Recd. by Dr. Gray

Lancaster O. Dec. 29. 1840.

Respected Gentlemen —

I have put up a suit of my Asters and Solidago's, with the intention of sending them to you by the first convenient opportunity. — It is probable however, that you will not get them before the next number of your Flora of North America is published, which Mr. Sullivant informs me is about being put to press at this time, and that it will be filled exclusively with the genus Aster. — I have not pretended to name, or in fact to study the Asters & Solidago's excepting the most distinctly marked ones. — The same is also the case with the genus Helianthus, and other genera of the order Compositae.

Indeed, we Westerners, look forward to the dawn of a new era upon the order Compositae, when your excellent, (we may say national,) work shall have been published on this subject. —

I have smattered a little in Botany for a number of years, but from want of book, company, and proper attention I had neither made any collections of consequence, nor any progress in this delightful Science. — Last summer however, I collected pretty throughly, having been stimulated to it by an acquaintance with Mr. Wm. S. Sullivant of Columbus. — You will observe, that my plants generally, are not put up with that neatness that is se=quired of a professed Botanist; and in some instances they are much injured in the process of drying; this in many instances results from want of time, which is devoted to the practice of a most arduous profession, with which you are in some measure acquain=ted. — Many times, some of my most interesting specimens, are brought home in my hat, and probably before I have time to smooth out some of the wrinkles consequent upon their cramped position in the hat, a call is made post haste, and my poor plants are ob=liged to suffer the withering influences of a hot summer day. — I have become so enthusiastic as to be satisfied with a badly dried specimen, rather than have none at all. —

I have at this time, put up but a small lot of plants, because I am obliged to depend upon the politeness of

of strangers to transmit them. — Next Spring, say Febr. and March, I can have ample opportunities ~~who~~ by our own Merchants, who will be going on to lay in their stock of goods. — I have numbered my plants, & should be happy ~~to~~ when you have leisure & convenience, to make out for me their specific names. — If the plants which I send, are acceptable, please notify me by mail, & if there are any particular plants in my neighborhood, of which you are desirous of studying their locality &c. &c., it will give me much pleasure to transmit them. —

I feel anxious to receive the next number of your Flora as soon as possible after its publication, I shall be much obliged to you if you will transmit me a copy by mail, and I will sent the amount of the Subscription, directly to your publishers by our Merchants in the Spring, or, if you prefer it, I can immediately pay your agent at Columbus, Mr. Whiting, through whom I have obtained the preceding numbers. —

I am also anxious to get a good microscope. — If Dr. Gray can procure one from France, of the quality, and at the price of Mr Sullivants, without much inconvenience, I should be glad. — Please let me know what can be done in this respect, and with regard to the probable cost immediately. — I am not, of course, familiar with their use, and should be glad to know whether the large one like Mr. Sullivants, will supersede the use of the smaller & more simple one. —

The whole subject of my letter, I give as the apology, that might seem necessary in a total stranger addressing you. —

With sentiments of respect, yours truly. —

John M. Bigelow

Drs Torrey & Gray

6 o'clock evening New York
July 25th 1850

Dear Sir

You may think I am crazy and I certainly know I am confused. — This is the third time I have attempted to transmit Mr. Sullivant's letter to you. — This is the charm if I do not succeed this time I must give up in despair. — In looking at my memorandum book just now I find his letter still here. — I saw Mr Thurber and he thinks you may visit New York soon. If you do, will you be so kind as to let me know?

Yours. Most Respectfully

John M. Bigelow

Prof. Torrey. —

Recd. Dec. 16th

Camp Lacey San Pedro river
Valley 230 miles from San Antonio Texas
Nov. 7th 1850

Dear Sir - Enclosed I send you a specimen of Euglans found by me in the valley of the Rio San Pedro or more generally known in Texas as Devils River. — I first saw it at the 2nd crossings of the San Pedro on the 3rd Inst. — The valley of the San Pedro is very narrow and in high water floodings fills the valley from the mountain on one side of the river to that on the other side. — The plant in the bed of the river and near the banks grows shrubby in large stools of 5 to 20 or 30 stems 5 to 10 feet high. — In places more elevated and not so subject to inundation it grows in isolated trees 10 to 20 feet high. — I have every reason to believe it to be a new species. — You will of course know. — Should it turn out so I must claim the privilege of requesting you to write a diagnostic description of it as far as you can without the flowers for publication in Silliman's American Journal at your earliest convenience. — I have had a hasty sketch made of it which I will send to

gun by the next train which we shall probably meet in a few days. — I also claim the privilege of suggesting the name of Lt. Whipple to whom to dedicate its specific name. — Lt Whipple has the immediate command of this division of the expedition from San Antonio to El Paso, Mr. Bartlett having some days before we did started with a smaller division to reach El Paso on the 4th Nov. by forced marches. — Lt. Whipple besides possessing a most amiable & unassuming character ranks high in scientific attainments particularly Astronomy. — An additional inducement is the fact that as Lt Emory on a similar expedition was honored with an oak I should be pleased to see Lt Whipple complimented with a genus not much less famed in history.. The only oak I have thus far seen in Devils River valley is the Quercus Emoryi growing side by side with this Lupulus. — I enclose also a beautiful fern what I take to be a Pteris and a few other ferns. — Accept my profound respects

Yours most obediently

John M. Bigelow

Prof John Torrey —

U.S. & M. Boundary Commission
Socorro (Near El Paso)
Feby. 25. 1851

Dear Sir —

About two weeks since I availed myself of the kindness of Col. McCullon and R. H. Coffee Esqr. to send by the way of San Antonio a collection of plants I had made on our route from that place to El Paso. — My opportunities for collecting and means for preserving what plants I did collect were very limited. — On account of the scarcity of paper I was obliged to re-duplicate many species of one locality into one sheet. — If you find species of another locality in the same sheet labels indicating its locality ~~labels~~ will be attached to each specimen.

The marked difference of Mr. Thurber's collections who travelled the Northern route from San Antonio to El Paso from those of mine satisfies me that this region is not nearly explored botanically and that the field for future examinations is open and extremely rich. — The valley of Devils river or Rio San Pedro is I think rich in new species. —

The lateness of our Passage (we left San Antonio 16th Octo. and arrived at Socorro 10th Decr. 1850) made

is unpropitious for the collection of Spring and Summer plants which on account of the aridity of the climate and lateness of season were entirely dried away. — A passage through this region during the Spring or Summer months would be highly interesting to a botanist with proper means for collecting and preserving his specimens. —
If Prof. Asa Gray has returned from Europe I should be pleased to have my Phenogamous plants sent to him. In his absence Prof. Torrey or Dr. Engelman of St. Louis would be excellent hands to leave them in if they would take their examination and reduction to task immediately. — My Filicoids and Mosses are small in point of numbers and probably also of interest. I should be glad to have them sent to my friend W. S. Sullivant Esq. of Columbus Ohio. — A synoptical catalogue and a short diagnostic description of such as are new species it would be well to have furnished for publication in Silliman's American Journal of Science as soon as possible. — The advantage of this measure will be that we can thus secure the priority and honor of what new discoveries we make that might otherwise be lost by delay being anticipated by after-explorers — the credit

insuring to them no matter how long after us they may have collected them if they succeed in publishing them before us. —

In a conversation with Mr. Commissioner Bartlett on this subject he seemed to think that our plants should be preserved until the termination of the Survey of the Boundary line, and then published in a volume under the auspices of the Boundary Commission. — The great objection to this plan is the delay that must unavoidably ensue before they can be reduced so that many of our new plants will be found and published by explorers after us. — We would thus be deprived of the priority we are entitled to in this discovery. —

As the plants I collected on our route from Simonton to this place were not legitimately in the survey, Mr. B. is not particular about them. — But those collected hereafter he says he will allow to be used in no other way. —

If a book of our collections should be published I consider myself in duty bound to furnish the collections made on this route to be incorporated in it and the full credit to accrue to the Commission.

Most respectfully yours &c

John M. Bigelow

Surgeon U.S.A. & B.C.

To Prof Henry

Smithsonian Institution

Referred to Journal

Recd. Sept. (answ. Nov 3rd)
Ans? Sept. 15th.

San Ildefonso del Norte N.M.
July 12, 1851

Dear Sir. I enclosed I send you a little which is different from any I have heretofore seen and so small & pretty that I can not forego the present opportunity. — I received your welcome letter a few days ago by Mr. Sanford for which I am thankful. — You write to me that the little walnut I sent you from Devil's River is new. — The sketch I had made of it there was not finished when the train that took them to San Antonio left our camp. Consequently I could not send and I have since had few opportunities. — All the plants I gathered while on the trip from San Antonio to San Elecario near El Paso I sent back to Washington by the hands of Col McClellan who returned in Feby. last I sent them to Prof. Henry Secy of the Smithsonian Institute with a request that he should send them immediately either to Prof. Gray or to yourself for the purpose of publishing a brief diagnosis of such as should prove to be new I presume you have long since received them. — My means of collecting and preserving plants are very scant & limited.

