

San Marcos Oct 15th 1850

My Dear Dr

I returned yesterday from San Antonio prepared to settle down once more at my old profession = pedagogism. You will probably be surprised and vexed at the unfortunate result of all our plans & negotiations. If I did not know the difficulties I would have to meet and the sufferings to be endured in a winter expedition over the woodless plains between the settlements & El Paso I should be mad enough to cry over my disappointments or as some one says "cussin mad". But every thing considered I am pretty well reconciled to it & would be entirely so had I not been treated so ungentlemanly. — As soon as I heard of the arrival in our state of the Commissioner I wrote to him at San Antonio and had my paper & trunk carried there two or three months ago. The party remained a long time at Indianola and I heard nothing or but little of them through the papers. I thought when the Commissioner went to San Antonio he would answer my letter. After a while becoming impatient I went to San Antonio but the Commissioner was still at Indianola — however I made arrangements to be informed of its arrival in San Antonio and a few days ago I received intelligence that the party was in San Antonio and would start on this day. I went there on the 12th inst but the Commissioner had started two days before on a forced march. He had however been very particular to give me no intelligence of his movements. His brother whom I saw & conversed with apologized for the neglect of me by ~~his~~ the Commissioner thus — "that his letter to Prof. Henry which I showed him was written previous to his appointment as Commissioner"!!! It would seem that he had some favorite of his own to appoint to a fat office — Dr. Thurber (I saw a volunteer note from him to Mr. Lindheimer promising to call & see him — the promise however unfulfilled. So — a fig for the promises of

Washington Officers) A charming spot is however sometimes seen in the vast
desert of human selfishness. Such an one I found in the pleasant smile of
Maj. Bellett and his kind promise to give me transportation to El Paso
We have been long enough in the south (if not notice) to have imbibed that
noble & disinterested generosity which so eminently distinguished ~~the~~ these
Gentlemen or more probably was a gentleman originally & by nature. I
am disposed to believe that but little love for Texas or any of her citizens
can be found at Washington during the recess of Congress much less any
where north of that. Of course I make exception. I received a very
kind letter from Dr. Torrey a short time ago & I shall ever remember
your and other kindness who have assisted me. You may have the
benefit of Dr. Thumbers collection but I question whether he will climb
hills and wade ditches and pierce thickets as I wade do. If he does ~~and~~
a buckskin dress he will endanger his ~~head~~ ^{his fingers?} One of the attachés
of the expedition wanted to buy paper and if I had been a couple of days
earlier I would have sold him mine — and the second time sacrificed
my botanising apparatus for ready money & to save the expense of transport-
ation & retransportation I paid \$8.30 charges at Fort Laramie some three ^{or} four
miles for hauling him \$1.64 more for hauling to San Antonio — the same to be paid for
hauling back & when I shall have it carried again to San Antonio next
Spring when I hope to get you see it will have cost me not much less than
the prime cost. I paid more than twice as much as I ought to have paid for
carrying my collection to Fort Laramie a year ago (\$6.00). You may not see the
necessity of all these goings & returnings but I hope you will give me the credit
of acting wisely according to my ability. You have never been in Texas and can
not know all the circumstances by which my actions are governed and were
I to detail them it would but serve to consume your time to read them.

You may think it strange that I need ready money when you send me so much
by Mr. Bartlett. Whether he had it or not he failed to let me know it. His

whole conduct towards me was a piece of "masterly forgetfulness" *

I have a little money but the \$130 paid me by Dr. Baker is nearly gone
and would have been entirely spent had I not collected some small sum
due me. I shall probably make \$125 the coming winter. So I am not at
all troubled as present only I have a natural Yankee curiosity to know
what has become of the \$378.11

Some philosopher receiving a day spent without doing good said he
"had lost a day." He thinks he has less philosophy than myself who can look
back upon the last season and say almost with truth "I have lost a sum-
mer." I give the word "philosophy" a wide latitude of meaning. My paper
arrived late in the season & I sent it away early soon after, receiving it or
I would have been very glad to have saved a set of plants for myself and for
exchange but that I had no safe place to leave them when I should
go west. I am expressive in one of your letters "you had better not" it
was not well thought of to send that Texas bundle" dissuaded me
from sending them to you. I saw Lindheimer and had some pleas-
ant talk with him. He seems to be poor — richer however than I am —
he has a wife & two children. I long to get another letter from
you. I wrote you a long letter some time ago directing it to
Cambridge. You did not tell me when you wrote return but I hope
and guess you would be at home by the time it would reach there.

I sent my cryptogams to Dr. Torrey and they have been received also.
I left a small package with Lindheimer to be sent on with his. I hope
you will look after these and if they can be turned to any account
see that I receive in some way the benefit of them. I would not be
this particular had not my earnings been so small and my expenses
& loss of time so great. You can not but notice that in this & my former
I have written with some despondency & bitterness of feeling. I thought I do
* His brother however says "he never forgets any thing" — except fulfilment of promises.

not feel ^{sensibly} the approach of age I can not but ^{know} ~~feel~~ that I am growing
old and what is worse an old bachelor The vexatious suspense
in which I have been kept the two years past has operated powerfully
to prevent me from putting off old-bachelorism or making some
attempts thereto. Perhaps ^{also} ~~too~~ I put too high an estimate on my labors
and am disposed to think some ^{favours shown} ~~advantages~~ to others — not appreciated
as their true value. For instance I can not but be vexed when I think of
Prof. Agassiz sending me so useless a thing as that catalogue of shells — I
packed it full of plants & sent it off again.

PS Direct your answer to
New Braunfels Comal Co.
Tex.

Dr. Ada Gray

E. Wright
San Francisco. Feb 1850
Texas —

I made a remark ^{above} implying Southern sectional feelings I saw in a ^{late} paper
a list of things some person had never known one of which is "I never have
known a political" (I say religious) abolitionist that would put a negro in his
best bed" I don't wish Seward "et hoc genus omne" hung or drowned but I do
wish all of them could be made to sleep with a big buck nigger every
(and it would not be long)
night till they repent of their (political) iniquities. You northerners
(I mean only political abolitionists) may think you are doing right
but you know little of the trouble of which you are laying the foundation.
However I have filled my shut and moralised perhaps more than you
wished.

Yours ever

Charles Wright



Wright, Charles. 1850. "Wright, Charles Oct. 15, 1850." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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