

Cambridge July 17th 1854.

My Dear Wright

I have your kind letters from Sydney, & from Hong Kong: the latter of the 9th April: and am glad to hear that on the whole you have got on so well, through trying circumstances. I expect that these difficulties will grow less, and that as you get into your real field of labor you will have better facilities and a more comfortable time generally, as you direct.

I will send this letter to Hong Kong, and, to have it reach you the sooner (& make up a little for former dilatoriness) I forward it to a friend in England to be sent (post paid) by the overland mail.

(You use books on ship-board more than I thought you would.) As soon as I got your letter ordering certain books I set about getting them for you. The *Wulper* came in fasciculi: and I got them neatly & strongly, full bound. I should have sent all off to Baird at Washington, to be forwarded to you by the officials - some weeks ago. But I have waited till I could add to the package the 1st vol. of my Botany of Expl. Expedition, which contains many Sandwich Island plants that will interest you and aid you when there. That is now out, some copies just bound up - of the text - (the Atlas, & 100 plates - owing to Sprague's slow working is yet behind very much); and now the package is to be forward at once - through Baird, who has promised to put it into the custody of the *Despatch* Clerk at W.

I have been interrupted - 6 or 7 hours - It is now midnight. To-morrow is Commencement. House full of company. I have to go into Boston tomorrow very early - mail this - return to Commencement. I repeat that I did not

begin to write earlier. I must now despatch only a hurried and shabby note. But I will write again soon.

About the account enclosed. I will spare to fulfil the Requisition if Bro. Ringgold will advance the purchase for the Expedition. Or I will send the separate original bills if needed - tho. they are mixed up with some other books for myself. Of course, if Uncle Sam does not take spurs for them the Botany U. S. Expedition is to be a Presidential one to you from me.

I have not yet seen young Storer - he has not called. But I have heard about it from Stanford. Only that a little brief and early should spoil people. But as I said before I think it will be better, and that you have been very judicious, and that you will reap the advantage of it in the respect of all, even the most ignorant.

I am glad you saw Mackenzey. I will write to him, and see if I can contribute to his education &c.

No news here. A long and long time is past now. I wish I could go to work again at Botany. As I told you I had deferred M. Wright. & in deference to Emory, but now shall go about again. Emory (who was lately here) tells me that Emory will probably go out to survey the new

Mex. Boundary, which runs right through that part of Sonora where your most interesting collections were made - and that his great Report will not go to press, probably till after his return. Or I shall go on with M. Wright (conjointly with John & K. Munroe) and hope to do much this year.

Your old friend Dr. Plowman went across the country with Whipple to California - has brought back good plants, some of which Emory has already sent me - nearly all got in California & sent, - not many from the eastern part of route.

Perry is married. So is Schott (to a German lady - I see).

Mrs. Gray has been to Beverly for 3 weeks - has just come home, with her father - this evening. I have hardly seen her yet. She sends warm regards.

I will write again to you positively without delay. Excuse this! -

Ever Yours very truly,

Asa Gray.

No time to read over a word. I trust you will find it will take you a season to make it out. -
A.G.

To Charles Wright Esq. U.S. Marshall

Paid at
Outline

Porter in U.S. Pacific Squadron

United States Ship Vincennes
Com. Perry

King Kong





Gray, Asa. 1854. "Gray, Asa July 17, 1854 [2nd item]." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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