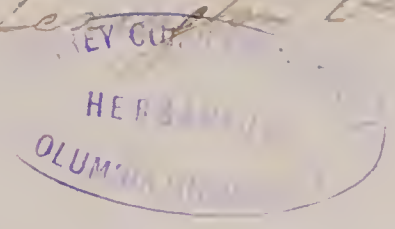


Rec^d Sept 30th Washington College Lexington Va Sept 26th 1837



And. De^o: CW

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of troubling you with an inquiry respecting a suitable person to fill the vacant chair of Chemistry in this institution. The appointment is to be made on the 10th of Oct^r next. I have no individual in view whose qualifications are satisfactory. His services may be probably ^{be} obtained. Good chemists are rare in Virginia. A young man of uncommon promise & fond of the physical sciences, would suit us well, if his present attainments would enable him to go respectably through a course of elementary lectures & experiments, and his general character ^{is} ~~is~~ exceptional.

Our chemical lectures should begin on the 1st of Feb^r & continue 5 months. The salary for the chemical lectureship alone is \$700. The professor of chemistry is the only one it expects to employ confined himself to this for a year or two, but for permanent we wish to have a professor in full duty through the college year. His department would embrace mechanics & physical science generally so far as it may be taught in college. The full salary is \$800 & an equal share of the tuition fees.

Anything which you can give us in editing a suitable
person will be thankfully accepted.

"How comes on the Flora of North America?"

I am sorry that a change in my situation & a consequent
increase of professional engagements, should have prevented
me from sending you more specimens of our
plants, & from completing my catalogue of plants grow-
ing in the Middle & Western Virginia. I had collected
specimens of nearly all, and was arranging them, when
the resignation of Mr. Vethula threw a new set of
duties upon me, and a degree of labour, which made
it impossible for me to give any further attention to.

Not long, I hope, however, in a year or two to find
some leisure again for that delightful pursuit. By
that time I trust that your work will have appeared
in its first edition. I should be much gratified
to give you some little aid in filling up deficiencies
in the second edition. I was in the days of my late
botanical enthusiasm contemplating the preparation
of a memoir on the physical history & geography of
this my native land - the loveliest land on the face

of the world. But Divine Providence has given me the work
to do - which, if well done, may promote the welfare of
this region of land. & my experience now that I had
consummated my former plan.

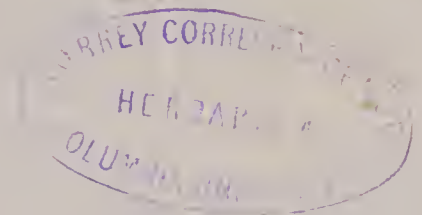
The spirit of education is beginning to
arise in this country. More correct notions on the
subject are beginning to be entertained, and I am
not without hope that this college - the former field
of Washington, will yet be not altogether unworthy
of its glorious name. If we can now get a good
professor of the physical sciences our faculty will be
complete, so far as our present course requires, & then
we must "try what we can do".

With sentiments of high respect & gratitude

I am, Dear Sir,

your servant &c

Henry Buffum



Samuel J. May
30 Aug 55

Paid 25-

Professor F. Torrey U.S.

New York City

