

Monte Verde July 16th 1859

Dear Dr.

If you had been here during the past week, you would be chary of putting the spur to me, as you sometimes do, very gently however. Just a week ago, I went out in the afternoon, mainly to look after a little orchid which I have been watching ever since I have been here. I got it in small quantity, but had to hurry in on account of the approaching rain. I was yet a little sprinkled. If I had stayed but a little longer, I should have got a thorough drenching; for it rained "for cantaros," - "pitchers' full" - yes buckets full and more too. Day before yesterday, I went to cut a tree for flowers which I had found on the ground before, which I took for *Portlandia*. It turns out to be *Solanum*, however, neither of the species in Grisebach - new perhaps. In the afternoon, we had another tremendous rain. It must have raised our creek some ten feet or more. Yesterday we had no rain. I went out in the afternoon finding some new things & filling up on some of my lacking ferns. Today it commenced thundering in the north, as early as ten or eleven o'clock & rained about 12. We have had other rains during the week - nearly every day. I think it would be folly to go away into the woods a journey of two or three days. I don't expect to "make clean work" of the *Cutanea* flora, however much I may wish to do so.

During one of the rains, I caught some water from the roof in a vessel, & left a little of it standing till morning, when I found in it something like frog's eggs, & the next day, they were hatched into polypods. If it rains frog-eggs, may it not rain fish?

Some of my bad blood is coming out through the hide. The

scratches I get in my encounters with the bushes become suppurating sores & I have one of its comforts under my left arm. It is not yet painful & I ought to be thankful. It makes me stay in the house more than I like. Better that the bad blood takes its exit thus than to have the fever.

I have seen plenty of the fruit of that *Placostictaceum* tree of which I have written before. It is a true capsule dehiscing spontaneously into three thick (1/2 inch) soft fleshy valves accurved - seeds with a scarlet drub.

20th. I have just got going on the 31st ult. Glad to hear of the quick passage of the *de la Goye*. I don't remember sending for any other vessels. I am a greatly disappointed to learn that the law-suit is so soon terminated - probably that *Illicium* was collected in *Nimmanum*. I shall talk our sharp for it when I go there. By the way an odd sort of a Dutchman with whom I became acquainted when I took the little excursion with Mr. L. showed me five sp. of *Illicium* which he had in cultivation quite young - one at least native. He is interested in them for the flavoring of tobacco. As to Dietrich I suppose I bought it. However if I should go off somewhere I leave it to them think it not worth returning for. I suppose you will allow me to pay for it. - I hope you did not think me so unreasonable as to ask you to send me your copy of *Meddell* - a present (I suppose) from the author.

Yesterday afternoon I went to the farallones & found a myrtle with very spiny leaves like *Pimenta*. I also found also another little tree of *Samanea* in the very top of which was a raceme of pretty well grown fruit apparently. This discovery was made from the top of another tree. But when I came to climb for the fruit it was impossible.

I suppose it fell (the fruiting racemes articulate easily)

while I was climbing & among the tall bushes & grass I could not find it. I got also a new *Placostictaceum* plant - a stout bush. It does not do well into any of *Endl.*'s genera. I found also a bush of *Chamaenanthus* with a few panicle of flowers.

There is a small urticaceous tree here of which the raceme or the axis of inflorescence - peduncle rachis, pedicels ~~are~~ either at origine or becomes an irregularly lobed soft fleshy subpellucid mass with the seeds in clusters collected in shallow cavities on the surface. Till yesterday I knew of but two trees one close by here - pistillate & another at Mr. Henry Descaill's - staminate. Yesterday I found some more trees - Stam. I suppose as they bore no fruit which, the tree near here has an abundance. I got the fruit when here before. Is it a kind of connecting link to the figs & mulberries?

The comfort I mentioned above has behaved very kindly, has not ached at all, has only been tender & sore. But it feels now as if it was mustering strength for another trial as if determined to make me holler. I went this evening a little way down the creek rather on a prospecting tour than with the expectation of collecting much. I brought in a handful - two specimens of a *Cortus* which ought to be *C. spiralis* but there is a pair one. The stem is as nearly erect as a cork tree could be. The flowers are deep red, or the lower segm. of cor. lighter - leaves large rather narrow for obovate, acuminate red underneath. There are more specimens under way. I found a plenty of an *Orchid* just coming into flower of which I have yet got only three specimens & thought it rare so I hope to get enough. I got also *Heulandias* later 22nd May amongst is a genuine *Picorra del fuego* - one crater has exhausted itself, another big one is just ready to erupt and there are sensible indications that

a third one is in preparation. besides some little bits of
ones—simple-like—lateral outlets of the matter that counts
get to the main ones. It kept me awake last night—and yet
it is not very painful & has not been. I was in the woods
all day yesterday (perhaps I had better have been) taking it very
slowly, but I got a number of new things and welcome addi-
tions to old—an abundance of *Dioscorea* & that little *Euphorbia*—
—call *A. monantha*—it seems never or seldom to have more
than one flower on a stalk or main branch. I have been watching
a small tree of which I know but one specimen with leaves like
Thusiaceae. I had examined the bud but the ovaries were too young to
afford data for its determination. Yesterday I got some fully
expanded flowers—but without petals. A reexamination of the
bud reveals them however—so they must be early caducous. The ovary
is 3-celled, lanceolate, placental in the axis with numerous horizontal
or descending ovules. Leaves opposite. I can't think where it belongs
unless to *Hypericaceae*. I got also a queer *Rubiaceae*—the flowers in
heads or umbels—cor. (apparently) early caducous— Stam. exsert. ovary 2-celled
with a long slender ovule (pendulous?) in each cell. I suspect there is
something polygonum about it. But what seems queer the buds
or tips of the growing branches seem always or very commonly enveloped
in a little bunch of resin of a reddish or orange color. Sometimes
dividing like horns or following the direction of the young expanding
leaves. I got one more fertile frond (very young) of *H. armitum*.
For several days we have had no rain & I can't venture out
in the afternoon when I had dried my plants in the early
part of the day.