We have many things new & interesting and I omit no opportunity of doing what little I can. — I have found a suffruticose Liatris which is quite new. — I may send a small specimen. I find another comp. in habit very much like a Coreopsis but still differing from anything I can find in your Flora. — We have some 8 or 24 species of Eriogonum —

Yours in haste

John M. Leconte

Ans. Feby. 9th

Frontera near El Paso
December 12th 1857

Dear Sir! —

By the kindness of Maj Emory Chief of Topographical Eng. and Head of the Scientific Corps attached to the U.S. & Mex. Boundary Commission I am enabled to send two Boxes of Plants collected by myself since about the 1st of April last in the region of country between this and the Copper Mines. — Some few of them however were collected further west towards the Rio Gila near the Black Mountains in a range called by the Mexicans "Burro" — On conversation with Maj Emory I find he agrees with me about the propriety of publishing a short diagnostic description of such plants as prove to be new in some accredited Journal so as to secure the just priority of their discovery. — I think it an oversight in Mr Bartlett to keep what he collects until the survey is done because in the intermediate time publication of his plants might possibly occur which would lose to him the priority of their discovery. —

I have no place to preserve my plants here and have consequently sent my whole collections to you for preservation until my return on the recommendation of Maj Emory who assures me they will be well taken care of. —

The only good apology I can make for the bad appearance of plants is the scarcity of paper and want of other necessary materials. — But I must acknowledge my indebtedness to the kindness of your friend Mr. Wright by whose kind and accomodating spirit I have been enabled to get along at all. — He has my sincere thanks. —

Some parts of the season here are beautiful for drying & preserving plants but at other — the rainy season — it requires great care. — you will find some of my plants spoiled from this season and the multiplication of business consequent on my regular duties in the Commission. —

Be pleased to acknowledge the receipt of this as well as the Boxes of plants. — They are marked [B] in addition to the directions. —

I understand Col Graham has sent Mr. Wrights collections to Dr. Gray

With sentiments of high regard
I am yours &c.
John M. Bigelow

Prof. John Torrey —

Recd. March ~~19th~~ 17th
Ans. March 20

Frontera Near El Paso
January 15th 1852.—

My Dear Sir:—

I just now received your welcome letters of Septr 4th and 15th 1851.— In one of them you allude to a letter having been written in August and expressed the hope that I had received it before you wrote.— I am sorry to say that it has not yet come to hand.. The ones now acknowledged and one of 16th Decr 1850 are all that I have had the pleasure of receiving from you.— Dr. Parry arrived with Maj Emory early in December and brought up with him many new things all of which I believe he has sent ~~to~~ you.— At the same time (20th Decr/51) I sent ~~to~~ you quite a large collection – all in fact that I have made in this region. Among them you will find the Leosmidium spoken of which I think is not true to your description in the Flora and should belong to another genus (you however must know best.— You can easily decide the matter when you get good specimens.— Mr. Wright tells me he has never before seen the Liatroid Compositæ I sent you so that I suppose it will be something novel.

Mr. Wright has in all likelihood collected and saved what of the Eriogoneae I have missed.— There are 8 or 10 well marked species of them here and I am pretty certain I have missed some of them. I had some very pleasant though toilsome rambles with him about the Lobe and mimbres.— A day or two before we left there we

collected a beautiful Alnus 30 or 40 feet high in fruit. I had observed it in the early part of the season before and while it was in bud. — You will find them in my collections also I think some novel Populi. — By the way with regard to the little Juglans I sent you from Devils River Mr. Wright thinks that this has been already published in some western collection but that the one we send from the Leoba is new. — I was too late to collect the one below in flower. — Although they appear to encroach upon each other they seem to me quite distinct. — I enclose a drawing of the one from Devils River made on the spot by Mr. Kettlewell. — Dr. Parry contemplates starting in a few days down the Rio Grila in company with Maj. Emory. — Mr. Thurber went with the Commissioners in August last At the season in which he went he will find a fine novel field. — Mr. Wright with whom I am best acquainted was detailed by Col. Graham in Nov.r to survey the Rio Grande but fortunately for him the season for botanizing was past and I think they will relieve him and permit him to follow his old pursuits by the time vegetation opens in the Spring. — Where I shall be next summer I hardly know probably about the Mountains of Eagle Pass on the Rio Grande some 700 miles below this point. — I am glad to find you take what I consider the right view with regard to diagnosticating and publishing our new species of plants as soon as possible. Mr. Buckley seems to entertain a different opinion with respect to it. — I wonder Mr. Thurber does not send his plants home. If he attempts to keep them until he returns home to

work them up himself he will most assuredly be anticipated in many of them.— And the ultimate result would be a perfect Wilkes picture. at least so far as the botany is concerned.— — I have much been annoyed by the want of paper from the beginning.— I am also somewhat cramped in my perambulations from the necessity of attending to my official duties as Surgeon of the Commission.— Books Papers and other Publications especially on the Botany of this Country are rare as "birds teeth" and much needed by us out here.— I should be ten thousand times obliged by you and will moreover remunerate you well if you would send me immediately all the new publications of Western plants that you can procure.— I started with Emory's & Fremonts Reports but unfortunately have lost them both.— The only books I now have are Gray's Botanical Text Book Lindley's Introduction (old London edition) and Humboldts Views of Nature.— Your New Genera of Fremontian Plants will most assuredly be truly and gratefully welcome should they be so fortunate as to come safely to hand.— I wanted to get hold of Lindley's Vegetable Kingdom but was unable to procure it before I left home.— If it were possible I should be glad also to get a copy of your Flora of N. America I have a copy at home in Ohio but do not know how to get it out here.— The pamphlets and unbound books it appears to me could be sent by mail and if you could mail them at New York in time to reach San Antonio before the 1st of May next at which time a mail leaves there for this place I could certainly get them.

It will also probably be better to send directly to me rather than under cover to Mr. Bartlett as I suspect that is the way I have missed your August letter. – Moreover the Commissioner at the present time may be at San Diego or some other unknown place by which it would be a long time before I could get my letters. – He has not been heard from since he left – or rather since he was left at Santa Cruz by Col. Graham in September last. – Santa Cruz is a little Mexican town in the Province of Sonora about 2 days marches from the Rio San Pedro a confluent of the Rio Gila. – Mr. Wright was with Col Graham at that time and collected some rare plants. – Yours with sentiments of esteem &c.

John M. Bigelow

P.S. Jan. 17. Since I wrote my letter I have seen Dr. Parry who was present at the meeting of the American Association for the advancement of Science and recollects how Prof Agassiz was elated to find two species added to the small genus of Juglans in a geological point of view. How much more will he be so to find that we have in something more than a year doubled the original number! You appear confident of our Juglans being a new species! May they not be various forms of J. nigra? I only hint for information: But the one we find at the Cobre looks very much like an intermediate form between the little one and the nigra. –

P.S. No 2 Feby. 4th 1853

You say in your September yet I do not know what disposition I must make of my plants and I can hardly tell you myself.— There has been considerable difficulty with us in regard to the head of the Scientific corps Col Graham claiming it by the direct instructions of the department while Mr. Bartlett does so by implication he being obliged to receive the reports of Col Graham.— I have never received any orders written or verbal from Mr. B. on the subject excepting more than a year ago he appeared displeased that I had sent my plants to the Smithsonian Institute that I had collected on the route from San Antonio.— He gave Mr. Wright & Mr. Clark orders to deposit their Collections in Natural history at at Mr. McGoffeis near El Paso which I believe they have neglected to do.— I hardly understand what object he has in this unless he intends to make the reports himself, or at least through some other agency than his Collectors which unless there be some public reason for it would appear rather unjust. I had supposed that what was done in elucidation of the Natural history and resources of this country the credit should inure to those who performed the services and to entitle the Commission and its officers to due credit we have only to make our Reports to the Commissioners.

Dr. Parry has gone down the Gila in search of the Commissioners and Mr. Wright

is still engaged in surveying down the Rio Grande
Since the arrival of Mr Radzeminski Maj Emory
has returned an express having been sent for
him by Mr. R. — The Maj himself will not go
down the Gila as he had at first contemplated
Within a few days Mr Chandler of Philadelphia
has gone to Washington and expects to be back at
San Antonio by the 1st May so as to come up
from that place with the mail escort. — Our
last (January) mail from that place has not arrived
and is supposed by Capt Skillman to have been cut
off by the Indians. If it could be possible for you
to send some of those things I mentioned by him
or by that conveyance I should be extremely happy
I suppose however Mr Chandler will have
very limited means of transportation

Rec'd June 9th
Ans. June 7th

Frontera near El Paso
April 15. 1852

Dear Sir —

Your letter of 20th Jany. 1852 was received last month but on account of the uncertainty of the time mode and destination of our next movement I postponed an immediate answer in hopes I might get some reliable information on that head soon to communicate. — I find you have been referring to several letters you have had the kindness to write me which I have not received. — The accident I presume has occured in consequence of their having been enclosed under cover to Mr Bartlett It will be much better to send them directly to my address. — You express some doubts in your letter about receiving any more specimens from Mr Wright or myself by why I can not imagine because I sent directly to you under the auspices of Maj. Emory all the plants I have collected for the year & more past in this neighborhood. — I sent them in Dec. last by Col. Graham as far as San Antonio and hope you have received them long ere this.

Maj. Emory has expressed some doubt about your getting them but what object

Col. Graham could possibly have in with=
=holding them I can not divine. He cannot
by any possibility derive any credit or other
benefit from them without letters going through
yours or Dr. Gray's hands. — In either case
I hope to get the small degree of credit
I deserve for my fidelity and labor in collecting
them. — Mr. Wright & Dr. Parry are both ~~now~~ here
with me and we are every day nearly one way
or another getting hold of entire novelties.
Where Mr. Thurber is I can not tell. Mej.
Emory sent Mr. Ingraham & Dr. Parry in
search of the Commissioners who went on far
as the Pimos Villages and have returned within
a day or two. — We were most truly rejoiced
by their safe arrival as there had been reports
in circulation of their having been cut off by
the indians. — They brought us word that
the Comr. had embarked at Guaymas a
little town in Sonora on the California
Gulf for San Diego. and that Dr. Webb and
Mr. Thurber had passed through the Pimos
villages in January en route for San Diego
also. — — It may be that Mr. Bartlett in=
tends to come out with a full report of his
doings and to have a copious botanical
appendix but that he intends to include my
plants with Mr. Thurber's is more than I can say

I presume not however from the fact that he has given me no instructions or orders respecting them: nor has he ever afforded me any facilities for collecting excepting a very trifling amount of transportation. Even should my plants go to help fill up his copious appendix I should feel extremely unwilling for any one to work them up but yourself Dr. Gray or Dr Engelmann. Our next movements in all probability will be to Presidio del Norte from thence to Eagle Pass. Maj Emory hopes to start by 20th of May next. Something may turn up however between this time & that to prevent us. — You will please direct your letters to this place until we are certain of moving across the rivers. — The country between Presidio del Norte and Eagle Pass has never I believe been explored — (at least not by a botanist) and Mr. Wright & myself are promising ourselves a rich treat should we have the good fortune to pass through there in the height of the botanical season. I sent you some seeds and a long (probably tiresome) letter by the Feby mail which I presume you have long since received —

With my best respects I am yours truly John M. Bigelow

Prof. J. Torrey

P.S. Dr. Parry tells me he believes it is the intention of Maj. Emory to send him home to assist you and Dr. Gray in elaborating the natural history of California New Mexico & Texas. — I am not certain the measure is definitely determined upon and my information was obtained confidentially.

