and how opposite the RBA IU 1 TO ... COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY Key Mest 15th Oct 1445 My Deun Sin I reciere your letter dated Princeton May 24th but not mailed until they st. yesterday-huning bean absent on a Botanical Town to the maine otherwise I might have obtained, 500 6 weeks earlier. My whange of buisines do son not seem to change my taste as you express a few On the contrary judgeing from the time that I have spent to the total neglect of busines - The expense incured. The hundship endured a the health exposed I think my tuste for botung is whome fever heat. It is very easy for one to think of making a complete Botanical exploration of Florida but it not easy to put in practice. To do this you must make up your mind to wade swim & crawl. Exposed to a heat of from 120 to 140 degrees excepting a few days in the winter your hunds well glored a your face covered with gunze to prevent being deroused by mosketves. For if it is not yeneruly known it it is centainly a well established fact in natural distory that These inserts have underfruted sway of a large portion of South Florida Especially in the neighbourhood of supe Lable I they are not to be endured for a moment even without some kind of protection- add to this the drenching rains want of shelten at sensons most parounable to making collections lass of your caboun by as is sometimes unavoidable on account of the weather being unfavourable to the currency of them and you have then some idea of the difficulties to be

Encountered. I do not know how soon I Shall be when to all that you desine but I intend occusionally to make un exampion us heretopone on the trip which I have just completed I sturted with a determination to penetrate to the lake & Kechahe but after spending 6 weeks about the court rivers bundens of the exerglades & the praine which treminates the souther penensula I found myself completely exausted being finally siezed with Huemofityois. I was obliged to abundon the idea of penetrating the interior at this time. You may think that my description of South Florida is extrangunt. But with the exception of Stey Mest The whole country to the Southand of Tumpa Bay cantaining 18000 square miles will not for a century hence contain 10.000 inhabitual But now to the subject of your letter I have collected the ripe fruit of the Butis mantimer which short be sent to you by the first regul which will be in a few days I will also furnish such information as regards its huhits that may be of service to. I have examined often It has perplexed me more than any other plant I doubt if it hus any very close affinity for any thing else-but of their you are more competent to judge. Of my collections, suppose I may have some 300 400 species that I may not have transmited to your. But many of these are in a had wonditon especially those gathered in my last trip which from ill health I was unable to obscure properly. But I think that most if not all of there can be made out you shall if my life is wontinued yet sight of them sometime next have when I hope my wollection will be much augmented. I shall only give you con some notice of speaces which have struck me with the most interest (Of Rulmue) Covers nucipera is ventainly a native of Florida. I have found it in many places always ne the heach on upon low manyson shores of Islands. Unother species of Lovos is probably a nature as I have often observed its fruit which is of much smaller sixe flowing

Whout the shones but have not observed it growing. The Royal Bulm of the West Indees I have found growing in all its majesty both whom the eastern & western courts. another species of pulm having sunthing the appearance of the dale Palm but with fronds much longer sarmed with the most hornied spines. I have not had leisure to assertain the what it is but an told that it is common in mexico- I think that I have now I species of Engenia. one which I discovered in my last trip the proudest of all being a lofty tree of the hammooks with a streight trunk & furnishing a beautiful timber . I cannot at This time give you an account of all. I am in hopes of being able to us you toadd genus to our voneseen. I have some strange epidendrous plants amy wheations of Gramines a bypervident to me who as I have not fruid much 11 Hentivn to those orders are o'verwhelming I found them in great variety on prainces & the borders of the ever glades. I have quite a variety of a, plants. a Rymphen with yellow nearly inoderous flowers about not so lunge us those of the Odorata a Submersed Dunnasia. Utricularios Ringuid I some to which I am able to give no cognomen. In the Couphorhiave I have mude some additions - Turnerane 3024 Species. Rubinaen I have found but few Convolvulacea Several. One with tuberous roots in shape size a taste almost previsely like the sweet polatoes but the most splendid flowering vine I even Wheld-The flowers ulmost precisely the volour of those of the Lobelia -Candinalis a little deeper if any thing. I found it yrowing in the rowky burnens near the southern extreme of the penensula. I brougt home some of the twhere a am Trying to domesticute them, If the Orden Culycereae I think I have son I sp. De you remember a suchulent leafless jointed vine attach to a stick which I left with you on my visit to Princeton. It belongs the asolepiadem. I hum since obtained the fruit. - test I cannot find at descrip me a labelled specimen of all the plants that I have bound Florida sits antiquity next I will give you something of the Geological features of Louth Florida sits antiquity

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John Torrey, M.D. New York No. 67 Crosby St. Medical College 67 Crosby St.

