

Camp on the San Pedro July 2nd/97

My Dear Doctor

I have pretty much made up my mind to return to San Antonio with the train which will stay but few weeks at El Paso. I have paper sufficient for the present season only and I am perfectly convinced that I shall get no more without going after it unless (which is not very probable) it could be sent as Quartermaster's stores. The indifference and even petty spite shown me and my pursuits by the head waggon master of the train in which I have been thrown lead me to this opinion and the want of interest shown by the Quartermaster himself proves to me that he will give himself no trouble to forward my pursuits.

Maj Van Horn & Maj Henry expressed a willingness to assist me but did nothing except promise me transportation. Left thus to the tender mercies of the Quartermaster & Waggonmaster my baggage has been at one time or another in well nigh a dozen different waggons and sometimes scattered about in five or six one ream of paper here and another there ~~my trunk in a third and my press in a fourth~~. Whenever Capt French D. M. gets in an ill humor he begins to grumble about the weakness of his teams and the transportation of botanists trucks (he has not made adequate provision for the transportation of the train and the Maj. himself are at loggerheads about it). There are two ways to remedy these evils in any subsequent campaign — to get special permission and power from the Sec. of War to demand transportation and subsistence — or to go entirely independent of the troops as I have heretofore written to you except the protection of their company. I am pretty well determined to stay at home hereafter unless I can travel under more agreeable circumstances.

I have been devising a plan to secure the favor and assistance of Government to present to Prof. Winch for the Smithsonian Institute a set of my collections, then if he has any influence at head quarters he can secure for me these advantages which will put me above the control of an Ass. Q. Master and an Almighty Waggon-master.

I pay now \$12. per month for my board and at that rate by the time I return to Austin I shall be about out of funds. If I knew positively and could satisfy Dr. Baker that you would honor a draft from me I could get money from him which you could pay to him, order for his children and thus accommodate him and me.

Since writing the above I have talked with Dr. Baker and he expresses his desire that I should give him a draft on your payable 10 days from ^{date} for \$1500. which I must you will honor. The draft he sends to his brother in Boston and the money he will pay over to me before the conclusion of this campaign or when I shall need it as I undoubtedly shall before I get back to the Santa Fe settlement. I immediately on the payment of the draft gave my notice of the fact through Dr. Baker's direction to "Dr. J. M. San Antonio Surgeon to Capt. French's division of the expedition to El Paso" to Asst. Quarter Master of the "Doct. J. M. Baker" Surgeon to the train of Capt. French Asst. Q. M. of the expedition to El Paso. This is to be enclosed by Doct. James M. Levine San Antonio with request forward by the first express.

I have lately passed over an interesting country and found several things quite new particularly a *Hedyotis* resembling in its phage very closely *Hymenatherum tenuilobum* Sw. I have also fine fruiting specimens of *Heliconia*, *tenaxifolia* collected on a high hill near our Cuban mission on Turkey creek. Today I have no found much of interest I had to lie up day before yesterday with fever but I am well again.

My numbered list of specimens and seeds now runs up to nearly six hundred and most of them splendid such as would do your eye good to look at.

Affectionately Yours,
Charles Wright

P.S. Enclosed are the flower and a leaf of an *Erigeron* found in the channel of the Tulees on high gravelly bar quite leafy and somewhat up north of from the base ^{about 10-12 ft high} - very much branching from about the middle.

* This money the Dr. has been reserving for the support of his orphan children ^{in the north} and he will naturally feel an anxiety until he learns that they are enjoying the benefit of it according to his desire.

My Mother, I have been thinking of you
very much lately and wondering how
you are getting on. I hope you are
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Wright, Charles. 1849. "Wright, Charles July 2, 1849." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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