If Dr. Parry Mr. Wright Mr. Thurber Mr. Schott and myself were to unite and have our collections in botany published as contributions to the Smithsonian after the manner of Plantae Wrightianae giving each contributor just and due credit it would make a memoir fen better and more creditable to us all government included than to have each one published separately or to have them scattered in a variety of scientific Journals,

Such would be my plan if I had a vote in the matter —

Dr. Parry's return will give us an opportunity of sending you a variety of new things, — We are about starting to day on an exploring trip to lake Guzman into which several rivers or rather rivulets from different directions empty themselves one of them living the Rio Plumbres It is supposed to be about 60 miles from our Rancho in a South westerly direction

Respectfully

J. M. B.

April 16. 1852

Rec'd Aug. 6th – Ans'd 10th Aug.
(on return from W.B.

Camp near San Elcario
June 8th 1852

Dear Sir:

Your letters of Feby 9th and March 20th were received by the same mail May 20th. The reason of my not getting your Feby letter sooner has been on account of the imperfections of our mail arrangements in this country. – Had it been mailed early enough to have reach San Antonio by the 1st of March I should have received it two months ago. But why my letter of 12th Dec: should have been so much longer in reaching you than Mr. Schott when transported by the same mail is certainly odd and not referable to the imperfections spoken of. – Mr. Wright goes home charged with the collections we have made this season and to see after our interests as well as his own in them and also those already sent. – I suppose Maj Emory would have rather sent Dr. Parry on the same mission on account of his having been more closely associated with him in the California explorations but that he wanted him to observe and note the geological position of the region through which we have to pass the coming season especially the mountainous country between Presidio del Norte and Eagle Pass and no one else in the commission being so well qualified for that duty as Dr. Parry. –

Mr. Wright goes soon say about the 15th of the present month and will probably be associated with yourself and Dr. Gray the coming season — He will have a pleasant and happy time of it and well he deserves it. — Besides being a scholar and a gentleman he is one of the most industrious men in his profession I ever knew. — Dr. Parry with whom I have not been so long associated also appears to be equally amiable intelligent and gentlemanly. — You are probably better acquainted with both of them however than I am. — Mr. Wright will leave with us Torrey & Gray's Flora Fendler's plants Wright's plants and I have a copy of Lindheimer's and Wislizenus's plants and Lindley's introductions So that we can get along much better than we had anticipated and do not sensibly feel any disappointment in Chandler's not bringing us what we had spoken for. — I want the same disposition made of my second parcel of plants as with the first and a full and complete set reserved of all the plants I may collect for the Smithsonian Institute although they had not the graciousness to acknowledge the receipt of those I sent you through them, thinking perhaps your acknowledgments sufficient. — Mr. Wright in person & my memory by correspondence will doubtless confer with you respecting the best plan to be adopted in reference to them — Mr. Wright's & Fendler's

Plants have been published as far as Compositae in the Smithsonian Contributions. — Beyond Comp= =positae a great many more new & interesting species ~~have~~ are already amassed and being discovered. If after this a union of all our collections could be effected and published altogether in continuation of those contributions giving each collector his due award it would make something creditable to our government and detract nothing from the merits of those engaged in it. — Some & deserved credit would come to Maj Emory Mr. Bartlett (if he would unite) and Col Graham for their liberality and zeal in promoting and assisting collections yourself Dr Gray Dr Engelmann Mr. Sullivant & all others engaged in their determination and reduction for your zeal and learning while the humble collector who undergoes much fatigue & privation as well as danger should not be forgotten or neglected in the roll; for if we can not make the music we are necessary in raising the wind so essential in successfully playing the organ of fame. The plants I send you by Mr. Wright I hope you will find in much better order than those sent heretofore. — Over crowded as my specimens were at that time I had hardly paper enough to send them as it was. This year I have abundance and am not under the necessity of crowding them in so small a space. — In all our Collections this year you will find a beautiful Aquilegia with yellow flowers. — I enclose a fragment which will give you an idea whether it is new. — I fear however it is too com=

specimens to have escaped all the botanists who have visited this region. — I saw it last fall when I visited the Organs when it was out of flower collecting only a very few (say half a dozen) seeds, and only suspected it to be different from those in the Flora from the rarity of such plants in this neighborhood. — I sent the seeds to my wife and do not know whether they have succeeded in germinating them. When Mr. Thurber was in Sonora last Summer he collected the same plant and should it turn out to be a new species I should be glad to have him anticipated in punishment for withholding his collections so long and selfishly. I have made an arrangement with Mr. White the Postmaster who lives at Fort Fillmore 12 miles from the place where we collected it to have collections of the seeds made. — I left with him your address so that if he does not neglect it you will certainly get some of the seeds in the course of the fall. — With regard to my first set of plants Mr. Bartlett sent me never letter or writing but intimated a desire that my future collections should go to make up his botanical report: but has never given me any order respecting them. All the expense of collection except a very trifling amount of transportation has been paid from my private means. — His promise of a sufficiency of paper prevented me from furnishing myself with a proper supply at home which out here it was difficult to obtain at any price. — I must have made a sad blunder with my pen and substituted the name of Mr. Radzimiński for that of the Salazar. Mr. R. is an officer of the American Commission while Mr. Salazar succeeded Genl Conde in the Mexican Commission. The letter to Mr Scott enclosed to me I forwarded to him at Eagle pass by the first opportunity. If I do not get a letter from you by the Santa Fe mail which is now due I can not hear from you again short of two months. We start in two or three days to Presidio del Norte — address your next letters to "Leona Station Texas" Respectfully J. M. Bigelow

Recd ~~Sept 2~~ Aug 28
Ans. Sept. 5th

Camp Bache near Rock Creek July 8. 1852.

Dear Sir.—

A Mexican requiring amputation of the arm and the necessity of leaving a party at this place to await the arrival of Lightner's train from San Anton, is the reason of my dating from this place.— This is the point on the San Antonio road where our way to Presidio del Norte diverges.— Maj Emory and Dr. Parry have gone on since the 4th and I presume by this time are at Presidio del Norte.—

It is difficult to find anything in these diggings that have escaped the Argus eyes of Mr. Wright.— Yet I enclose a composite growing very abundantly very near to Bailleya and also a variety if not a new species of the same genus to which I am unable to refer to any description in your Flora or Wright & Fendler's publications.— I also enclose an evergreen shrub ~~shrub~~ near to Rutaceae which does not appear to be in any publication we have.— I collected at Florida mountain the only locality I have seen it on the Mexican side of the river about 30 or 40 miles below San Elizario.— In a low bare place I also picked up a few specimens of a kindred order which we are unable to to refer. From its appearance and growth I inferred it to be some very common herb expecting to meet it again in which however we have thus far failed.— I have collected 2 specimens of a Dalea one of which I send which appears to be intermediate between D.

Wrightii & Lanicesii leaving out the minute & probably more characteristic distinctions not having Nuttall's gen. I have no description of D. aureus which this may be as it appears to differ from the short description of Nuttall yet I see Mr. Wright collected near this place (Pass of the Limpia) a tall one much resembling the aureus. — I hardly expect it is anything new!! In a deep mountain pass I found but a single specimen of Streptanthus which if not new must unite Hendleyi S. microcaulis with S. longifolius (Benth.) I shall go into the mountains again in day or two expressly to get more of it. — If I can put it up easily I believe I will send my only specimen and trust to fortune for more. I send a Cheiropod with ripe fruit which you will have long since decided in a younger state in our collections heretofore sent. — I send also an Aristolochiaceae without any anticipations of its being new however.

I see by the Pl. Wrightianae that Dr. Gray has made sad havoc of the very little contributions to Botany I have made in this country. — My means for collecting and preserving plants heretofore have been very limited and my time occupied by professional duties so much that I have been unable to put up what I did collect with the neatness of a professed botanist. — Not humble as they are the little that is due should be given with a small degree of care & precision. For instance the ripe fruit of Rodiaea speciosa which determines the order to which it should

belong which I sent you never cost the "U. S. Boundary Commission" the first and each yet is given them without the least reference to my name. — So also of the Cactacea=ceae ~~pre~~ intended to be named for me is referred to another name. — I cheerfully acquit Dr. Gray of intentional blame in this matter yet as they are almost the only references to what I have collected out here one of them should be correct. — I probably may feel more sensitive on this subject because I have labored hard and it appears I am destined to bring forth less than the fabled mountain. —

From present indications we shall all probably be home in the course of next winter. — Dr. Parry thinks pretty certainly he will be home early in the winter & I should not — We shall soon see. — This has been a dreary country & nothing but the interest I take in botany reconciles me in any degree to it. — If you receive this in time to answer by the 1st of September direct to "Leona Station Texas" where we shall probably remain until about the 15th October. — I shall feel most happy in getting a communication from you at that place. — I feel pretty sure that you have long since received my Copsen=mine collection. — One word with regard to postage — I am almost ashamed to send my lumberous communications without pre=payment, but it is a matter out of the question I am several hundred miles from a post office

and have always been inconveniently situated with regard to it, and having no post office stamps I have been necessarily obliged to send without or not send at all — If you will have patience I can in one way or another make it all right —

With sentiments of high regard and esteem I am your obt Servant &c

John M. Bigelow

P.S. My term paper and crooked chirography will make you believe ~~you~~ truly that we have hard times. — The wind and sun & dust make it difficult for the best ~~of~~ penmen to satisfy himself with his work — I know you will excuse mine.