Key West 15th Oct 1845

My Dear Sir

I received your letter dated Princeton May 28th but not mailed until Aug 5th yesterday - having been absent on a Botanical Tour to the Maine - otherwise I might have obtained it 5 or 6 weeks earlier. My change of business does not seem to change my taste, as you express a fear On the contrary judging from the time that I have spent to the total neglect of business - The expense incurred, the hardship endured & the health exposed I think my taste for botany is above fever heat. It is very easy for one to think of making a complete Botanical exploration of Florida but it [is] not easy to put in practice. To do this you must make up your mind to wade, swim & crawl, exposed to a heat of from 120 to 140 degrees excepting a few days in winter your hands well gloved & your face covered with gauze to prevent being devoured by Mosketoes. For if it is not generally known it is certainly a well established fact in Natural History that these insects have undisputed survey of a large portion of South Florida especially in the neighbourhood of Cape Sable & they are not to be endured for a moment even without some kind of protection. Add to this the drenching rains, want of shelter at seasons most favourable to making collections loss of your labour as is sometimes unavoidable on account of the weather being unfavourable to the cureing of them and you have some idea of the difficulties to be

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encountered. I do not know how soon I shall be able to [word omitted] all that you desire but I intend occasionaly to make an excursion as heretofore on the trip which I have just completed I started with a determination to penetrate to the lake Okechobe but after spending 6 weeks about the coast rivers, borders of the everglades & praire which terminates the southern penensula I found myself complitely exausted - being finaly seized with Haemoptysis & was obliged to abandon the idea of penetrating the interior at this time. You may think that my description of South Florida is extravagant. But with the exception of Key West the whole country to the southard of Tampa Bay containing 18,000 square miles will not for a century hence contain 10,000 inhabitants. But now to the subject of your letter I have collected the ripe fruit of the Batis Maritima which shall be sent to you by the first vessel which will be in a few days I will also furnish such information as regards its habits that may be of service to. I have examined it often. It has perplexed me more than any other plant - I doubt if it has any very

close affinity for anything else - but of this you are more competent to judge. Of my collections I suppose I may have some 3 or 400 species that I may not have transmitted to you. But many of these are in a bad condition especially those gathered in my last trip which from ill health I was unable to secure properly. But I think most if not all of them can be made out you shall if my life is continued yet sight of them sometime next June when I hope my collection will be much augmented. I shall only give you now some notice of species which have struck me with the most interest (Of Palmae) Cocos nucifera is certainly a native of Florida. I have found it in many places always near the beach or upon low mangrove shores or Islands. Another species of Cocos is probably a native as I have often observed its fruit which is of much small size floating

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about the shores but have not observed it growing. The Royal Palm of the West Indies I have found growing in all its majesty both upon the eastern & western coasts. Another species of palm having something of the appearance of the date Palm but with fronds much longer & armed with the most horrid spines, I have not had the [illegible] of what it is, but am told it is common in Mexico. I think that I have now 7 species of Eugenia. One which I discovered on my last trip the proudest of all being a lofty tree of the hammocks with a straight trunk & furnishing a beautiful timber. I cannot at this time give you an account of all. I am in hopes of being able to enable you to add a new genus to our conifera. I have some strange epidendrous plants & my collections of Graminea & Cyperiodeae to me who as I have not paid much attention to those orders are overwhelming I found them in great variety on prairies & the borders of the everglades. I have quite a variety of aquatic plants. A Nymphea with yellow nearly inodorous flowers about not so large as those of Odorata, a submersed Parnassia, Utricularias, Pinguicula & some to which I am able to give no cognomen. To the Euphorbiace I have made some additions - Turnerace 3 or 4 species. Rubiacea I have found but few, Convalvulacea several. One with tuberous roots in shape size & tase almost precisely like the sweet potatoes but the most splendid flowering vine I ever beheld - the flowers almost precisely the colour of those of the Lobelia Cardinalis a little deeper if anything. I found it growing in the rocky barrens near the southern extreme of the peninsula. I brougt home some of the tubers & am trying to domesticate them. Of the order Calycereae I think I have 2 or 3 sp. Do you remember a succulent leafless jointed vine attached to a stick which I left with you on my visit to Princeton. It belongs to the Asclepiadeae. I have since obtained the fruit. But I cannot find it described in Decandolles Prodromus perhaps you can enlighten me. I hope you will retain for me a labelled specimen of all the plants that I have transmitted to you. In my next I will give you something of the Geological features of South Florida & its antiquity.