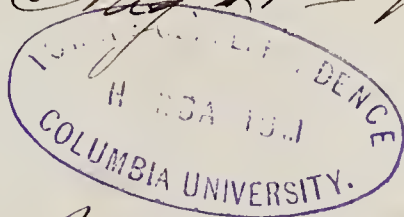


Camp Union, Sacramento

Aug 21st 1865



Dear Doctor

I received your kind letter of 16th just after writing to you at S. F. in answer to your appointing a meeting on the 13th. I was very sorry not to receive it in time ~~now~~ to find you there the next day, and having been unable to get a leave of absence without resigning was unable to see you.

Enclose a photog. taken 1 1/2 years since which I think will do as well as my "face" for you to see, but unfortunately cards cannot speak. I should be very glad to receive yours in return when you have any. I think it very improbable that I shall ever return east to stay.

though I may go on a visit, I
object chiefly to the climate there,
otherwise I should have been in
the eastern army during the war.
I could never think of practising
there, & in fact have not tried
to do much that way out here
on account of poor health making
it necessary for me to take my
good care of myself. You know
our family is not strong & one of
my sisters died of consumption
while another has white swelling.
I have been rather lame myself
for a year or two, can't climb
over the mountains or walk as
far as I used to, therefore can
not do very much at collecting.
I do not think there is much pos-
sibility of my making Nat. Hist.
a profession that will pay its ex-
penses, though I have tried by it

part of my time on this coast.

I have no plan fixed upon at present, but came up here to try the effect of the climate, & if it be unfitted me to try to get into practice in Sac'to. I do not find much encouragement for either object so far, but will stay in camp as long as they keep me in, which I hear will be about a month.

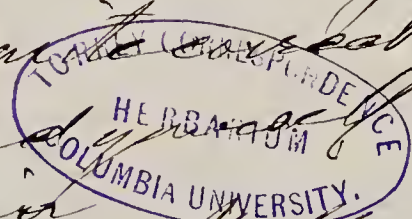
It is likely the companies will be sent to St. Reading at the head of this valley, and I will go with them if possible because I have never visited that part of the country & want to see it.

I will try to collect up there in all branches & send you something.

I have not collected Coniferae nor been much where they grow, so that I cannot give you much information on them at present.

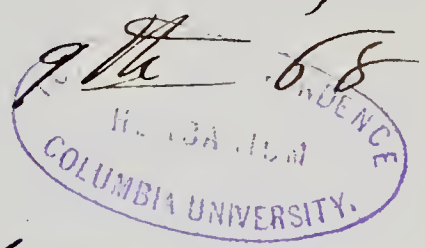
I hope you had time to get that
collection from Hoffmann at San
Francisco, of which I wrote to you
I trust I will see if I can send
them when I go to the Bay.

I believe the pine at base of the
mts. here is P. Coulteri, then come
P. ponderosa, P. Sabinciana, P. Dougl
assi, P. Lambertiana, Lib. decurrens
H. Merzicouii, grandis, Williamsoni,
P. contorta, in succession as we
go up, except that their order is
variable with locality in some
degree, & some occur at times so
much mixed together that it is
difficult to determine priority. The
last of these grows only on the summit
(near Lake Tahoe) which is the only
part I have ascended very high
I made these notes in travelling
& they may not be quite correct.
Hoping this may find you &
& family well I remain
Yours Respectfully
J. G. Cooper



Recd. Dec. 26th / 68

N. Y. Dec. 9th '68



Dear Dr Torrey

Your kind letter of recommendation arrived yesterday, a week after the Regents had appointed Joseph Le Conte to the chair I desired to have. They hurried on the election purposely, in order to give places to two southern men, the secessionists having a majority in the Board, and trying to make the concern a Southern political institution. I am however just as much obliged to you as if it had been successful, and it may be useful to me yet, as there will be an effort made to get up an opposition college on Union principles, & the majority of intelligent citizens are Republicans.

I am sorry that I have no specimens of plants to send you, as I have not collected since my connection with the Survey for which I made the Mojave collection, except a small lot obtained at Santa Cruz when living there, which I gave to Dr. C. L. Braden of that place. I presume if he has not sent them to Dr. Gray for whom he collected, that he will give them to you if you write to him for them.

It is hard work living here, and trying to get practice with poor health and many other difficulties to contend with.

Oh! the Climate east would be much wiser for me, or I would go there and try to get a scientific position. Hoping yourself and family may continue to enjoy good health.

and prosperity, and that you
may soon give us the Botani-
cal papers you refer to,
remain

Very Respectfully
Yours
Jas. G. Cooper M.D.

