

Cairo. Dec. 16, 1868 Red Jan 13/69

Dear Wright. Thank you heartily for your long letter of Nov. 13. I am here learning some subtropical botany, seeing trees growing which you have in Cuba - *Parkinsonia*, *Schinus molle*, *Cact.* &c.

Off up Nile to-morrow, & Mrs. Gray poorly, so I must write a short letter. My later ones to you, to Dr. Peabody, & to C. W. Loving anticipate most of what I should have to say. In brief. I want to retain you permanently as my *fideus Achates*, and as to terms wish you to have \$1000 a year, \$50 a month, till I return. also your fuel at the house. For your room you should pay no rent. That must be provided for you by the Garden. You are to have supreme control of the Garden. When I get home, we will see what can be done. You will have to put off Cuba till then, but can work at *Hel. Cub.* a good deal of the time. As far as my means can go, you shall be made as comfortable as possible.

See that you, or your S<sup>r</sup> Prof. Whitney have all the keys of the Herbarium, unless Bingham should want one, if he goes on with the instruction next term, i.e. from March to June.

If he does. I have recommended that you should mainly see to the analytical work, 2 or 3 lessons a week, from May 1, to about June 15, is all the time you can have. You could do this well. Bingham can't be up to it. I have thought this better than to call in any more outsiders, Brewer. I suppose, could not find time, if he comes to C. Mr. & Bingham I hope can get on together, & help tide me over the great difficulty I am in, without your health.

Sorry Mann did not communicate & arrange with you more. Arrangements were made to have Helly sweeps & keep clean the



herbary, and Mrs. Lovett to scrub when needed.  
I fear the herb. may have been left to get  
dirty & untidy. Please take in hand, ask  
Lizzie, over & Mrs. Whitney's servant, as  
to getting Betty, or some one to sweep regu-  
larly, let no dirty work that can be  
helped be done in the large herbarium room.  
Keep coal-ashes dust from the fire from  
getting in, &c. - Spare no expense and  
pains to keep down dust & dirt. As to  
money I advanced to Mann from the  
Herbarium fund a good sum; and more  
can be had from the fund when wanted.  
The Mann's will hand over to you the bal-  
ance left, - and when used the Treasurer will  
pay to you or to C. W. Loring all you want.

As to gluing, if Betty is on hand, have  
all that is laid out glued up. Also, if you  
please to lay out the Cuban plants you  
want to go in, have them glued also. -  
Then I suppose gluing must stop till I get  
back. I hope Prof. Art. lost, so by

and especially that Mrs. Duggell for Chicago  
Acad. will buy full sets of the Cuban plants.  
Don't sacrifice any. Sale will come cer-  
tainly when Cuban Flora is ready, and you can  
wait; but we will all along look out for pur-  
chasers.

As to dampness in herbary,  
look out according to your judgment. Air  
occasionally by leaving open doors of cabinets  
when a good fire is on, or a dry day out.  
The N. corner of the herbary is the only place  
that dampness gathers in, except the shelves  
next the floor. Well, do the best you can.

Good bye. Mrs. Gray has been having a  
bad turn, rather discouraging but I hope the  
cure will cure her. She sends best regards.  
Ever Yours

Asa Gray



Gray, Asa. 1868. "Gray, Asa Dec. 16, 1868." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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