

Gilansopia Jan'y 15th 1834

Dear Dr

I have written to you but I forget when
where and how often I have been hard at work &
as nothing has transpired of importance I have thought
it unnecessary to spend much time in epistolary
labor I recollect giving a discouraging account
of the prospects But I have since been in a better
district I fell in with a "compatriota" from Haddam
I believe who has been exceedingly kind and hospit-
able to me and I have now been at his house about a
month I did not intend to stop at anyone place
so long but it seems almost impossible to get
away without leaving many things which I
may not find elsewhere My friend's name
is George Bradford He came here many years
ago passed apparently some years quite adven-
turally searching for mines a portion of the time
and superintending sugar estates at other seasons
at length married a lady of French extraction a
descendant of the refugees from St Domingo has
three children and a fair prospect of an addition
to the number raises coffee and cocoa on this
estate and employs a considerable force in mi-
ning at Cobu He introduced me to a coffee planter
living (about six miles off the way the road runs) on

a spine of the Lomo del Gato or Catback the highest
mountain visible from here This I found very rich
in ferns and other crypts and I have spent several
days on it constantly finding novelties and even the
last day obliged by the approach of night to turn
back in the midst of a cluster of things not before
seen and with a scanty supply of specimens of some
of them I am almost bewildered by the abundance
and variety of the ferns & expect I shall commit the
unpardonable offence of collecting forty specimens
of one species and only four of a nearly related
one And with the mosses and hepaticae it isn't much
better at the same time that from their minuteness
it is more difficult to distinguish them than plants
of larger size But I suppose you will now ask
why don't you apply the microscope to them? In the
first place I haven't time and in the second it is in
Sancti Spiritus in my trunk and what is more it will
stay there till I am ready to return I do what
I can with my pocket lenses of which I have already
planted one The best I had and a present from Mr. Tuckerman
By the way you can tell him if you have opportunity
that I am making a fine collection for his special
study if he will take them in hand I read somewhere
I think in the Annals des Sciences Nat. that Caba
was deficient in Fungi I am of a different opinion
It is true that I do not see many of the more showy
ones & very few Agarici but it is not the season for them
I doubt whether the writer who ventures the opinion to
which I have alluded was ever in this coast range of

with me

MS. I shall have more papers of the latter color than I shall use but am collecting further plant
will print about 10 can harvest some more plants from one side the other & then perhaps make the other

mountain or had seen a collection of Fungi from it
Of the minute forms I am induced to believe there is a
great variety At least I have not observed so many
in any other country that I have visited Olympos
and the woody kind are as numerous and varied as I
have found them elsewhere Phaeogamum plants
still form a comparatively small part of my gather-
ings and Compositae make rather a poor show among
them I find some things that puzzle me This when
the plant has only the fruit or the flower only might
reasonably be expected but I hardly found one with flowers
and full grown fruit that would not stay any where at
all in Lindley's Artificial Analysis I expect it belongs
to Gesneriaceae but the ovary & capsule are entirely
inferior or the calyx is completely adherent or even forms
a ring above the capsule before the divisions commence
However with a single book of reference I can not reasonably
hope to locate every plant I may find I have a broad &
accumulated form good stout bundles of dried speci-
mens & have enough in press mostly them dry to form
another I have met but few things of which I could
not get enough specimens In a few cases I have
not succeeded in getting a sufficiency though I sought
diligently In a few instances I have a scanty num-
ber from lack of attention thinking I had put up enough
and discovering when too late for remedy that the supply
was scant Most of these cases I bear in mind and may
be able to supply the deficiency at another time or another
locality Of some weeds I have saved but a few specimens
I find a considerable number of orchids but most of the

epiphytic ones are out of flower The same is the case with
the Tillandsias Piperomias or such juicy things are quite
numerous ^{and} I shall have quite an assortment of them
if ~~they~~ should ever succeed in drying them I have
got one rubiacious plant with a minute berry like coffee
and some little orbicular leaved piperaceae that I guess
won't be dry before I get home I have a notion to
put them away in a good lot of paper and let them
take their own time for it

I was on the sick list two or three days but took
by Mr B's prescription a dose of calomel and afterwards
a dose of salts (much against my conscience) and got
better directly—better in fact than I have been for
the last six months I have bought a nice little
horse which has easy gait travels well and stays
and feeds right when I leave him I go to Santiago
tomorrow for a supply of paper & in a few days I
think I shall remove to a new locality I don't
whether it would pay to penetrate far into the island
as in the dry season vegetation is much parched &
water scarce Mr B. thinks this is the best locality
for my operations He says that I cannot penetrate
much farther westward along this mountain range
for want of roads that there are no settlers there and
that it would be very difficult to get into the mountains
if at all practicable He thinks Baracoa on the N.E. coast
would prove a good place for me to visit and I may go
then if business becomes dull here You can tell Dr Engel-
mann that cactaceae are pretty plenty but I have not
seen a flower of one on the island

Very truly Yours

Charles Wright

Oct. 17th I have got no letters from any quarter. There must be a severe loss somewhere. I am sure
my brother must have written early enough for the letters to have arrived.



Wright, Charles. 1857. "Wright, Charles Jan. 15, 1857." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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