

Wm. of Bill Williams.
on the Colorado of the West
December 28th 1867

My Dear Dr. Gray

Some scraps from my
winter gathering in the valley of the Colorado
may interest you - I am now on March
up the River to join the main surveying
party somewhere near Ft. Mojave. This
is a wild and in many respects very interesting
country torn up by internal convulsions
and thus presenting a variety of aspects
which are necessarily represented in strange
vegetable forms. The enclosed scabby
Chenopodiaceae?, I found in a shell near
morning on the sandy banks of the River
I do not recognize it, as seen before.
I have been keeping a sharp look out
for Mojavea. I am somewhat uncertain
about its character only that it is allied
to Physalis. The enclosed seems somewhat
different, but I take it only a form of
Physalis. Though I do not find the inflated
calyx. — The Comp. Boyle? can
hardly be P. munda which I collected before

Enclosed blank from
the Colorado valley
collected in December
27-9th

on the side. This grows quite rank on moist lower bottoms growing in large leafy bunches 1 foot to 18 inches high.

The yellow leaved Cereus, which says is common in the bed of dry ravines grows in dense brown shaggy masses and has a perennial suffrutescent base. I may pick up something more on my way up the river or across the desert to California and will continue to send you scraps. I find what I take to be Dielsia quite abundant but how far you to collect may be able to send you seed. The climate of this semitropical valley remains a source of constant wonder to my northern experience. I spent Christmas Eve in a village of Mexican Indians where only dress consisted in the most scanty pattern of breech cloth. Temperature varies from 55 in the morning to 75 in mid day. I have taken a swim in the Colorado which showed a temperature of 58° at 10 AM !!

In going up the valley of Bile Millman to Columbine mines. I found at a ranch on the way ripe tomatoes growing in the open air - and was treated with fresh Water melons - I find the Colorado River much more attractive in its scenic features than farther South. The bold rocky shores precipitous canyons, and long vistas of open view, give a pleasing variety to the landscape - Otherwise barrenness and desolation is the prevailing feature of the bare mountains & uplands adjoining -

Our RR route is likely to cross some 50 miles above here.

I expect the Sonoran Jakes will concentrate somewhere in this valley & then all proceed to San Francisco to disband and return home. I do not know whether I shall return westward. I should prefer to spend a few months in California before I return - Hope to hear from you at San Francisco.

Very sincerely Yours
B. C. Perry



Parry, C. C. 1867. "Parry, C. C. Dec. 28, 1867." *Charles Christopher Parry letters to Asa Gray*

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