

Nouvelle Sophie Feby 24/60

Dear Dr

Hard at work the last ten days eating oranges & fighting fleas. I made a couple of excursions here but didn't collect much. It is rather dry. Today I start for Monte Verde. I hope then to be able to fit myself out for the Mayan excursion. But I anticipate considerable delay. However there I shall find something worth collecting to occupy my time.

I send you something for publication. I want to contribute my mite to our old ass who would be sure at home if in Philadelphia—eating thistles. Get it into a democratic paper if possible—then it will not be supposed to be dictated by political motives. Try & get two or three copies of the paper—cut out the article & send it to me in a letter—for distribution among his friends? here.

I shall get to M.V. day after tomorrow.

Yours truly

Chas Wright

(over)

26th. Monte Verde. From M.S. I went to visit a nephew of Mr. Lescaille who lives on the opposite side of those Parallones I was most cordially received & invited to return which I shall probably do at some future day.

I staid one night at Josephina's. Dogs, cats, hogs, poultry & dirt as before. Coming from there I missed my way but don't regret it as the road was good & I passed through those savannas by a different ~~route~~ ^{route}. Absolutely nothing in them now.

It is pretty dry but the vegetation doesn't look parched. It is rather winter time & many trees are dropping their leaves. Tomorrow or next day I shall take a look into the woods to see what I can find here. I begin to believe that the spring or summer will be the best time for the interior but I'll go as soon as I can get ready.

I hope before I leave here again I shall have from you a list of the specimens of wood that you want so that I may send you them & throw the rest away to get rid of a parcel of rubbish which forms a rather inelegant pile in one corner of the room. Perhaps I will add some specimens of palm stems.

I met at Mr. Charles Lescaille a Dr. Collier who has had the same experience as I had for the first few months. — I have received a single letter from the U.S. I am pretty well convinced that strangers' letters are opened & destroyed at least in many cases.

I hope to send this rather bulky letter by a vessel which sails within a day or two from Guantanamo to avoid any suspicion which its size might possibly create & to save .25 cents postage or more though you will be saddled with some to distribute the inclosures to their respective destinations. I shall ask Mr. Henry Lescaille to allow me to have my letters sent to his address from this time as it will probably be as easy for me to get them from here as from Cuba. Mr. Stanford is often away from home & besides has a great deal of business of his own to attend to. So if I say no more about it you may direct to him (for me) at Santa Catalina de Guantanamo. I believe he will interest himself in forwarding them. This P.S. will illustrate the saying that they contain the substance of a letter. You may however take it

as an item from a journal or diary
I was told in Saltador that a notice of
my doings here and of my projected excursion
to Mayan has appeared in the Cuba paper
I suppose Mr. Cisneros must have done
it. I don't know whom else to accuse of making
me notorious
C. W.

27th A mother is upon us & we have drizzle,
drizzle, drizzle, with little patches of sunshin
intervening. I slip out now & then & pick from
the coffee trees bunches of *Moro* & *Repatosa*. They
seem to be in prime condition. I have observed
today several specimens of *Scrothella* on the coffee
trees & one very fine large specimen with
flowers & fruit & the largest I have yet seen —
was collected. another with fr. only I did not
save.

28th Your notice of my ferns in Stillman gives 180
as the most numerous set of 36 (Baton) & 120 as the
lowest. I have thought that there were not more
than 20 or 30 ^{ferns deficient in number} ~~defective sets~~ & should think the lowest
set ought to go much higher than 120. I am afraid
you have been making an auger hole with a gimlet
~~gimlet~~ Today I got for Baton an entire sterile & fertile
fronds of *Lancea nodosa* & *Chironia* — that is whole-length
fronds split longitudinally & having the pinnae only on one side —
which is as good as the whole



Wright, Charles. 1860. "Wright, Charles Feb. 24, 1860." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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