July 12th — In addition to the plants put up mentioned above I send another composit. Somewhere between Hymenothrum & Linosyris which I ought to be able to determine if collected by Mr. Wright — I send a little Eriogonum which may be very common — I have found more of the Dalea Nana which appears to be rather rare but you will agree that it is D. Aurea. I think —

Respectfully yours

J. M. Bigelow

Prof. John Torrey —

Recd. Aug. 30.
Ans. Sept. 5.

July 12. 1852 Camp Bache. –

Since I wrote my last P.S. I received a note from Dr. Parry at Presidio del Norte. – He says le cresc Greggii with ripe fr. is abundant down there. I have collected it also here at the mountains of the Muerto. I also collected at that place a Clematis sp. nov. which I presume is the same he has collected there & appears abundant here & there. – I enclose a fragment in this letter and should have done it in the package of plants but it was too green and damp to put with them when I made it up. – Dr. Parry also informs me that the prospects of much success in botanizing in that region is rather dry literally as well as figuratively. – "The River is the same old serpence desert tube land and bare mts." He also informs me that he has found a new Echinocactus on his route but he does not say whether he collected fruit or flowers or either.

Rec'd Nov 24

Ans'd Dec 11th

Eagle Pass Nov. 1. 1852

Dear Sir —

I received your kind letter some two or three weeks since dated Septr. 5th — 7th but was obliged to go within a few days after to the mouth of the Pecos on the Rio Grande where Mr. Schott was engaged in surveying in consequence of the hostile demonstrations of the Indians and consequently had no opportunity of answering it until my return only two days since. — I avail myself now of the first return mail. — Which up there I found on the northern slope of deep shady arroyas a Labiatiflorae difficult I think from the genus Perezia. — It is certainly not a Perezia in Pl. Wright. I enclose a specimen. — Mr. Schott and myself also found a very unique Cactaceae very near Mammillaria but altogether spineless It is very pretty and unique in its appearance Mr. Schott has made a very good sketch of it which he may probably send you by another mail. He is now here under Maj Emory and is much better pleased than when under the orders of young Lieuts of the Army whose greatest ambition appears to be the gratification of sensual pleasures. — But for your kind recommendations of him to Maj Emory he could hardly

have been induced to stay. — He has been obliged to do hard labor in the field with inadequate outfits &c. for which however he does not blame Mr. Elmory. — He has got through the worst and has had a very pretty field for botanizing the past summer which he has handsomely improved. —
He requests me to tender you his best respects and to tell you that he is so busily arranging his plants to send home that he has not time to write this week but will do so next. —
You say you long ago wrote me an acknowledgement of the receipt of my Copper mine plants I have never received it and the first intimation I had of your receipt of them was through Mr. Schott on my arrival near here. —
The Rutaceae I collected on Flounce Mountain Mx. I have seen no where since. Possibly Dr. Parry may come across it on his voyage down the river. — I looked diligently for the flowers but it passed apparently but a short time before. Almost all perennials bloom 2 or 3 times in this country so that should Dr. Parry come across the plant he ~~will~~ may find it in bloom and he will not neglect it. — I have a good many specimens of it in fruit. — When I first found the plant without fruit from its Terebinthinate smell I took it for Coniferae and when I found by the fruit it did not belong to that order it struck me as being something peculiar and I gathered

all the fruiting specimens I could find.
However I am sorry I could not find.—
I enclose also a letter to Mr. Wright which
you will me the favor to forward to him should
he not be with you.—

With sentiments of much respect
I am yours ever
John M. Bigelow

Prof John Torrey

Recd Dec. 10.
and 11th

Eagle Pass Nov. 15. 1882

Dear Sir: —

I received a few days ago two letters from Mr Wright dated Octo 4th & 7th. He had not yet seen you but expected to do so in a very short time. — He informs me that Dr Gray is "down" on him every now & then in consequence of his bringing home large quantities of trash supposed by us to be "bran new" and then frequently not getting enough of really interesting plants. — Dr Gray may in some measure thank himself for this state of things. — In Pl: Wright: for instance the names of a great many plants occur which are new to the American world at least and which are only enumerated; references being made for descriptions &c to some European publication, none having been made in an American book. — Able now how are we, away off in the woods or mountains with a scarcity even of American books, to determine what has been collected heretofore by each others. — I would defy Mr Wright himself in many instances to point out his own blunders. Now Pl: Wright: would be much more valuable for reference if a short diagnostic description were appended to every plant not described in your Flor of N.A. or some other American work, even if it had been previously described in European

works to which it is impossible to have every day reference. — A word however to my criticisms.

Mr. Wright writes me that he wants a new genus Glossopetalon spinescens in fruit. It is a plant he collected at Frontera under the impression that it was Adolphia infesta — I so collect them both well but have not seen the Greek jaw-breaker since I left Frontera. — He asks me to look out for it! It does not grow here and you might as well look for it in the streets of New York or Cambridge. But in my collections sent by Mr. Wright you will find it in young fruit and if you see proper you may communicate it to Dr. Gray. I should have written to Mr. W. but he expected to leave soon so that my letter could not reach him in time. — By the way May Emory appeared to think Mr. Wright was wrong in diverting his public plants to private purposes by having them published in continuation of Pl. Wright & and appeared to me somewhat annoyed when he found you had turned over to Dr. Gray the plants collected by Mr. Wright under his orders. His whole time & expense was for botany exclusively and was paid for out of the public treasury, while ours was for other purposes and the time not spent in special duties were only devoted to these collections. I hope there will be no difficulty in the matter. Mr. W. has worked hard but he has also been well paid especially under

My Dear Sir. —

I have had a long letter from Dr. Engelmann who is highly delighted with our collections of Cactaceae. He wishes to get the flowers also as soon as you can conveniently forward them on to him. I believe it was, My Dear Sir, wish that the Cactaceae should go into his hands.

Should Mr. Wright from any circumstance not leave as soon as expected and is still near you give him my kindest regards. — I had written him a few days before I received his kind letter. — Dr. Parry is by this time at Santa Rosa about 90 miles west of this. — Mr. Schott & myself are going over in a day or two. — Mr. S also I think writes by this mail. —

Sincerely & truly I am your humble & obedient Servt.

John M. Bigelow

Prof. John Torrey —

Recd & ans Dec. 23

El Paso Texas Nov. 24 1852

Dear Sir: —

Your welcome letter of Aug. 10th was received some time after the one of Septr 5th but I forget now whether it ~~came~~ came to hand before or after I answered your Septr letter. — At any rate I need no apology for writing at this time because I send you two Boxes of plants the fruits of my summer work after Mr. Wright left for the States. Among them will also be found a bundle collected by Mr. Schott in this vicinity. — I commit them to the care of Lewis and Groesbeck of San Antonio who will have them forwarded from Indianola or Lavacca by the 1st Steamer directly to New York. — I have made arrangements for the payment of the transportation to the sea coast. — In accordance with Maj. Emory's verbal instructions we have sent them to you for the "Smithsonian Institution" by which I suppose he means that the cost of ship transportation is to be furnished by the Smithsonian. — With regard to my plants I desire the same disposition made of them as those heretofore sent. The Smithsonian Institution are to have a full sett. I have retained no duplicates and of course shall expect to get one full sett for myself when I return. Those for the Institute I suppose can be made out when I return also as well as before. For your kindness and trouble in taking care of them especially of those

I retain for myself I hope (and that soon now) to render an equivalent that shall be satisfactory on your part. — In the mean time I can only express my thankfulness for the liberality heretofore expended on my account. — Mr. Schott I presume will write you fully with regard to the disposition he desires made of his plants. — I have an idea you will find his collections much more interesting than mine notwithstanding Mr. Wright has been over the ground before him. —

Maj Emory has been gone some 10 days. — When he first started it was with the intention of stopping at Laredo and making Astronomical Observations in connection of the Survey but on the day of his departure instructions from the Department of the Interior were received leaving it discretionary with Mr. Bartlett alone whether to continue the work of the Survey or to abandon it and disband the Commission so that Maj Emory has gone on to meet the Commissioner at Camargo. — Although it may appear singular it is nevertheless true that Maj Emory has been on the work nearly one year and has surveyed between 800 & 900 miles of the River or from Donana to Laredo (with the exception of a small fraction above the mouth of the Pecos upon which Mr. Chandler has been engaged and which he has lately been obliged to suspend for the want of boats & provisions) without having seen the Commissioner or even communicating with him by letter more than once. — About the time we left Presedio del Norte Mr. Bartlett arrived at El Paso and expected to join us in the course

of a month or six weeks. — The last thing we hear of him he is on his way through the Interior of Mexico to the lower Rio Grande. — This news was received by the Commissioners himself accompanied with a statement that it was necessary for him to be in New York at an early date. — These facts in the present state of the work rendered it imperative on the part of the Maj to hurry on so as to be certain to meet the Commissioners before he shall have left the line for New York. —

With regard to the point where the boundary line on the Rio Grande strikes the Southern boundary of New-Mexico about which so much dispute has arisen between Congress and the Executive Department it is difficult to explain in a few words my opinion of it and I fear if I undertake it I shall tire your patience

