

Tully Nm -

Springfield (Mass.) Saturday 14th May, 1853.

My Dear Sir,

I received your communication of the 8th inst. on the same day, for which I am greatly obliged to you. It was my first impression that it was not worth while to tax you so much as to give you the trouble even of reading a reply. I have only to state that I have always felt a strong interest in the botany of North America, & particularly in that of our new territories, & of Mexico, and that I have long been engaged in studies & in pursuits, for which such information would be highly useful. I have made various attempts to obtain the results of the researches of explorers in Oregon, California, etc. but always (with one very recent exception) in vain. I have however been ^{finally} unable to obtain ^{many of} the works that have been published on the botany of regions much nearer home. Formerly I made great efforts to obtain Emerson's Work on the Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts, but was intirely unsuccessful. I took equal pains to obtain Dr. Torrey's Flora of New York, but to no purpose. I even troubled him with a letter of inquiry upon the subject, but he could not assist me. I never could get his & your Flora of North America. I once possessed a few numbers of it, which went out of my hands quite contrary to my wishes. Then I troubled Dr. Torrey with an other letter; but his reply was that not a single copy of it could possibly be found. Of late I have heard of your *Plantae Wrightianae*, and have had the good fortune to obtain the first & second parts of it, through the kindness of Prof. Henry. I trusted that the work might be for sale, since I could make no claim for a gratuitous copy. I then made inquiry about the *Plantae Lindheimerianae*

and the *Flanta Fremontiana*, the *Flanta Ferd-*
leriana, Dr Torrey's ~~numerous~~ Botanical Report on
Great Salt Lake, accompanying Capt. Stansbury's
Report; and also a botanical paper by Mr. Nuttall
in Vol. I. Part. 2 of Transactions of Amer. Acad. 1848.

I have however received information that none
of these are to be obtained, having been published
by Institutions, that never sell their Transactions,
etc. I think it is greatly to be regretted that
a few copies are not issued for sale. I have here-
tofore endeavored to obtain copies of some of your
publications, but have never succeeded except
with your *Botany of the Northern States*, and your
elementary ^{work}. It seems that my inquiries have
been communicated to several gentlemen,
that I should never have thought of troubling.
Dr. Salter has kindly offered to borrow for me,
from some public library, what I inquire for;
but I make it an invariable rule never to
be deviated from, not in any case to borrow
any thing that can not be purchased for replace-
ment, if it happens to meet with any accident,
while in my possession. My few books have
more than once just escaped being burnt, &
books of mine have been burnt, while in other
persons' hands, & books too, that could not be re-
placed. This has confirmed my rule. I give
you many thanks for the trouble you have
already taken to furnish what I want; but
unless you happen to know where the books
that I want can be purchased, my wants are
not so imperious, that they can not remain un-
gratified. In all probability, yours & Dr. Torrey's *Fl-*
ora would be as valuable to me as any ^{single} work,
that I have inquired after, though it must be
deficient in many Mexican & Californian plants



Tully, William. 1853. "Tully, William May 14, 1853." *Asa Gray correspondence*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/225452>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/253150>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Arcadia 19th Century Collections Digitization/Harvard Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.