

New Braunfels March 7th 1857

My Dear Dr

Having a leisure afternoon I commenced a letter though I may defer the closing of it to some future day - I returned yesterday from San Antonio where I completed all the arrangements for my journey that I can make Major Graham has not yet arrived in our State ~~and~~ but is daily expected I shall I hope receive immediate notice of his arrival and his intention to depart westward when I will join him without delay.

I have been making a collection on a small scale of insects reptiles and fishes for Am. Inst. and have a very pleasing correspondence with its officers I have done nothing among the crypts. this winter I can get hear nothing from Sullivan & others who have <sup>I formerly sent</sup> received them, & I shall not trouble myself to make another such collection, <sup>as</sup> I secured winter before last until I learn whether it is of any value.

I shall go to Col. Hayles tomorrow when I intend to amuse myself in killing deer & turkeys for two or three weeks during which I may secure some curiosities for Prof. Penny I shall keep an eye open for that purpose.

You may remember that when you first began to distinguish species by my name I manifested a commendable modesty & wished ~~wished~~ you would affix some other name indicative of peculiarities. But since you take your own way you may just as well go the "entire swine" & give me all the credit I really deserve I believe I first observed & endeavored to convince you of a fact which you have

admitted in Plant. Lindb. — that *Cuscuta elorata* produces its  
flowers in one summer & ripens the fruit of those flowers the  
next. Again in a note to Plant. Lindb. part 1 you remark  
that *Volurus crassifolia* was collected in Sept. in flower the 2<sup>d</sup>  
time (I quote from memory). Now 2 authorize you to asper that  
out & make it a part of the specific character or the  
distinctive character of a ~~subspecies~~ of the genus that *V.*  
*crassifolia* uniformly flowers not in the spring but in  
Aug. — Sept. I have seen among it now several years &  
~~now~~ have seen nothing but to confirm the opinion above  
expressed. You may not now be convinced but I venture  
to predict that you will be some day if you live long  
enough I am not quite so desirous to see my name in  
print as a fellow (a little handsome you see) I once heard declare  
he would commit "assault & battery" for he wanted to get his  
name on the "criminal docket" nevertheless I suppose we  
<sup>are</sup> all desirous to a greater or less extent of a reputable notoriety  
— so give the d—l his due

March 15<sup>th</sup> One of our earliest flowering plants is a sp. of *Euphorbia*  
<sup>erect, leaves alternate</sup> growing in shady bottom, very tender, (I imagine) less milky than  
most of the species. The flowers & floral leaves are yellow or yellowish-  
green. I was not a little surprised the other day to find it literally  
swarming with bees in quest of the pollen. The large *Dasylirion*  
<sup>or honey-suckle</sup> is another plant much resorted to by them for the same purpose  
March 17<sup>th</sup> *Volurus crassifolia* is now ready in full foliage without  
showing so far as I have been able to perceive a single flower  
I have been among it every day from the first swelling of the bud  
Our three species of *Rumex* are mostly out of flower. *Rumex acetosella*  
is in flower also. *Senecio Rammensis* *Tauschia* *Cortica* live oak  
is blooming as well as the other oaks also *Ilia* and various trees

Apr 2 Our species of *Erodium* now displays numerous  
petaloid flowers the later ones being a petaloid. The former  
are ~~sometimes~~ larger than a dome

Bees, collect honey now from *Pedia radiata*? and a  
dusky-colored pollen from *Lupinus* *serenus*

*Volurus crassifolia* is now in full foliage I have been among  
it every day since spring opened but have seen no flowers or fruit

*Barbieria trifoliolata* manifests the same irritability  
at the base of the stamens as the common *barbieria* of  
the North Col. Foyle has succeeded in transplanting  
numerous specimens of it this spring

Apr 11 I learn as yet nothing of May Graham's movements  
Am I doomed to throw away the coming summer like  
the last? if so I must quit the business

The coat of arms of the U.S. ought to be changed and a  
eagle to be put in place of the eagle

I have spun out a yarn more than a month long  
and will quit

Yours Sincerely  
Charles Wright

Dr. Asa Gray

E. Wright  
New Bedford  
March 27



Wright, Charles. 1851. "Wright, Charles Mar. 7, 1851." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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