Lieut Emmets Map appended as a guide to the Commissioners and attached to the treaty is incorrect. It shows it appears that the positions of Santa Fe and other towns on the Southern borders of New Mexico are relatively correct as regards El Paso the only town near the northern borders of the Province or State of Chihuahua but it is set about 20 miles too far north on the lines of latitude and also incorrectly on the lines of longitude. Now the gist of dispute between the two parties arises from the view each side takes of the error. — One side (Mr Bartlett, & Mr Stuart,) arguing that the topography is wrong and the parallels of latitude are correct and the other side (Mr Mason & majority in Congress)

that the topography is right and the parallels are wrong.—
I believe Mr. Bartlett & the Secretary wrong because Col. McC=
=lellan Lieut Whipple Col. Graham Major Emory as well
as Mr Gray for a long time Chief Surveyor all Topographical
Engineers & much practical experience condemn it and
all who have been called upon to act in an official cap=
=acity have either refused or done so under protest.—
Besides if Latitude 32 degrees 22 minutes north was
the point contemplated by the treaty there was no
earthly use attaching the maps because all the Com=
=missioners had to do was to determine that point by
Astronomical observations.— These views were further
confirmed also by the fact that the Mexicans Author=
=ities fearing that it might be fixed even South of
of El Paso made a special reservation of that town.
in the body of the treaty.— The territory in dispute
however lost or gained is not worth the ink I have
shed in describing it to you.— A point of para=
mount and national importance should be to
procure a military road to the Pacific Coast.—
in that vicinity.— This however can only be done by
special negociation.#— — Dr. Parry is expected here tomorrow
or next day and as soon as he arrives Mr. Schott &
my self contemplate taking a tour to Santa Rosa
a mexican town near the mountains about 90 miles
south west of this place. It being rather late for general
botany our chief hope is to collect seeds and probably
some rare cactaceae.— Possibly we may find our old
"Rattlesnake" friend

Notwithstanding the Mexican treaty line was that of Mr. Bartlett giving it

=morrow before we can get away. — The Doctor has had a rough trip through those intricate mountain passes I have no doubt. — They say the region in the vicinity of Santa Rosa is very interesting and I hope we may find something worth communicating. — With sentiments of high respect I am

your obt Servt John H. Bigelow —

Dr. J. Torrey —

P.S. In your last letter you say you will discuss on the arrival of Mr. Wright & with Dr. Gray the best mode of publishing our discoveries — I have every confidence in your power & fidelity & may probably may be home in time to take a share in it myself Dr. P. is getting tired although Mr. W. wishes himself back again. —

Rec'd & Ans. Dec. 23.

I enclose a sketch of it made by Mr. Schott. You will also find plenty in Lud. in my collection. The probabilities are now bright for our return home in a short time. — If Mr. Wright is with you give him my best Respects. If I was certain he had not started for Texas I would write in answer to his kind letter. —

Nov. 25. Mr. Wendler's party with Dr. Parry arrived this morning he has found some nice & beautiful things which I suppose he will communicate early. — We shall none of us probably be able to leave here before January or May. Every has to communicate with the commissioners below & send us relief from Camargo or Mat=

San Antonio Dec. 4. 1852

My Dear Doctor. —

I received yesterday a long letter from Dr. Engelmann asking inquiries about the living Cactaceae collected & sent him by Mr. Wright & myself. — He enumerates 12 species of Mammillaria 8 of them new species & but one of them complete with respect to flower fruit & living plant. — He enumerates 11 species of Echinocactus 6 of them new 5 of them marked complete & 2 blank which I suppose are also complete because ~~because~~ the parts wanting in the others are indicated. — We sent him 11 lecei - 3 new ones 5 only complete. — We also sent him 13 (according to his enumeration) species of Opuntia 2 to 4 of which are only complete. — I may observe however that he has marked one as distinct of which I only sent seeds and is identical with another under a different name and he has also enumerated O. bajenalis & O. Fruticosa as distinct which I am certain are identical. We have therefore only 11 Opuntiae
He informs me that he is now engaged in working out the Cactaceae to be published in the Smithsonian Contributions. — In the plants I sent by Mr. Wright & the ones I sent a week or two ago I have flowers & seeds of several which he much wants.

you will therefore have the kindness to communicate them to him as soon you can conveniently. — I should like him to get them before he commences printing off the Smithsonian Contributions.

We could not pack them with living plants & the bundle by them selves ~~were~~ being too small for boxing & too large for the mail was the reason of our sending to you instead of direct to him.

I am on my way to visit Mr. Lindheimer. I find I miss some of your letters which I very much regret. You can hardly imagine the interest I take in the perusal of your letters unless you were a thousand miles from <u>any where</u> and had companions to sympathize with you only so much as to denominate you a "<u>weeder</u>"

I could not go to Santa Rosa as intended in consequence of not being able to get passports from the Mexican Authorities — If I remain in the neighborhood of the Sierra Madre however until spring I shall most certainly visit them whether I get passports or not. — Do not suspend your correspondence until you find out with <u>absolute certainty</u> that I shall leave before I can possibly receive your letters. — I know that I am accumul=ating obligations that I may not be able to repay for a long time but the effort to that effect on my part shall not be wanting. Most Respectly Yours

Prof. S. Torrey M.D. John M. Bigelow

P.S. Dr. Engelmann has sent me a copy of his notes on Cereus gigantus &c. in Silliman's Journal. Give my respects to Mr. Wright should he be in your neighborhood — I never go out into botanical regions without having him always green in my remembrance

Dear Asa:

Recd. 7th On my return from Northampton, I find your welcome letter of Nov. 8th here. I find Mr. Lund busily engaged in the publication and editorship of a German weekly newspaper by which his time is so much occupied as not to be able to devote much to botany. — By running over his plants I find many interesting ones. — His plants in general are considerably injured by insects and the probability is that the Commissioner will find his in the same condition. I will write you from Eagle Pass when I have more leisure with regard to Mr. Bartlett's orders in relation to our plants. — I will ask you one simple question however. — Are you with all the plants I have sent you as subject to Mr. Bartlett's orders? If you do I have been mistaken — Please let me know as soon as you can. Things are so much disorganized now that I can form no conjecture what our immediate future movements may be. — Mr. Wright's health is probably not so bad as

here Aug 2 I shall nevertheless be much happy to meet him. I have written him twice.

Prof John Torrey M.D.
No. 67. Carolby Street
New York

San Antonio Texas
Jany 23. 1853.

Dear Sir:—

Your kind letter of Dec. 23rd came to hand yesterday.— I arrived here also yesterday from Eagle Pass on my way home Dr. Parry left several days since and will probably be with you by the time you receive this.— On account of some small difficulties in getting our baggage along Mr. Schott remained back with our pack mules & baggage but will probably be here this coming. whence he will hasten as fast as possible to Washington.— If you see Dr. Parry give him my kindest regards and say to him I will write him as soon as I get on board a Steamer for home. when I shall have full leisure.— I will also write you again in answer to your two last letters which I have received since my visit to Santa Rosa Nos.— I will also give you then some account of it.— I write now for the purpose of requesting you to direct your letters to my residence "Lancaster Ohio". I hope to be there soon.— I have received letters from Dr. Engelmann & Mr. Wright.—

With sentiments of high respect
I am yours truly
John M. Bigelow

Prof. John Torrey M.D.

Prof John Torrey M. D.
No. 67. Crosby Street
New York

Lancaster Ohio March 17. 1883.

My Dear, Mrs. —

I received some days since your welcome letter of Feby. 28. and have neglected answering it sooner hoping to hear soon again from you acknowledging the receipt of our plants from Eagle Pass. — Perhaps you have been saved being bored as I had intended in my lecture on board the steamboat in our voyage home to give you an account of my adventures and hair-breadth escapes in getting that "green Rattlesnake" on my dish to the "Flowers" but the steamboat jarred so that I was unable to write with any comfort. And since I came home I am very little better off on account of receiving & giving visits to a long list of old friends &c. However you may not yet get off as well as you think as I may yet perpetrate it, especially on account of the loss of the flowers!!

I have been looking more anxiously lately for a letter from you because Mr. Schott wrote me a few days since that our package of plants from Eagle Pass had arrived.

With regard to the disposition of our plants you will please let me know as soon as you have anything definite from May Emory. —

By what I hear from Washington our Commission I judge is in rather a state of jumble I am told Congress has passed a deficiency for the relief of Maj Emory's party but whether any of it can be used for scientific purposes is more than I know —

Most Respectfully
Your H
Wm M. Beaumont

Prof John Torrey M.D.

P.S. I enclose a letter to Dr. Parry

Rec'd. April 29.
Ans. " 30

Lancaster Ohio Apl. 22nd 1853 —

My Dear Friend: —

I arrived safely at Columbus in 34 hours from New York but behold after arriving within 28 miles of my home it cost me 61 hours to get here. — I arrived at Columbus at 3 o'clock A.M. on Saturday but every seat in the coach for my town was taken. — Our mail is daily only through the week — Sunday having none — so I had to wait until monday. — One of our doctors (are we not an enterprising set of fellows) has combined staging with the legitimate commerce of the pill bags and monopolized every mode of conveyance excepting private so that you are altogether at his mercy and can only go at the convenience of his will! If being under the subjection of any monopoly is odious it is that of the Stages especially when you are in a hurry to get home.

