

San Blas Jan 25th 1852

Dear Dr

I wrote you by Col Graham
Since he left I have surveyed the Rio Grande
from San Ignacio thirty miles below this place to
the canon where the San Antonio road first strikes
the river When we start below to work again we take
pack-mules

Leaves
Mangrove
tree
Maj. Emory was to start yesterday in quest of Mr
Bartlett It is doubtful whether much more surveying
is done before he returns The Commission is out of
money and we must have pack-mules before we can orga-
nize another surveying party Maj. Emory's orders are
all given for the prosecution of the work but they will
be ineffectual unless the Quartermaster can furnish the
means—thus throwing the responsibility of the neglect
to continue operations on the Commissioner Perhaps
I will be able to tell you more about it before this is des-
patched

I received by last mail a letter from Dr Torrey in
which he announces your return also two from Dr
Engelmann who says he has some money for me which
I have directed him to send to you and you can find some
way of paying it over to my brother as well as any
other money which you may have now or hereafter for
me His address is John G. Wright Wethersfield Conn.
I received also a short letter from Mr Guckermann who
seems to be in great glee over the collection of Lichen I made
two years ago He speaks of them almost in raptures and
modestly begs some "more of the same sort" but says not a
word about money Couldn't you squeeze him a little
once more Not that I need money I have so much
here now that it is only a trouble to me But my brother
does And further more I think he ought to pay something for
the pleasure which he is evidently enjoying

I was somewhat disappointed at receiving no letter from

you But no importa I suppose you have hardly got into working trim yet since your return to Cambridge I shall be sadly disappointed if I do not hear from you by next mail

Engelmann is in a quandary under the conflicting instructions of Col Graham and myself - the former directing him to describe the Diastaceae collected by me and send them with his report on them to his address ~~at~~ Washington while I told him to reserve a portion of them for me

You may be in the same perplexity and I will say to you as I did to him that ~~xxx~~ if I were with you and had the control of the plants I would save two or three sets and turn the rest over to (not him) but to that branch of the Government to which rightly ^{belongs} the custody of such things He will be more the wiser ^{and} believe I should have no conscientious scruples in practicing a little deception on a man who has shown himself so illiberal to me in this matter as Col Graham has Neither Roy Emory nor Mr. Britton manifested any hesitancy in promising me that a part of my collection should be reserved for me although I presented no reasons why I wished for some but to Col G. I offered the most satisfactory reasons such as these that my paper was my own I rode my own horse while others better paid are doing absolutely nothing and I am laboring assiduously not only as a botanist but as a surveyor

During my travels through Sonora I made memoranda of some plants which I did not collect such as

Lobelia cardinalis on the San Pedro and elsewhere
Bidens connatis or *chrysanthemoides folium magni folius connatis* ^{on the Puerto Comoni}
Valeriana parmentorum Northern Sonora Common
Verbena bipinnatifida " "
Portulaca oleracea lanceolata common
Britia quinquefolia on Puerto Comoni
Alnus toxicaria "
Gaura parviflora Santa Cruz
Antennaria aptera? Santa Cruz Not places
Helianthus lenticularis Coppermines and elsewhere common

Feb 2nd an express from Santa Fe brought Maj. Conroy when he had been gone but a few days and on his return to Monterrey he crossed the river below here and took this place in his way I am indeed glad to the vicinity of San Ignacio and preparations are making to push on the work with as little delay as possible I know nothing of the nature of the dispatches lately sent to the Commissioner nor of their contents I only know that they have saved the Maj. a trip to the Yula perhaps The prospect for botanizing the ensuing season notwithstanding the Major's promise appears gloomy I will do however what I can I am now shooting birds and learning something of ornithology for want of something better to do I have found our plants beginning to flower already probably a *Nasturtium* I did not examine it not having a book with me

Yours Truly
Chas Wright

Wright



Wright, Charles. 1852. "Wright, Charles Jan. 25, 1852." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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