

from my rheumatism and other ailments  
I think I have been benefited by the  
voyage I have not yet been far enough  
inland to pick up a single botanical spec-  
imen Nor can I now give you any more  
particular instructions for sending letters  
than to direct for the present (if you have  
any information of importance to communicate)  
to St. Jago de Cuba There is mail commu-  
nication between New York and Havana  
weekly and the transit from the former  
place to this requires but two weeks so  
that we can have if necessary frequent cor-  
respondence — There is quite a stir here  
just now — the debarkation of a large  
cargo of live stock for the railroad market  
consisting mostly of Irishmen A bark  
from New York arrived yesterday bringing  
one hundred and twenty more or less making  
the passage in nine days The vessels lately  
in have as well as we made quick voyage  
Probably I shall write again soon

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Bark N. W. Babbridge  
off St Jago Nov 25th / 1856  
7 o'clock P. M.

Dear Dr

We have just made St. Jago  
Light and in the morning will enter  
the harbor (St. J.) Meanwhile I will  
tell you what little I have to say  
about the voyage You will readily  
see that it has been uncommonly  
short In fact the wind has been after  
us all the time & hardly able to overtake  
us We made a beautiful curve of the  
voyage from Boston southeasterly  
as far as about 74° then gently turning  
passed just to the westward of the Ber-  
mudas & thence on a straight line  
for Turk's I. passage which we cleared  
yesterday in the forenoon

For the first four days out I did not  
drink a spoonful of water nor eat  
a ration of food but once (so that would  
not stay eaten) for seasickness (bad luck  
to the spulpeen that invented it) I was in  
an awful humor and thought nothing



would ever again pacify me but the  
building of a bridge <sup>across</sup> the Florida  
strait that I might come home over  
land. But a returning good appetite  
pretty well gratified (eating is a pretty  
good peace-maker) and subsequent pleas-  
ant weather with rapid progress tow-  
ards port have almost made me for-  
get those few days of dis-comfort. Our  
vessel is a snug comfortable craft - the  
master a young cheerful fellow and  
the other officers not disagreeable ship-  
mates. Every thing seems to be done in  
that quiet though prompt & thorough  
manner best calculated ensure effi-  
ciency in navigation as well as in other  
affairs. On the whole the voyage has been  
as pleasant as could have reasonably  
been expected and much more speedy  
it being but little more than ten days  
since we weighed anchor.

The eastern end of the island appears  
dry and uninhabited but as we approach  
it jagged hillsides wear a greener garb

26th The <sup>sea</sup> land breeze was provokingly  
lazy today having lain abed till long  
after midday affording the sea a chance  
to give us a good rocking such as grown  
babies don't go to sleep on. At one P.M.  
it came towards us in a gentle soothing  
manner soon bringing us into good  
humor and to our anchorage close to  
town. The Capt. & myself went on shore  
after the tedious ceremony of passing the  
custom-house visited one of the consignees  
to whom I had a letter of recommendation  
and who appeared to good advantage  
and the Consul a jovial old gentleman of  
ultra-marian proportions and appearance.  
I made a few enquiries touching my  
objects and the facilities & difficulties  
attending their accomplishment without  
however as yet eliciting much definite  
information. It will be yet several  
days before I shall be able to get into  
the field of active labor. I shall be able  
to write you something more satisfactory  
I hope by some future mail (this will go  
T. & tomorrow) I am measurably freed from



Wright, Charles. 1856. "Wright, Charles Nov. 25, 1856." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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