of the big cone or common Indian nut pine. It is now
even impossible to get any thing of this sort except on
happening upon them in the mountains as the Indians
always cook or break them. I shall also write to a friend
at Humboldt bay to forward a dozen plants of the famous
Redwood cedar, the gigantic tree so often spoken of as growing
on the California coast, and a dozen more of the Salmon
berry bush, a species of raspberry that grows to the height
of twenty feet. The berry resembles the flesh of the fish in
color, though more yellow. The Chinooks of the Columbia have
many superstitious associations concerning it and the Salmon
whence its [illegible] name. [illegible]
first appear & the fruit is ripe when it is in full season. Forma-
ly they would not sell the fish uncooked until the berry was ripe.
It is about an inch long and tart. I regret exceedingly the diffi-
culty of making any collections here or of keeping any thing. But
seeds unless the plant is very conspicuous cannot will be obtained
as when out of bloom you lose sight of it. The Redwood and the
Salmon berry would I think both flourish at Newport. Tell Cauety
I am afraid she thinks me ungrateful in not writing to her direct
and I ought long since to have done so. I will make up for it by
a long yarn about plants and scenery soon. I am just recov-
ering from a strange affection of the eyes. The sailors, of whom we
have many through the mines, all insist that I was "moon-
struck". Just after my return I was sleeping as usual on the
ground, but as it happened with my face directly exposed to
the full broad moonlight. The night was cool but I had plenty
of blankets and slept very soundly. In the morning when I woke
I found that I could not see with any distinctness, had a sort
of double vision and tottered in walking. In fact I had to close
one eye to see at all. This you might think rather equivocal
as regards my amusements the night before, but I had drank
nothing but tea. I might have thought it a bilious attack but
there was no headache or other symptoms, I had walked fif-
teen or twenty miles the day before without fatigue and