As ever

Agnes Arber

P.S. 237 *Scutellaria* No 2 has exploded & No 3 seems to be firing up

P.S. July 10. I want to give you an account of yesterday's botanizing day. Before I went out in the afternoon for a particular orchid, I got it but was soon driven in by the rain. I escaped a most copious shower with only a slight wetting. I found flowers of a *Surpinia* but hadn't time to cut the tree. Well yesterday my main object was to get the *Surp.* which don't seem to be either of Dietr.'s species. I collected a plenty of *Cassia stipularis*? though I don't see anything in the specimens why it should be so named. I next got 5 fertile pods of *Hym. orin.* I then went on finding fruiting pods of several of those laggard ferns to the number five or six saving more or less specimens of each. At this time too I picked up a *Pleuriothallis* which it seems to me I brought home before yet I can't fit it on to any in Lindley's *Ornum.* Passing by my little tree of *Laurania* I secured such racemes as were sufficiently advanced including some with fruit, of course I don't know how near ripe, but I would guess it was pretty near fully grown. The earlier racemes shed nearly all their ~~flowers~~ ^{flowers} with the ovaries. The later ones seem to retain them and as there are several yet in the bud state I may obtain ripe fruit. Next I found a *Sarcia* in fruit & took a plenty. I may have got this before. Some such things it is almost impossible to retain in the memory. Then I believe I met with an *Exostemon* ma a very slender tree 30 ft high. I may have got this in fruit when Mr. L. cut down his timber - if so there it was a great tree. At the same place I collected flowering specimens of some *binchona* ceous bush or small tree with dark red flowers not in bud, certainly. I got it when here before & have this time sent home plenty of fruit. I got here also some specimens of a myrtle. Like many others which I do not study as well or but slightly I can't remember if I have got it before. I picked up here a couple of specimens of *Mandarinia* which however I have before saved in pretty good quantity & I saw in the thick woods my little crimson *Leguminosae*. The next novelty that occurred was some *Scroph.* with greenish flowers & 5 stamens equal or nearly so. It is a feeble sprawling bush in very thick woods.

not a flower, but the way is manifestly 2-lobed
most of the flowers are in the bud state. Well I traveled some distance
scratched my legs & pushed my fingers a good deal before I
met anything of special interest. I found a palm with flowers
I thought differing from any thing I had previously met & I
cut it but it would not come down Fournier's climb - so
I left it. Hey - I found some good flowers of *Santanderia*
only two or three specimens however. One by I discovered a
Dorstenia which I shall call for the present *D. tutinosa* and a
delicate white *Guthriea* which I shall leave for somebody
else to call. I had previously however collected specimens of
a *Cucurbit* whose leaves are very broadly margined or doubly
marginated - so I give it may be *D. diplomarginata*. These
two plants were growing among the weeds in the bed of a small
creek where they are overflooded after every heavy shower.
The *D.* however grows also on the bank above the ordinary high
water. I came near passing it by as a *Hydrocotyle* among
which it was growing & which it strikingly resembles. Down
the creek a piece I got specimens of some *Melastoma* no won-
derly however as I got it before. I believe. The next thing
that struck my attention was a *Giosports* with the floral
envelopes in threes. I suppose I have sent some fruiting
specimens. At the same place I found some thing for
Benthams. *Macrorhiza* aff. I had a climb for it as I wished
to save the tax for the fruit. The inflorescence is a large
leafy compound panicle. - flowers - calyx dark red. petals
light purple. I am with one other. I have stored my collecting
for the day though on the way in I found flowers under
some trees which I must go & look upon tomorrow.
I am right to leave this place when I made such
a haul on ground that I have been over 20 times before
& recently too? Put my name in the envelope of your letter or
they may reach me via Paris. Better direct care Messrs Brooks & Co.

July 12. Yesterday I was out in the morning a short time
& got a *Melastomaceae* near *Quiltingia* & a *Sapotaceae*.
Here a branch of it quite distinct from any thing in India.
Today I went out in the afternoon but was soon
driven in by the rain. I picked up flowers of *Portulacaria*
but had no time to cut the tree. I mean to go for it
in the morning. It is the only one I have seen this
year. I got a *Psychotria* which I think is distinct
from any heretofore collected. but there are so many
of them & so much alike that it is almost im-
possible to remember them from one day to another.
This morning I came upon two species of *Cissampelos*
both with red flowers & quite different from *C. acida*
which also has red flowers. I must have collected at
least six species of this genus

C. H.



Wright, Charles. 1859. "Wright, Charles July 16, 1859." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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