

Mouse Verde July 26th 1859

Dear Dr

I despatched a letter only two or three days ago but as I find it convenient to fill up such little scraps of time as occur now & then when I have nothing special to do I begin another now. It is away before daylight in the morning. I sometimes turn out early in this way when I am wakeful or when I have any interesting reading or important work on hand but this morning ^{I was aroused} by a cause less agreeable. It would appear that I took an unwelcome bed fellow with me one of those infernal fleas. If I could get rid of them as the Quaker did of the dog by giving him a bad name I would search out all the abusive epithets of the vocabulary to exterminate them. I suppose we will know some day what ^{end} in the economy of creation such torments were made to subserve.

Day before yesterday as I returned from the Pinal I bethought me of a fern which I remember getting before & luckily I hit upon the right spot & found it. It is a very tall & slender Dicksonia? 8 or 10 ft high with a stipe hardly thicker than a goose quill. It was just at night & I saved only a few indifferent specimens. Yesterday I made a special job to get enough of it. The specimens are not handsome ones - being a little old and somewhat broken. It is the best I can do now. I know no other locality. In the very middle of the road, I found a single specimen of a new *Pteris*. I have walked over it a dozen times or more. I searched carefully but could find no more. I have in like manner a single specimen of an *Acrostichum* but I don't remember where I obtained it.

Your list of desiderata is rather fancifully expressed
"a good length of a Tree Fern & a Palm" If you had said
a Tree Fern & a good length of a Palm it would have seemed
more rational & practicable. It would be easy to send the
full length of the Fern & even one of the small prickly Palms
which are plenty & annoying enough too in these woods. In
fact you have or have some season of the latter ^{of the latter} among these
cents before. I suppose you don't want me to try to
send you one that is "a pine hewn on Norwegian hills"
would be "tall enough to be the mast of some huge admiral"
(Milton, ahem!) I will see what I can do.

I would be very glad to have that light on the settle, but
how to get it held is the question. Bradford told me that looks
undergo a kind of inquisitorial trial to discover if there be
any thing heretical in them & that it is a matter of some doubt
when you will get them if over. I think it can hardly be so
low as he represents it. If you can find some clever captain
& get so far into his good graces as to persuade him to
smuggle me a copy. I think I could pleasantly perhaps
profitably spend leisure hours which will begin to be
plenty by & by in the hot season in studying the Martineae
which are very abundant & close at hand at all times.

How have you & Griselinck settle the question about that little
4 flower comp. which you thought he name wrong? Will you
not ask Baron to send me a list of the ferns I got before with
reference to Griselinck's list where they are the same or synon-
ymous? Did you consider the strict meaning of your words
"gather, heave in, heap." I suppose you meant very little
heap, if compare with a heap of manure. Any how I
can't account for your zeal in behalf of Sullivan's unless
it be to counteract my lukewarmness. I think if you
had a million of mushrooms growing placido turned in your
ears - making infernal melody you would be satisfied to

get away with a "mentouillille" & a microscopic Hepatica.
Mushrooms infect the world of being rather "small potatoes" -
they don't burst much if they do make any thing but pleasant
music. Hiss! hiss! hurra! Thanks to Mars or rather To
Minerva I have gained a victory I have conquered my ene-
my I have killed the two fears that tormented me during
the night.

First, I have been among the phorogams to say no ne-
glecting the crypts however, but as it was rather a dark day
I paid to these lies attention. I found two novelties one a
Myrica a good stout bush (justillate only) and an Ochrolepis
or something of that sort - a small tree. I can't examine
it by candle light with any satisfaction. I got something
for Gustav Sullivan, Duckerman & as I was coming home
I took the trunks of two tree Compositae of which you
can take a pair if you like. One is a Senecioid the other I
can't well make out. If not seen they get to be pretty
tall bushes with a firm woody trunk 2-3 inches thick.

I wish I could hear from Hooker as to what he wants. This
packing in bags of wood on ones back isn't the most agree-
able kind of amusement & unless I have a prospect of good
pay I am going to quit it. In fact I feel that I am gum-
ing old about in spots, here & there. At times I have that
sore trouble in the throat of which I used to complain.
My leg too gives me trouble & uneasiness. I am also annoy-
ed with "perilapsm ani" or something of the sort aggravated
I imagine by squatting about gathering things from the
ground. I don't go up a tree so readily as I used to do.
I took up it a good many times to see if there are really
flowers on it & I then study whether they are worth going
after.