In looking over Plant: Wright: Part 2nd I find upwards of 60 items where plants were gathered while we were together It is altogether probable I missed getting some of them but a reference to my Copper mine plants will show whether I missed them all or not. — The following from peculiar circumstances I recollect well having gathered before Mr. W. came to the Copper Mines. Hosackia Wrightii

If the included paper of Degnoniana

delphinium scopulorum, Silene Greggii, Ribes Neo-Mexicanum, Heuchera rubescens, Symphoricarpus rotundifolius, Zapeles Micranthus, &c. &c. and how many more I can not tell because I am unable to identify them from memory. — I have written Dr. Gray upon the subject but have had time for his answer. — — With regard to my Cooper mine collections, they were not made under Maj. Emory's orders but entirely before he came into the field and properly belong to the Smithsonian Institute. — If Dr. Gray should persist in the publication of Plant: Wright: Fendl: & Lindh: after Comp. under the auspices of the Institute my Cooper mine plants should either precede or accompany it. — From your not having written I presume you have made no arrangements with Maj Emory with regard to our collections — Please write soon. —

I sent yesterday a package of seeds collected last Summer & fall in Texas which you can share with Dr. Gray or indeed any other person you see proper. — I have sent a similar one to Prof Baird at Washington. Give my respects to your kind family & Mr. Wright

Accept assurances of my
sincere regard & friendship
Your obt Svt.
John M. Bigelow

Prof John Torrey M.D.

Lancaster Ohio April 23rd 1853

My Dear Mat-

* * * * * * * *

I have seen Dr Gray's Plant: wright: part 2nd and on examination find that he takes entire credit for every new plant in our Lake Guyman excursion without so much as even intimating that I had been in company with him; although you may well recollect giving us the privilege and outfit at my express instance. I had collected while at the Copper Mines a good many new plants before he came up and also many others while there in company with him. Such of them as he collected after his arrival are introduced into his new book without awarding so much credit as mentioning my name in their connection. His present publication extends and includes plants as far in the natural orders as compositae; - about one half of the flowering Species - From Dr Gray's introduction I perceive it is his intention as soon as he gets time to continue the publication of the same in the orders after Compositae with the addition of Findlen, & Lindheimers plants which if done will deprive me of much

credit that is truly my due. - Many of my copper mine plants were collected before he came up under Col Graham; and many others were collected cotemporaneously with him. His plants collected under Col Graham as wele as those collected under your orders are I understand in the hands of Dr Gray - Many of mine were gathered before Col Graham came into the field and all of them before you came yet I consider the and always have - as belonging to the proceedings of the Boundary Commission - If you look at the practical operation of these matters you can not help seeing the predicament I am in - I have not been required by Mr Bartlett to turn my Copper mine plants over to him nor have I ever had a desire to do so yet by being placed between you & Col Graham, I have been completely fleeced and see not how I am to get relief, except you and Genl Campbell are able to give it me If Wright's plants collected under Col Graham could be held back or brought forward simultaneously with our some reparation could be made and it would not be quite so bad You can prevent him from bringing out until the proper time - those

collected under your orders: but whether you have the same power over those collected under Col Graham I do not know. If you or Genl Campbell have not - those of mine gathered before your arrival should have the same chance with Col Grahams, and although their prominence would be but secondary in combined Wright Fendler & Lindheimer book. I could yet secure a secondary priority for them by letting them be united with theirs in the first publication

* * * * * * * * * *

Be pleased to accept continued assurances of my sincere regard truly yours

(Signed) John M Bigelow

Maj Wm H Emory U S A
Ch: atte: & Sur: U S B.E

True extract
M H E.

Lancaster O. May 22th 1853

Dear Doctor

I received yesterday from Lieut Whipple the Commission of "Assistant on the Southern Railway Route to the Pacific" and "assigned to duty as Surgeon & botanist to this expedition"

Then I to wait until I know when I shall start before writing you I fear I could not have time for an answer but would be much pleased to have all the suggestions you can think of with regard to the collection of plants in that region. — Please write freely and candidly on the subject and direct to the care of Lieut Whipple. We are to meet at some point on the River Mississippi the exact point to be designated soon. — I expect to leave home about the 30th Inst.

Most Respectfully
Yours &c

John Newberry

Prof John Torrey M.D.
New York

Steamer James Robb
June 13. 1853 –

Dear Doctor –

I expect to be at Napoleon in the morning where I am in expectation of letters from you. – I write now because I will have more leisure on board a pleasant Steamer than when in the great bustle of preparation for our long tramp across the plains. – I spent parts of the last 3 days with Dr. Engelman looking over our collections of Cactaceae and getting items for more. – In the botany sent home to you are some diminutive looking stems flowers and I think some orange colored fruit of a cylindric Opuntia gathered on the Rio Grande near the Conoro between the 15th and 18th of June 1852 – There were some peculiarities about the fruit flowers & stems giving it an appearance somewhat different from the vaginata or fruticosa with which it was associated. – Will you please have the kindness to send some of the stems, spines

flower and fruit to Dr. Engelmann
He wishes to compare it with others of
kindred affinity. –

I shall look for a long letter
from you when I get to Napoleon giving
me advice how I may best secure
all the novelties I come across. –

With sentiments of esteem
I am yours truly

Prof. John Torrey M.D. John M. Ware
67 Crosby St N.Y.

P.S. I enclose to Dr. Parry please forward
to him if he is not in New York. –
Give my best Respects to your kind
family. – Yours &c.

Recd. Dec. 1

Ans.d Dec. 20th
- letter directed to San Francisco.

Albuquerque Oct 29 1853.

My Dear Dr.

Enclosed is a letter for Dr. Parry which I send you by his direction I received a letter by the present mail from Prof. Baird to whom I had sent two Boxes of plants one from Choctaw Agency and the other from Beaver near Fort Arbuckle some 200 miles in the interior Prof Baird had not yet received the plants. He was at Burlington Vt. and before his return to Washington would see you and Dr. Gray and have an understanding with you in reference to my plants. — I send them to Prof Baird by the direction of Lieut Whipple who had left money in the hands of the Prof for the payment of transportation &c.

I have received also a letter from Dr. Parry in which he informs me he intends to spend the coming season in New York I suppose principally making out his Boundary report. after which he intends retiring to the shades of private life.

The collections I have here can not be be sent to the States before Spring when the regular trains cross the plains. –
I have been and am still as busy as I can be packing up my things to send home then and also preparing for my long and arduous trip across the Colorado valley. – Be kind enough to write me at your leisure with regard to the disposition of my Boundary plants.
Dr. P. says that I need not fear that he or Schott will Worrightyize me out of my proper rights. Lurch to San Francisco California. I do not know when we will get home. –

With sentiments of the highest esteem I am yours &c.
John M Bigelow

Prof John Torrey M.D.

Sonora California
May 13th 1854 –

Dear Friend

I shall start for home by the 1st of June steamer and consequently if no accident occurs I shall arrive in New York in two weeks after the receipt of this. – I have directed my wife and Sh Whipple to write me at New York and direct to your care so that I can get my letters without being detained should I get in late per next cars. – I shall probably remain in New York a very short time before I go to see my family in Ohio when my movements &c. will be in a measure governed by the directions of Sh. Whipple I have not time to tell you of the success I have met in California in the way of collections as I hardly know myself – I have collected largely and most of them are [illegible] new to me. – I shall bring a large bundle which will be left with you and then "we shall see what we shall see" – My time has been so limited and occupied that I have not had an opportunity to write as I ought – I shall spend the time I have left in the ~~secret~~ Nevada in the

neighborhood of Downeville some 150-200 miles north of this. — I collected yesterday a large specimen of Pyrolaceae but having no books with me (all at San Francisco) ~~that~~ I have no means of determining whether it is fresh or not. It is very beautiful. Excuse my haste as the mail in the stage closed while I was in the mountains & I have to send this to San Fran. by Express.

Most Respectfully I am
your friend
Edw M. Bigelow

Prof John Torrey

Washington D.C.
July 11. 1854

My Dear Friend —

I arrived here yesterday and found what of our party remains in the city all quite well. —

I should be glad if you can box those living plants I collected on the Isthmus conveniently and send them here to the care of Prof Baird who will have them properly attended to with our other collections by the public Gardener here... Nearly all the Cactaceae I collected are living and in a much handsomer state than I had reason to expect from their long & perilous journey. The Pancratium I should like to have sent also if it can be arranged —

I shall be engaged for a week or two in making a statement of the Forest trees on the Route of our Survey and I shall be much obliged to you if you could make a small package of the Coniferae in my collections which I would like to get illustrated before Mr. Mohlhausen leaves

you might send them over by express with the other things. –

Dr. Whipple is anxious to have a synopsis or ~~diagnosis~~ diagnostic description of what new plants we have collected made out and published in some scientific journal as soon as possible – Can you take hold of it immediately? Please write and let us know immediately. – Enclosed I send you a draft of $50. Hope your family are in the enjoyment of health & happiness. I found my own all well and highly rejoiced at once more finding the truant husband & father –

God bless you & yours is the sincere prayer of your humble & obt. servt.

J. M. Bigelow

Prof. John Torrey M.D.

Recd Aug 28th

New York
Aug. 19. 1857

Dear Doctor. —

I saw the lapidary who will polish a stone for me and have at Pikes the Optician. — I want it sent by the Express with my microscope. — I made a bargain with the stone cutter & paid Mr Pike. — You can examine the stone for me and if it is worth while and there is any thing in it I will send some more. ~~and~~ give you some pretty specimens — See that I get a good microscope. — Mr Schott was anxious to know how you were getting along with the Boundary plants and I forgot to enquire of you definitely about them If you can say any thing to cheer him about them do so. — I will write him when I get home. — Give my best respects your good family — Most respectfully

Yours John M Bigelow

Lancaster April 19th 1855

My Dear Doctor. —

It is but a day or two since I moved from St. Louis. Your letter of March 28th was received by my wife some week or ten days before I came home but expecting me soon she did not send it. — This evening your of Apl 16th came to hand. Thank you my kind friend for revising and correcting the manuscript of my report. — With regard to the project of taking time to finish in a better style and printing in a separate volume the natural history portions of our survey I should be pleased with the proposed plan but of course will have to be guided by Lieut Whipples directions.

