N.Y.

May 12, 1845.

My dear Gibbs:

I sat down, a moment ago, to write you something safe to be said on the nature of modesty. But I forgot myself; and, having something to say also, about a recent traveler in Peru, I waive the topic, reminded that in an extreme case the soil may be too thirsty and the seed lost.

The note you sent me, with the map from the Coast Survey, exactly suited my wants. I have just written to Mr Hilyard thanking him for his attention, and opening a track for him in adventure that I fear he will hesitate to enter upon. The chart & what he said gave me confidence, and so I gave that fellow, who came discovering our coasts, 344 years ago, an additional thrust that I should think, had I done no more, should satisfy his admirers &