

Am. Sept. 8

Butterville Aug 26 - 10

To Dr. A. A. Gray

Dear Sir

Your letter of 4th July came to hand yesterday and the accompanying Trees Letter and I need but say they met a cordial reception. I can account for my letter coming so late to hand and from Buffalo from the fact that I sent it by private conveyance and the bearer Bro. Chauncey Richardson passed through your city but the letter was at that time probably misplaced and on noticing my oversight he forwarded it from Buffalo. Knowing the uncertainty of the mails I took that method of informing you with certainty that I had not heard from you and was ignorant that my package of plants had reached you.

I am highly gratified that some one though maybe unwittingly lent a helping hand to the cause of science in forwarding it. I had at that time no certain way of forwarding anything there being no regular Commission House with which I had any acquaintance.

I saw Dr. Vetter about two months since. He did not mention the receipt of any thing from you and hence I infer that any thing you may have sent is lost on the way.

I cordially embrace your proposition of regular



to continue a regular correspondence and with  
reference upon the collection and preservation of plants  
with renewed zeal I would soon now be on my  
way to collect a species of *Petalostemon* but  
that I have loaned my horse I commenced making  
a collection last spring with a considerable  
animation but have not saved any for some time  
and this carelessness on my part is in a great  
measure owing to the failure of your communications  
to reach me I have travelled some within the last  
two months during which I saw many plants that  
were new to me I found at Austin a *Cassia* with  
beavers in pairs in-lane on petioles about an inch  
long yellow flowers We have a species of *Clitoria*  
erect with simple leaves & flowers purple I found at  
Austin also an *Acalypha* quite different from the  
two species described in Eaton's Manual and near  
this place an undescribed *Schotteria* also a beau-  
tiful minute species of *Gratiola* and a *Salvia*  
with very small flowers I have been noticing a  
plant to which is not rare in this vicinity but have  
not been able to find it in flower It grows in water  
leaves radical, on petioles 4-6 in. long, circular, divided  
in the petioles into quadrants It is so singular that  
from this meagre description you will know it if you  
have ever seen it or a drawing of it.

We have a variety of *Amelanchier* in our state I will  
mention a peculiarity of one which grows in the Colorado

branch I am uncertain whether the leaves are pinnate  
or bipinnate but the peculiarity occurs in the pinnules  
which are semi-verticillate in threes, one of them growing  
upward on the midrib Our *Petalostemon*s and other  
Leguminosae are numerous I have seen as many as  
five or six species of *Acacia* some very distinct others  
slight. Some are undescribed (that is in my few books) *Quercus*  
grow here too certainly and I heard of gentlemen in  
whose veracity I can place implicit confidence but  
whose knowledge of Botany is almost a negative  
quantity say that in some part of which not now recollected  
of this country through which he had travelled large  
tracts of the *Quercus alutissima* might be seen what  
do you think of it?

I have had the opportunity of reading your *Botanical*  
*Grammar* or *Grammar of Botany* in which I noticed one  
statement which I think slightly in correct as well as  
my memory serves me you remark that the genus *Sarcocolla*  
is confined to the Western states whereas I have often  
seen the *S. Flava* in Eastern Texas and presume it may  
be found also in Louisiana.

I have been very anxious but have not hitherto  
had the means if I had had the opportunity  
to procure such goods as I need to facilitate my  
studies and I will be much gratified to receive  
anything for my assistance and advancement and  
will use all diligence to promote your interest in  
the business in which you are engaged.



I am occupied most of my time in teaching and my botanical researches must necessarily be limited but what I can I will do with pleasure for your interest and amusement I am no doctor or son of a doctor and <sup>neither</sup> have nor wish any handle to my name but plain Mr. I am a graduate of Yale and so am entitled to my A.B. if I want it and I seek no more,

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Burlington  
Vt  
Aug 10

Prof. Asa Gray

Cambridge  
Mass

If you should have occasion to send to me any thing requiring consignment it might be sent to H. Peranton Houston through some house in Boston and before I have any thing to forward which will not be till late in the fall I will give you previous information

Yours truly Charles Wright



Wright, Charles. 1846. "Wright, Charles Aug. 8, 1846." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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