

Virgin Bay Nicaragua
July 28th 1855

My Dear Dr

I wrote by the last Steamer asking your advice about collecting seeds I guessed you would recommend me to gather all I could find - so I went at it immediately and have done already a pretty extensive business among the Legumes and the morning-glories and other Composites are not very abundant some of them attain the size of good stout bushes The forms many of them are entirely new to me and I miss my books particularly Endlicher but I could not bring it I think from present prospects I shall make a very creditable autumnal collection I went across from this place to San Juan del Sur day before yesterday, on foot and gathered my portfolio full intending to return with another which I had sent over but I stuck a thorn in my foot while bathing and thought it prudent to ride back so that I did not collect much on my return I think of spending a week or more at the "half-way house" near the highest land between this place and the Pacific so that I can examine the country each way I have fallen in with a man from your state a dentist by profession named Cleaveland with whom I design to ascend the mountain Amotepac in the lake the next time the Steamer goes over for wood He is a thorough go-ahead sort

of a fellow and I flatter myself that I am some at
climbing hills & between us I think we will accom-
plish what no Quaker has ever done in this case
I think of going to Pecos and perhaps to Granada but
I shall dabble about sight-seeing but little till I
shall have pretty much used up the flora which will
be pretty well finished by the last of next month and
then I am going to take up ornithology if the requisite
materials are sent me from the state. I am making
a pretty good collection of insects and some lizards and
snakes have been procured - also land & water shells. I
started with a can of alcohol and a supply of bottles
but they all disappeared at San Juan. I hope they
will return by the next steamer if they were carried on
to San Juan del Norte by mistake as is possible.
Meanwhile I use gin and a little alcohol which I
was fortunate enough to be able to buy. I can pre-
serve only small specimens.

Will my seeds sell in England or France I think
I shall procure a sufficient quantity to make it
worth while in a pecuniary point of view to attempt
the sale of a portion and I think it no more than rea-
sonable that I should have the privilege of remunerating
myself in that way for the heavy expenses I incur in
laboring for the Government instead of loafing away
month after month on shipboard. Besides I doubt if
one fourth of them will ~~ever~~^{ever} be planted if they remain
in our country. Will you be kind enough to suggest the
matter to some of your European correspondents, keep-
ing the subject however as secret as possible though I

shall ask Com. Rodgers' acquiescence the first time
I have opportunity.

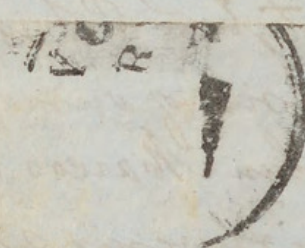
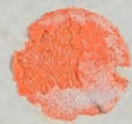
I found a Chara along the margin of the lake & one or two
Sagittas grow in the rivulets emptying into it. I have found
three or four Orchids a Hydnoclytus a Polypodium some Oen-
ophorion & others which remind me of our own flora. Pistia
looks exactly as it did in the San Marcos and in Loobchoo.
I have found however very young & flowering specimens whose
smooth (not ribbed) leaves lie flat on the water. It can hardly
be a different species. I must with two species of a little
moss-like plant growing on rocks in the margin of the lake
with linear serrulate leaves, tripartite minute flowers
but with only one stamen and a petal (I think).

Many of the plants - trees especially - afford very imperfect
specimens - flowers & fruit without leaves - flowers without
leaves or fruit - fruit without flowers or leaves - & flowers
and leaves without fruit - however I hope something
can be made of them.

Remember me to Mrs Gray and believe me
as ever

Truly Yours
Charles Wright

Dr Anna Gray
Cambridge
Mass





Wright, Charles. 1855. "Wright, Charles Feb. 28, 1855." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/276908>

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>.