

U.S. Steamer John Hancock
Anson Bay Oct^r 14th 1853

Dear Doctor

I commenced a letter to you some three weeks ago soon after our arrival here but I soon became busily engaged collecting and examining plants and thinking you would rather know results than anticipation. I threw it aside and postponed writing till the present time when a vessel is about sailing direct for the States.

You doubtless learn our movements through the journals. We were seventy three days on our way here - had aside from its tediousness quite a pleasant passage. We came once in sight of the African coast not far from Liberia with ~~easterly~~ southerly winds - then tacked and bore away towards the coast of S. America - had some calms which we did not improve to the best advantage with steam especially just before doubling the Cape when we had head winds and had to beat round it with wind & steam.

You may imagine I find almost every thing new and I have had but little time for studying but I am getting into the mysteries of the Lophnoids, Proteoid Selagenoid Scrophia Brosmea and all sorts of Composites. By the bye, didn't you publish

an article on some Cope Gnaphaleae? or did you only speak of doing so? Don't forget to send me every thing of the kind

I have been very successful in drying my plants thus far although we have had some equally weather. I have been out almost every day thus losing often the opportunity of drying in the middle of the day when the deck is hot. Captain Rodgers gives me full liberty to scatter my papers all over the deck and the atmosphere must be very dry on my plants. I think would have given me more trouble than they have done. I have been all into the country or toward Capetown as far as Constantia some twelve miles or more. I can't expect to find here many novelties after Harvey and several Botanists. Besides have visited the Cape. Yet I may perhaps reasonably expect to find something. The Vicia and such-like plants (Didymaea) are very numerous various & beautiful but difficult to study & I have not attempted it to any considerable extent. I think I shall go to Capetown before I leave perhaps in the stage and walk back which will give me a good chance to pick up some things not found about here. The steamer has taken in her coal and is preparing to put to sea which she is expected to do in a few days. She goes up the Mozambique Channel and thence to Batavia. I am to be returned to the Buccaneers which sails to

Australia direct. I am afraid I shall not have the same facilities for laboring on board the flag ship which I have enjoyed here when I have had a very pleasant time and have enjoyed every reasonable privilege. We have too a very pleasant mess and not very expensive. So my privileges I fear will be ~~at~~ abridged and my expenses will increase on the flag ship - but I will do the best I can. I have not been very desirous of going when the trees don't make any shade and when we will arrive in midsummer when if any thing new or undiscovered remains to be found it will be impossible to detect it. When we arrive however among the smaller Asiatic islands where some of our labors in surveying are to commence I will be on the lookout for novelties. I have secured a few things for Buckner & Sullivan & I only wait a rainy day to make a more thorough search.

I don't yet know whether any of my collection are to be sent home from here nor what disposition will be made of them if they are. Mr. Stimpson is putting up some of his collection in Dobson's to be sent home.

We don't know exactly when the flag ship will sail probably in ten days hardly sooner though. I was told yesterday that a week more was allowed her to prepare for sea.

I am in excellent health only exceedingly tired although I have not been on shore nor out of the ship

today - not for want of will - but the wind was blowing
strongly and the sea was rough and there was a pros-
pect of getting wet if I started on shore - so I staid
and studied hard all day - and now at night (perhaps
too late for our ship's mail has been made up &
sent on board the Vincennes) I am bringing up
my lagging correspondence.

Yours very truly

Charles Wright

Dr Asa Gray



Wright, Charles. 1853. "Wright, Charles Oct. 14, 1853." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/257972>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/276899>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.