

Sir

Having left Washington City soon after sending you a few seeds of the Jeffersonia, I did not receive the Letter you wrote me in answer, until having heard there was a Letter for me at the Post office of that City, I made application for it, and got it at my return from a Journey to the Blue mountains of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

It is with regret I perceive, that pursuits of an opposite Nature to Botany and Natural History those ever pleasing Sciences for an enlightened Soul, have weakened your familiarity with them; but am extremely thankful for your offer of recommending me to good Botanical Counsellors whenever I shall come to your part of the Country, it is likely I shall visit Virginia again next year, and shall then make use of your kind offer if I have the honor of seeing you again either at Washington or Monticello.

I am going to send this Winter a Flora Columbica to Dr. Mitchell for his Medical repository, it will contain a Catalogue of nearly 800 plants I have found in the Territory or District

Rafinesque. C. S. Phila. Nov. 27. 04. recd. Dec. 1.
his Address is Mr. C. S. Rafinesque
to the care of Mr Tho^s. Clifford. Phila.

1804
Nov 27

of Columbia both in Virginia & Maryland and a short
Description or rather Char. Spec. of several New plants.

The Western parts of the U. S. are as yet very little
known, I intend to go and explore part of Kentucky & Ohio
next Spring. I wish I could go still farther and across the
Mississippi into the unexplored regions of Louisiana, but it is a
mere impossibility in my private Capacity to visit such unsettled
and as yet very wild Country: I wonder the American Govern^t.
have not sent some Botanist there along with Mess Lewis &
Hunter; a Country containing perhaps a great number of the
Valuable Vegetables of Mexico is worth and deserves highly to
be fully explored; If it ever seems worthwhile to you, to send
a Botanist in Company with the parties you propose to
make visit the Mansas or other Rivers, I can not forbear
Mentioning that I would think myself highly honored
with the choice of being selected to make known the Veget.
and Animal riches of such a New Country and would think
that Glory fully adequate to compensate the dangers and
difficulties to be encountered.

I remain respectfully Sir
Yr most Obedt Serv^t.

M^r Genl. Th. Jefferson

Phila. 27th 9bris 1804

C. S. Rafinesque