

San Antonio Nov 25th/49

My Dear Dr I returned to this place day before yesterday ragged, dirty, & probably lousy, & with very few dollars in my pocket I hope however to be able to go to Fort La Baca in a few days & send my collections Boston-ward.

We were on the road forty-two days having a admirable weather with the exception of one snow-storm among the Guadalupe Mts.

I think my plants are in good condition - the numbered list runs up to 1400

The seeds I think I shall retain for a while to select some for distribution among friends to whom I had promised to give some. I fear if I send them on in a mass your pressure of business will not allow you to do it.

I have not heard a word from my friends in Coma since I left them - why I am utterly at a loss to know.

I received your two letters enclosed one to Dr. Divin the other to Capt French.

Allow me to remark upon your observation that you would retain the \$150 to be paid by Prof. Henry that you had better send it on to me soon if you want me to be benefited by it next summer.

The tardiness with which my former collection reached you together with remarks made by me to you in person should suggest to you as much promptness as you can possibly exercise.

It may seem strange to you who can send a package 1000 miles in a week that I should advise you to send ^{money} to me 2000 distant four months before I shall want it. Yet such is my advice unless you have such arrangements that I can draw

on New-Berlin. at any moment—and in that case I should
want to draw by the middle of Jan^r that I might have
at least six weeks to do the business in & be ready to start
by the 12 March. Couldn't you get me a draft on the Paymaster at Ch.^l?

You may want to know how much money I want.
I'll \$500 for two years and I don't think I would be willing
to go on another campaign like the last and under no
more favorable circumstances with less than \$300. Next
time I am not going on foot. I don't relish the thought of
striding uproot on a journey of 1300 miles perhaps including
all ramblings 2500 without a fair prospect of finding a good
deal of the way, and a good horse or mule would cost from \$60-100.

Dr & I have quarrelled—so there is no prospect of doing
any more business through him. I was sick & he waited on
me and prescribed for me. He may bring in a large bill
against me. I hope he will pay me tomorrow.

I don't think my expenses will be great this winter. Tell
Dr. Fuchsmann & Sullivan that I will remember them
the coming winter.

I have collected some shell pieces & fossil & some
minerals. With these I hope to procure some elementary
works or works on American shells. I hope you will give
them to some of your conchological friends & tell them that
if they will help me to get some knowledge of the subject I
will try to extend theirs. Some convenient work on American
shells would be most acceptable—also one on insects and
indeed a whole series like Ruschenburg's but a great deal
better. The accumulation of scientific terms in one of these works—insects
is everable—throwing back the primary anent on the prae-
kernult.

My manuscript notes will need some revision & correction and
as some particular errors & places were called by different
names and as those reported by the head of the engineer corps
will be the proper one to which be referred to in the accounts
of my plants it will be important that I have a copy of that
report to enable me to correct any errors in my notes.
Will you have one sent on to me as soon as possible.

If I wish you could send me soon something on mosses & Lichens
as soon as possible. Even the manual you sent me is in the
possession of Capt. Beatch—so I have not now the first line
on those branches of botany. Something with figures would
be very acceptable. The Fig book you sent me winter before
last was sent on with my trunk & when I left Ch.^l I
was desired by Capt. French to reduce my baggage to the very
minimum—so I gave the Flora & M. Fendl. to Mrs. Glenny
(not from want of regard for your presents) but to lighten my
baggage thinking then that I could procure more when I
came north. I have been thinking of sending to Prof. DeCandolle
a set of the plants & soliciting from him in return a copy of the
Prodromus. What do you think of it? I want the means of
straying so that I may hope to become something more than
a mere collector.

A French gentleman sent out by the French Government to
make scientific researches in California & Texas told Capt. French
at Ch.^l that his Government would purchase a set
of my collections.

The plant I sent you is certainly only in outward appearance
"like a Tragia" for its 5-celled capsule is many or several seeded.

I am sorry to hear that Mrs G still continues feeble.

As you say nothing of your own health I suppose
it is good

When I get home (if I ever find one) I will write you
more at length Till then I remain

Faithfully Yours

Charles Wright

P.S. Nov 27 Dr Baker has just paid me the \$130 dollars like
a gentleman as he shows himself in this transaction & I gave
him a receipt promising to refund if the draft should not be paid
or be lost

Yours C.W.



Wright, Charles. 1849. "Wright, Charles Nov. 25, 1849." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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