With regard to the plans of printing &c of the Surveys by the authorities I probably know less than you — I received a note from Lieut Whipple dated March 3rd in which he says Congress has ordered 20.000 copies to be printed and that

he depends on you Prof Baird and myself "to make our results worthy of so great expense". — "Mr Blake will also endeavor to do something for the Geology of the route". — Have you received an answer from Prof Whipple with respect to the proposition to publish — short diagnostic characters of the new species & genera before the full report is made out? If you have, let me know his views respecting it. — I remember well the Cornus I collected at Grass Valley. — It looked so different from any I had heretofore seen that I supposed it might possibly be an other genus of the Family. — It is rather a small slender tree or Shrub about 10 — 12 may be 15 feet high with a thin pendulous top probably owing to its shady place of growing. — I only saw it at Grass Valley which is near the Sierra Nevada hills. —

I wrote you some time this Spring all I know about the 3 distinct species of of Dasylirion that I have seen & collected

About the yuccas I fear I can help you out of your "trouble" but little ~~[illegible]~~ especially without reference to specimens. — The one at "Pecan creek" is the same as one seen if not collected at Fort Smith and Dr. Engelmann thinks must be the Y. angustifolia of Pk. — The one from Hannah creek I took to be the same as those collected on the Boundary of the Copper mines. — It may not be the same but the plant resembles it exactly. — This is a low plant without any thing but a subterranean stem. — I found one very common on the plains of Texas near the Limpia hts. and also in the neighborhood of Presidio del Norte with a large sweet juicy edible fruit — This grows sometimes quite tall 10–15 feet high. — The leaves of these two last resemble each other almost exactly. The fruit of the tall one is longer but not larger and has much more pulp than the smaller. — The pulp of the smaller one is sweet however

I was much longer with Dr Engelmann studying Cactaceae than I anticipated would ~~[illegible]~~ be necessary. — My presence & specimens though impeded from collecting at a poor season of the year was nevertheless of much assistance to him in clearing up doubts with regard to many of his previously published species. — He tells me that a good many of mine are very distinct from those hitherto known. — Of the Echinocacti I found but 4 species & 3 of them are new & very distinct. — My Opuntias were in better order many of them having been collected in fruit & assisting him much in reducing to something like order that very disorderly genus. — My paper & spend is out I will write more in a day or two on your other points of inquiry. Yours sincerely in great haste — Respects to your kind family.

M. Bigelow

Ans. May 19.

Lancaster Feby. 26th 1856

My Dear Friend:

Your esteemed favor of 20th Feby. is duly received, and I hasten to answer. — I observe you have mixed my yucca labels — But first with regard to the discrepancy on my journal H. Camp 83 A. is the 83rd from Albuquerque. We put up at this camp on the evening of the 9th of March. — The specimen of Yucca that I put up there, I presume, was on the morning of the 10th before leaving this Camp, and was collected the day before. — My journal for the 10th of March, was made at Camp 84, and I find noted that I collected "absolutely nothing" for this day. — My specimen, though labelled the 10th, was collected on the 9th. — You are right about its being on the Mojave. — You are right, also, about my first noticing this tree on Bill Williams Fork Feby 5th. — It is the same species, and the same as the figure made by Lieut Ives. The principal difficulty with the figure, with me, is that the branches are represented too erect; yet if I remember rightly, there is considerable variety in this respect. We saw this Yucca in a few localities on Bill Williams Fork, but after crossing the Colorado, and until we approach the Sierra Nevada, it is very common, growing in some instances, 30 feet or more high. The "branch of old inflorescence bearing some remains of capsules," is the Cajon plant, gathered March 16th 1854. The label is misplaced. — This is the plant of which I was in doubt, whether it was Agave or Yucca. — The scape is 5 or 6 feet high, and the leaves about 10-12 inches long. — The fresh capsule, with thin black seeds, is from the same. — Those leaves with rough margins, (whole leaf indeed scabrous) with broad dilated base, are from the tree Yucca. The one you sketched, is a young leaf from a branch of the tree Yucca, just beginning to swell for flowering, and are the primary leaves of the inflorescence. — It was put into the herbary with no special object, & probably therefore not labeled. — It was torn to pieces by some of our men, & must have been put up for curiosity merely, as it affords no characters. —

In a box, mostly of Cactaceae, that was lost for a time

at Washington, but after the return of Prof Baird was found and sent on to Dr. Engelmann – afterwards sent to me from St. Louis, I find:– 1st, A few young rooted yucca plants, that I was in hopes would grow, of the large true yucca. 2nd An other small very narrow leaved filamentose edged yucca, collected at Picacho Jany 12th 1854, a little east of the Aztec mountains. – This is the only place I saw this species. It very much resembles, however, one I saw at Presidio del Norte, in the Summer of 1852 on the Boundary – Specimens of which I think you will find in that Collection. 3rd, Some old broken capsules, and imperfect seeds, of the true yucca. 4th, Also some small thin black seeds, of a yucca sent me by Capt. Whipple, from the Gila, while on the Boundary. – These specimens are too large & rough to send by mail – but I will box them & send with some other things by express, when I hear from you again. – In a few days, I will go more fully into the yucca question. – I think I heard you express a wish to get some daguerrotypes of some of our old Boundary parties? Have you any of Scholl, Parry, and Wright? If not, write & let me know immediately. – With these, some other things of interest to you, and what yucca specimens I have, I can send. – I am looking every day for the finishing stroke of our Cactaceae, from Dr. Engelmann. – He writes me that he has received my Swantii from Dr. Gray. – Capt Whipple knew nothing of it. Is he to elaborate them for Capt W's Report? Do you want the sketch of the true yucca again? Did I not put in my collection some leaves of two yuccas, collected east of the Pecos and near it Septr 24th 1853? I have so noted in my journal. – One of them I saw east as far as Fort Smith – the other, very much resembles the one so common at the Copper mines, and western Texas. Please write soon. Kindest regards to your family with sentiments of the highest respect I am

Most Respectfully Yours

John M. Bigelow

Lancaster O. Dec. 11th 1856

My Dear Doctor –

Your kind and welcome letter of the 6th is at hand and I hasten to answer immediately. – I am making my bread & butter by hard work in my profession. – I received a letter from Dr. Engelmann on the eve of his departure for Europe on the subject of the manuscript Cactaceae P.R.R. with it and also with my general Report he found a good deal of fault. – He ordered the proofs to be sent to Dr. Gray for correction and I understood they were going on with the printing of the MS. immediately. – I have heard nothing since from them. The Synopsis of Am. Cact. I had received some time ago. – The illustrations of Pines &c. were made for the P.R.R. Rep. of Capt Whipple. They were with Mollhausens drawings of Cactaceae

and should have been sent to you in the first place but by oversight of Capt. W. were sent to Dr. E. with the Cactaceae. — It would be well to send them to Prestch immediately. Will you please to see to it for me? —

Of the Pines No 4. is Dr. Engelmann's P. Brachyptera. No 5 is evidently another species although closely resembling No 4. — Whether it is an undescribed species or not, I am utterly unable to determine. Will you have the kindness to do it? — I collected it at the Cajon Pass, and also in the mountains 15 miles above or east of Sonora Cal. — Dr. Newberry wrote me a short time ago and gave me a list of his trees he had collected and intended to publish — I wrote some time ago to Mr. Wendell the Public printer about the cost of extra copies of such things, as I wanted and also about the plates but have not yet received an answer to my last letter. — You will probably soon hear from the printer with regard your reports. — Where is Dr. Parry & Mr. Schott?

I am most Respectfully Yours friend John M. Bigelow

P.S. Since you have left Crosby St. I do not know to direct my letters to you!

How can you say that No 5 closely resembles No 4? They are as unlike as possible. It is very Conspicuous for its weight, &c. I will write for it in Hastings Calif. Pines are Procured Kew for Corp.

Rec'd and Ans. May 9.

Lancaster May 4th 1857

My Dear Doctor

Your kind letter of Apl 27th is just received. — You have several times inquired of me about my special report on the Forest trees of our route Botanical Geography &C. &C; and I as often forget to mention that I have made none except the one you had the kindness to correct for me which was printed last fall or at least proof sheets were sent to me for correction at that time

I have not seen nor heard any thing of them since then. By writing to Smith Ives or the Public printer you might get a proof copy soon.

Dr. Engelmann wrote me on the eve of his departure for Europe that he had ordered the printer to send

the proofs of the memoirs on Cactaceae to Dr. Gray for correction.— Whether it is printed or not I do not know neither do I know who had the supervision of the corrections of the engravings. Some one competent I should suppose ought to see to it, or terrible blunders may be the consequence.

Mr. Sullivant I fear has got into a muss — or may get me into it — with the government officers with regard to my mosses. He has them prepared with 10 engravings nearly ready for publication but I fear the government printers will hardly agree to his terms, which is to have the engravings made and <u>printed</u> under his own eye — If not taken by the government they will be published in the Transactions of the Boston Academy of Sciences, so that if I can keep out of the scrape "I don't

can which Bear Whips"

I am engaged in partnership with an old brother physician of our Town but on account of his declining health and strength I have a good deal of the physical labor to perform myself which makes me very busy
Please let me know what is going on Best respects to your kind family
most Respectfully Yours
L D Van Buren

P.S. Where is Mr. Schott & Dr. Pury? I think you promised to let me see some of the proofs of the engravings of our plants!
If you correspond with Dr. Gray please inquire about the memoir on Cach!

Ans'd. July 28/

Lancaster O July 24. 1857

Dear Doctor

I have just seen the 2nd Vol. U.S.P.R.R. Expl. & Surveys and I hasten to correct an error in locality and Geography, you and Dr. Gray have fallen into, so that it can be corrected in your Boundary Report.