I saw at the Farallones what I take to be Procasopus -
a small specimen without fruit. At the base of these cliffs

then are pines some of them so close that they appear as if they might have slid off - but there is not one above until you go up the creek a mile or thereabouts to the Penol - so far as I know

I found a specimen of an *Acrostichum* which I believe I wrote in my last ~~that~~ I had never collected with a ~~erigens~~ ^{erigens} form. The sterile ones are long & strap-shaped smooth & shining coriaceous & brittle. The fertile form again is ^{passer} & shriveled I don't know how it is though I have been continually on the lookout for this & two or three others of the same stripe I now & then find them with shriveled fertile fronds but do not find any in the best state for collection. *Asmyris*

27th That *Ochnoc.* mentioned above is an *Asmyris* but I think it can hardly be either of the simple leaved ones enumerated in Dietrich

As I want to say a word or two about pecuniary matters I might as well slip them in here. Of the other lot of Cuban Fungi have any been sold & paid for except by Sprague & the small set that went to some Alabama gent. I can't think of his name now? Curtis brought me the money \$510. Has Curtis paid for his set? I am sorry I can't keep the ring these money matters. As you are now & then urging me to collect crypts largely you ought to have before you the prospect of, at least, a tolerably large sale. It seems as if those collected before ought to be ready for sale by this time. As the elaboration of the Fungi of the Expl. Exp. is paid for out of the appropriation I might reasonably expect the proceeds of the sale of the Cuban Fungi to be coming in by this time. As to the mosses & lichens of the Expeditions it was inferred that Sullivan & Tuckerman would not claim any part of the appropriation for their several reports on them. So I thought it no more than generous to let them take their part of the Cuban matter & give me in their own good time & way the proceeds of the remainder. Tuckerman has more than once made me an offer of

money but commonly in such a manner that it appears as if he
meant to say "here is a little money but I would rather that you
should decline it" I may misjudge him. I hope so. It may be
that he thought I would rather be offended than pleased by such an
offer. In view of the little infirmities mentioned above that seem
to be growing upon me it appears proper that I begin to prepare
for a rainy day. I have a house that will keep off sun & rain but
I will want something beside to stave off hunger & cold & it behoves
me to be laying up something against old age ~~that I may spend it~~
as comfortably as such a miserable old back ought to be. As to
the collection I am now making I will comply as well as I can
with your requests supposing that you have a regard to my
interest as well as that of science & as there will be no draw
back on it as on the last I shall hope & expect a speedy & prof-
itable disposal of it. I have not been nor do I intend to be exact-
ing in this business. I will be as liberal as any poor man ought
to be. But I can see no good reason why the specimens should
lie in the hands of Sullivan, Tuckerman &c a year or a year & a
half before any sale can be made of them. You have commonly
sold the phœnops at \$10.00 per hundred. I am rather of Curtis's
mind that Crypts might be afforded at a lower rate. The vast
majority drop up immediately and give but little trouble though
it is a tedious business to get enough of some. I would therefore leave
it to the discretion of these gentlemen to sell those they have
now or may have in hand at such prices as they may deem equit-
able— I have been thought to add that perhaps Curtis has
bestowed upon the ~~Rep. of~~ Fringe labor enough to entitle him to a
set of the Butans &c. so— all rights. All I want is to know
the true state of the case. You may infer from the above that I
have growing upon me another of the infirmities commonly
attributed to old age— parsimony. It imports!

There is great rejoicing at the house. All the negroes congre-
gated to bid "bon soir" to Mch. who returned this evening

after twenty days' absence, & to get a dram; one of the common accompaniments of the return of the Master after a long visit elsewhere.

I doubt if there is any way of getting North from here without going round to the other side of the island & thence proceeding south. We are on the very edge of the wilderness & beyond the limits of the plantation the wood are thick—I tell you!!! The most of my hunting is along timber roads & bee-hunter's trails. When in a good locality with plenty of time before me I poke about in the wood creep up or down gullies peer up trees & down about their roots &c &c. Thus the day wears away & I seldom get a mile away from home or not much more. By & by as novelties become less plentiful I shall go to greater distances—if I can get through the thickets & I guess I shall say

28th. Mr L. is going to send to Saltadero this morning & as I have pitched together gossip enough to make a letter respectable for the amount of words contained therein. I will send it through you will probably get it at the same time as the one written & despatched but a few days ago. I enclose a couple of scraps perhaps the most interesting that I have at any rate the most convenient, & a "cartita" for my sister which I will thank you to forward & I will likely serve them the same trick some day.

Yours truly

Charles Wright



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