poor pen -
J. T. G.

P.S. There are three specimens of stones which I think I
may venture to send you - they are all which I think
are of sufficient consequence to forward to you. M.S.

Matthew Townsend

Oct 24 1820

Recd Q. No 30th

E. J.

See trucks, trucks

which may be taken

and put to the use

of the same.

Between E. Lincoln

& Calcutta.



Dr John Joice
Greenwich Street
New York

JOHN
OCT 26
1820
Dr. J. Joice
Engineer at John
Hellyer's No 30
Front Street

or v
p

Cambridge June 4th 1825 —

Dear friend

Long time you must have given up all hopes of ever hearing from me. An opportunity now offers of sending you a few lines and I feel inclined to embrace it. Your last letter and answer to my last is dated July 13th 1822 — since which time many thousand years have elapsed. Often have I commenced writing and as often failed to finish anything worthy your notice. To you and certainly to me an enumeration of the almost endless variety of occurrences which have so long haunted me in silence could give no satisfaction. They are now past and let the shades of oblivion rest upon them. —

Permit me to observe that should you as a probability to exercise the Profession of Medicine for a living without even the prospect of a release, it has become absolutely necessary to concentrate my mind upon it, or in this plan sink into insignificance. Under such circumstances you can easily judge how difficult it is to pursue any branch of natural science. Limited as my opportunities are botany still occupies a portion of my leisure — but it can interest now but myself. Last fall when in New York I called to see you but found you had left the City — & circumstances prevented my stopping at West Point. There were then a few plants which I wished to lay before you & as many of them as possible I will send by this opportunity — I find

upon examination that very few of them can be put up in
this package - Perhaps you will receive more than
will be new & interesting - Some of them you have and
I read them merely because they were collected here -
My time permits me to make but very few observations
upon them - but a future opportunity, if necessary,
will afford ample scope for all that can be required.

N^o 3 - is cultivated here - I believe it a native of the
United States but am in doubt respecting the species.

N^o 4. *Moranda tinctoria*? of your flora -

N^o 5 - This *Hypocissum* I sent you some 3 or 4 years
since - you returned it as a variety of *Panicum* -
then & now I was & am satisfied you were incorrect,
but then it was not sufficiently advanced for examination -
The present specimens are better. *H. sphaerocarpon* N^o 7?

It approaches close to this species but may be different
Perhaps it is *H. adpressum* of Bonten, but I think not -

N^o 9 - *Schoenus*? - Perhaps *Cladium* of Brown - this
plant I have examined with considerable attention, but
will await your remarks. By the way, time now fails,
and when I hear from you, any thing respecting them of
which I can inform you, it shall be done with pleasure.

Perhaps you may find it convenient to send me some
=condemna & if to my situation promises more facilities
for continuing it than formerly - Were it for nothing
else, I should wish to hear from you as a friend.

Write as soon as possible - I will expect an answer -

Your sincere friend

John Torrey M.D. West Point - Matthew Stearns

P. I. - I am a man of which I wish to write
but you say this is done in haste & my time
does not now permit - me to be more particular.
How comes on your flora - in what form are
you going to complete it. The two first ones
are now beside me and I am much pleased
with them - If completed as begun it will
be useful. Write now, & give me all
the information proper respecting your situation
as Professor &c. You find
Prof. John Torrey, W. Point, Matthew Stevens on



Mathew Stephenson

June 4th 1895

Recd. June 10th,

(with a small package
of plants.)

and June 27.

John Toney M.D.
West Point
New York

has
the