In the Botanical report of Capt Pope's collections, you refer to the remarkable and interesting Rutaceous plant, we collected at the Flounce, (not Florence) mountain, which you have named Astrophyllum Dumosum. Flounce mountain is not in New Mexico, but on the Western or Mexican side of the Rio Grande, about 50 or 60 miles below El Paso. – The Organ mountains are about the same distance above El Paso, on the American side of the Rio Grande. –

Another mistake, not of so much

consequence however, is, that Mr. Schott did not "obtain it farther down the River" The specimens he had, and from which he made his figures and sketches, were from mine collected at the Florence Mt., which I furnished him at Eagle Pass. I have received through the kindness of Mr. Schott, the Cactaceae of the Mexn. Boundary. – Is the general Botany printed? The Rail Road Reports are slow in making their appearance. Please write soon

With sentiments of the highest regard I am most respectfully yours. John M. Bigelow

Rec'd Aug. 31st 1857

Lancaster O. Aug. 15th 1857

My Dear Friend..

Your letter of 8th Aug. was with pleasure received two days ago. – Some 10 or 12 days ago I addressed a note to Mr. Seaman Superintendent of Pub. printing to know something about the plates of Capt. Whipples botany. Ferns as well as the Cactaceae I was in hopes of receiving an answer before I replied to your letter but as yet I have not. I have 200 copies of Whipples botany of which I can furnish as many as you & Dr. Gray may want. – Your welcome letter of July 28th was also duly received. As soon as I hear from Mr. Seaman I will let you know the result. Mr. Sullivant will publish the mosses of our expedition in the transactions of the Acad. of Arts & Sciences Boston. – If I can get them soon enough I will have a few bound up with the volume as they

will be published of the same form & size.—

I have made about 3 or 4 pages of "Additional notes & Corrections" which I intend to have printed here to add to our battery.— I will in a few days send it to you for suggestions and emendations if you will — I can have the title printed at the same time. As I have had no experience in such business will you be kind enough to furnish me soon with a suitable one?

With sentiments of high regard I am most Respectfully yours

John M. Bigelow

ps. tell me next time you write, what has become of Dr. Parry?—

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$6.38 per 100 for paper.
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Recd. Aug. 31.

Sandusky O. Aug 19. 1857

My Dear Friend

Enclosed are my Additional notes & corrections. Will you suggest any thing they need? And please write a title page for the same? I have just received a note from Wm. A. G. Seaman who refers me to Wm. James Ackerman of N.Y. who prints them at a cost for the Govt. of $1 20/100 per 100 copies of each plate and to Sarony Major & Knapp who printed 2 or 3 plates of trees in colors at $3 20/100 per 100 copies of each plate. — He thinks I should get them from the printers at the same rate.

Most truly & Respectfully Yours &c

Wm Bigelow

13

Recd March 17

Lancaster Mar. 12th 1858

My Dear Friend —

I sent yesterday by express to Dr Gray ~~100~~ 95 copies of Cactaceae & 5 copies of Whipples Botany for Dr. Engelmann. — I also sent 5 copies of the botany for you which you will receive from him the earliest convenient opportunity — I claim no equivalents for them but if you insist on it I would rather have it in Boundary Botany. — Please let me hear when you commence the printing of the Boundary. — Is the Geology of the Boundary printed?

Most Respectfully yours in haste

J M Bigelow

P.S. I will send on the money for the plates very soon — money with us is tight. Tell Mr Ackerman to have a little patience. —

Lancaster Oct 21st/858

My Dear Friend.

It is now a long time since I have heard from you or Dr. Gray. — I have seen the 1st vol. of Maj. Emory's Report of the Boundary Commission. — The whole work is only a partial Report of the Survey embracing details of little excepting the commencement and ending of the Survey. — The Mimbres, Cobre, Upper Gila, and indeed all those regions between the Rio Grande near the 32d parallel & the upper Gila excepting what may be embraced in the Natural History Collections are quite meagre. Even the Geology which in the other portions of the Survey is full and satisfactory is here nearly as blank as the wilderness itself. When will the Botany be published?

A truce however to complainings for I did not commence my letter for that purpose but to bother you in another way!

You are an expert in Chemistry as well as botany, so I want to know how the Bi-Sulphite of Lime can be economically and plentifully made or procured. For the ~~trou~~ trouble & expense you may incur in communicating this desirable information I will endeavor to satisfy you in any manner you may indicate. — As the Sorghum season is upon us please answer as soon as your earliest convenience will permit —

Kindest regards to your dear family
With sentiments of the highest regard
I am most Respectfully yours
Jno M Byers

P.S. I received today a letter from friend Schott the first since his return from Panama. – He informs me also that Dr. Engelmann has returned from Europe.

Detroit Mich. Aug 13th 1860

My Dear Doctor

Your letter of the 23rd ult. was forwarded me by my family only a day or two ago. — Do you know the address of M. Debey? The Mother Superior of the Sisters of a Religious order in Cincinnati through Dr. Blackman who was on a professional visit to our place at that time sent me ~~the~~ M. Debey's list of desiderata. — I put them up here some specimens of the California Sequoia's and for the other plants referred them to you. — The Mother Superior was going to Europe at or near that time and wanted to take them with her. They of course could not get them because you had not time to put them up. — If you do not know the address of M. Debey I will procure it from Dr. Blackman mutual friend at Cincinnati so that a correspondence between you can be established. — He probably does not know that you have the disposition of many of the plants which he appears anxious to obtain.

I hope after a time I will be able to get that set of

plants to which I have a sort of quit claim title. — No I could not get the Botany of the Mexican Bound. except a handsome vol. of the Cactaceæ kindly furnished me by Dr. Engelmann. — I have made application to half a dozen sources for a copy of the general Botany which I very much need but with no success. — I suppose my political skin is not quite dark enough to secure such a favor. — Mr. Horton on Rep. sent 3 copies to our County — one to a drunken dentist the other two to two doctors all of whom know as much about Botany as a horse probably — for a horse knows when he meets good grass especially if he's hungry which is problematical about the doctors. — I am told they are on sale at the Washington book stores & I may one of these days get one in this way. The Zoology makes very pretty pictures but if I can not get the botany in any other way I must secure one through you when you succeed in getting your extras through the mill. Yours with Engelmann and the Grasses at the Smithsonian will make it complete will it not? By the Bye how do those grasses grow which you promised us through the Smithsonian. — The Tallyrands of our government are a

good deal like the old French diplomat. Their greatest care is for themselves even when they seem to foster science. — You say you would like to have me go out on another exploring expedition. With a proper head, properly equipped and nothing else to do I would like it myself very much. — But I have abandoned my practice for a while anyhow. — I am here in Detroit assisting Capt. Meade in the Meteorological department of the N. & N.W. Lake Survey. — So far as comfort is concerned I am better off here than in the practice or in the field. I have only been here a few weeks. — Is Chapman's Southern Flora to be had in our city? I of course have not seen it. — You speak of Parry Wright's Thurber &c. but where is our old friend Schott. Or the publication of his last Expedition?

Since I received your letter I inquired of Dr. Pitcher about Thurber whose station I understand is at Annisobon but the Dr. thinks he is not there now and does not know his whereabouts. — If Lawhery had been up Bill Williams Fork at the proper season he could not have failed in securing a great many novelties. — But there is an objection to a Geologist making collections in Botany — he has too many irons in the fire. And if anything suffers for want of time Geology must it. — Respects to your family. Respectfully yours. J. M. Bigelow

Detroit Dec. 27th 1865.

My Dear Doctor:

I received a letter several days ago from Dr. Gray saying that you had returned from California much recruited in vigor although he had not yet seen you. Today I got one from Dr. Engelmann in which he says you will visit Dr. G. Christmas or New year. I heartily wish both of you all the pleasant enjoyments of this happy season and a long lease for the renewal of them in all reasonable time to come. You doubtlessly enjoyed yourself very much in your visit to the golden land of flowers although the season was not the most propitious for the exhibition of its decidious or Spring & early Summer plants — The extreme dry weather of Summer & fall I am told scorches almost every green thing especially on the plains. The mountain districts I suppose are different. On account of the great difference in the season I presume you saw very few of the plants I brought home 12 years ago. and what you collected must have been very different from mine. Did you bring many varities? I hope you did not fail to visit Gooseberry "Cedar of Lebanon"! I hope also we will get through Silliman an interesting account of your explorations in Botany as well as Mineralogy. —

Early this Summer Dr. Engelmann requested me to look after the Nymphaea alba said by Nuttall to grow near Detroit together with Isoetes Callitriche &c. &c. In fulfilling my commission as well as my limited means would allow I find that the nymphaea in our vicinity is odoriferous and bears all the published characters of N. Odorata with the addition of tubers on the Rhizoma making it without doubt the N. tuberosa of Payne. Mr. P. writes me that the N. Odorata of the East is entirely destitute of them and that there are specific differences in the airlets of the seed &c.

With the Potts' & Callitriche's I came out minus not being sharp enough to discover them though my range was limited - being confined to the suburbs of the city in looking for them. But to compensate in some measure for these disappointments I have discovered a Nuphar which I think is quite distinct from N. advena. Like the Nymphaea tuberosa the greatest specific difference appears to be in the rhizome. Nearly all my badly preserved specimens are sent to Drs Gray & Engelmann. If you would like to see it I can send by mail a fragment of the rhizome of N. variegata to compare with yours. of the east. This is the name Dr. Engelmann proposes to give our plant but I fear the variegation or tinting of the sepals will not constitute the specific ~~difference~~ characters ~~of the two~~ our plants. Mr Payne writes me that he thinks he has seen our plant in New York and that the N. advena has sometimes sepals stained with red. - Dr. Engelmann says we must study them more thoroughly next summer if we live. — —

I would like to know Dr. Gale's address. Can you give it me? I would also like to know if my name sake the present Minister at Paris is a nephew of the late Hon. Silas Wright Jr.?

With sentiments of high regard I am
most Respectfully yours
John M. Bigelow