

Santa Catalina de Guaso
or
Sattadno April 3d 1857

My Dear Dr

This morning I received yours of the 3d ult. and though I wrote only a day or two ago I will add a few lines to my correspondence explanatory of the last as I have nothing better to do. This is a sad confession to make but nevertheless true. When preparing to come to this place I packed up all my dried plants and my remaining paper depositing them in the house of Salla Masgrorol dea the former to be sent to you the latter to me at this place and both very distinctly marked. One of the gentlemen speaks English well & I explained to him fully my wishes. Two schooners ply between Cuba & this place making the round in about two weeks but very absurdly as I have since learned from some queer spirit of rivalry they both sail together instead of alternating. I left Cuba on the morning of the 15th and was told that my baggage would be sent on the 17th. Arrived here however on the evening of the 16th I learned that the schooner had not left this place. She sailed the next evening I had no other resource but to wait as patiently as I could the return of the schooner. On the trip she met with some accident I was obliged to put back. About the time she was expected I went down to Cerro Guagabr on the Bay to get possession of my things as soon as possible.

Soon after coming to anchor my travelling bag was sent ashore
& the next day a small package of paper two or three days
then passed while I watched anxiously for the arrival of the
other two containing my portfolios, dried pressed plants & straps
at length the schooner was unloaded and nothing more came
for me & I saw the letter of Mr Giraudy accompanying my
things and mentioning only one package of paper. Still then
though assured there was no more paper for me I had indulged
the hope that it would yet come. I immediately wrote to
the house in Cuba asking them to send me the paper by the
quickest possible conveyance regardless of expense. I received
no answer by return mail which came last night. The
schooner may be back by the 8th if there is good weather or
she may be delayed several days beyond that time. If they
send overland without delay, ^(the paper) it may be here tonight or tomorrow.
In a long hot dusty days journey I never washed
under much more than now I want paper. The rains have
commenced sufficiently to start vegetation but not stop
active labor. Many shrubs are in full flower and some
nearly past. I can't help feeling very owe to this treat-
ment by Mr Giraudy. Almost my last word to him was
to entreat him not to forget to send my things by the
very first opportunity. I have collected little or nothing
since the first of March. Some days had to be spent
in active work drying obstinate things - then every
thing had to be packed and conveyed to Cuba. I lost
some days waiting the movements of carriers &
others and now to lose so much time by what appears

to me without further knowledge of the matter a
most stupid blunder is aggravating to the last degree.
The last few days I have been collecting some Cactaceae
orchids, Bromeliaceae, seeds & specimens of wood for Reum.
— the last I can not pursue very satisfactorily as the deter-
mination of the Family to which any thing belongs is with
my limited means a matter of some difficulty to say nothing
of the genus & species. There are many curious vines too
many without leaves or flowers or fruit and most wasting
one or the other. These would be very desirable as objects
for the study of the Physiologists if I could give sure data
for determining them. Unfortunately I fear I can do so
in very few instances. I have a little book which by
means of the trivial names gives one a clue to the Botani-
cal but I think I have found in it grave errors & I am
afraid to trust it.

The flora here is remarkably different from that of the
Cobre mountain. When as you know I speak most of my
time in the coffee country back there may be a greater resem-
blance. I shall go there as soon as my paper comes. Doubtless
that is of more real interest though this looking to me so
new would at first seem equally important. After from its
somewhat littoral position & contiguity to Jamaica
it will not probably possess so many novelties as might
at first appear ~~to be~~ likely. I have no belief that I will be
able to visit the saguannas this season. They are a good
way off from Cuba. I am three days every travel from the
latter. You don't know any thing about the road neither

in this Queen of the Antilles They have all over the island "Caminos Reales" but they might more appropriately be termed the "Devil's Twisting" Generally from one place to another you travel three or four times the distance the two are apart in a right line at least in the mountain region. The coast region & the savannas may be different.

I suppose I have received all your letters. They are not by me for review. The long time that elapsed before I heard from you combined with the delay of my brother to write promptly suggested my suspicions which probably had no foundation in fact. That the custom of detaining & opening letters has prevailed here I can hardly doubt though now not practiced often.

I have heard nothing of the arrival of the Cambridge though doubtless she has discharged and gone on now. I can find out I suppose by writing. The letter you sent by the vessel has not been delivered.

I am domesticated in the house of Mr Brooks by whom I have been entertained with the utmost hospitality. He belongs to an extensive firm which does an extensive business in Cuba & here buy up nearly all the sugar & coffee made in the neighboring country. I thought his brother in Cuba to whom I had a literary introduction gave me the cotishoulder but this brother has certainly atoned for any apparent neglect of the other.

Well I have spun a considerable lengthy yarn whilst I expected to write only a few lines.

Remember me to Mrs. G. & believe me as ever

Yours truly
Charles Wright



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