

as curious, that the terminal bud
were enveloped in a yellow green. (You
found our flowers ^{conolly} I got plenty yes-
terday. I told you too of a *Composita* in
the prairie at M. T. with little nites
of leaves that I have not found in fl.
I have plenty now. When I am done
with the prairie I go to the prairies.
I have little doubt the vegetation
is in good condition for we have
rains every day if not here within
earshot of the thunder. Three days
now we've had no rain.

7th Yesterday I made probably
my last trip to the prairie. I found
a good many new things & some
desirable specimens - as fruit &c
of etc. One I can't make out by
Lindley. I got another *Thymelic*
aceors shrub - a little bit of a
bush 2 ft high. Among other things
I got plenty of a fan palm. I don't
much like these things they are so
bulky especially when they have

Mayoria alago
Aug 12 1860

My Dear Dr

O! dear - while job-ing
it I am seeking for pastime or
kill-time by reading ~~Endicott~~
Lindley the only book I have. But
I am continually stumbling over
those greek abominations, anapit-
ropal, Anapitropal, Anapitropal,
Anapitropal, Anapitropal,
Orthotropal. Such things are fit
only for Dutchmen who are raised
upon endless duplicato-resquiped-
alian language. I have some
faint hopes that I see Orthotropal
right end upward. As to Anapit-
ropal offensiveness I have thought I
had him fast head downward &
feet in the air. when, presto, on the
next page, perhaps, I met him
with head erect stiff as a grenadier.
Anapitropal don't show himself often
& I remember enough of greek to

authorize me to suspect that I comprehend him though I am far from being confident about it. I have no sort of idea what Campulitropal (Reduced) means. Campylotropal (I suppose) means some sort or degree of crookedness.

It does seem to me that a speaker of ordinary inventive powers who understands this subject might contrive some terms which would be understandable for the several positions of the ovule, seed & Embryo. I have never been able to get these terms through my hair or at least to keep them then any longer than I have the figures in view.

I have just come across another Antitropal which has shaken to the end of the two nails the semi-belief expressed above that I knew what it meant. For instance: Take Comelynaece. The embryo is said to be antitropal. Now from the term & fig I would suppose the embryo to be

placed at right angle to the albumen ^{its radicle} & touching it. Then, take Platanacea. Can any one form the same opinion from the figures there?

I have come upon another tropal - homotropal & what can it mean as applied to the ovule of Menisperm. Again another - heterotropal - bah! Bothersation

5th. Two weeks I am here. I have made but three excursions - the first to the point - the two others in the same direction. Both these last, ^{the first also} I made good collections. Yesterday I got a full load without gaining the point. But I was on foot & it is two leagues & up hill besides over a terrible stony road. Tomorrow I venture on horseback. It will likely be my last. I must have collected yesterday six or seven hundred specimens. Lots of new Rubiaceae turn up. Some composites. You will remember a Rubiac. I sent you from M. 7. of which I remarked

big dish. Ten of us sat round—
not at—the table—it was too
small for that. There were five
plates & ten spoons (iron) but a
knife, nor fork. I monopolized an
entire plate & my claim was not
contested. Each one labored the victuals
with spoon & fingers in the direct
~~rather~~ puncture. In his appetite
I was no laggard in the work.
The food tasted well enough & what
matters the modus operandi of
despatching it—You have
read of the Red Lands of Texas near
San Augustine. The soil ~~then~~
of Cayo del Rey is apparently the
same. Every body & every thing
has a deep & treacherous hinge.
Four or five great lazy lubber
bounge about all day or pay a
little attention to hogs & cattle.
A potato patch ^{as} joining the house
was all the attempt at cultiva-
ting the soil that I saw. I asked

To be carried ⁽²⁾ any considerable
distance. I think of starting day
after tomorrow for a savanna
about 10-12 leagues distant on
the road to Cuba. If I find a
good variety of things I shall
probably go on to Holguin.
I have an introductory letter for
that place—not thinking when
I left M. F. seriously of going
there. But I guess I shall find
friends there at least ~~as~~ ^{so} long
as my money holds out. If I
do go to Holguin I shall
arrive in Cuba that broke-
I expect. But I can any time
ask & get a little loan from
Bradford. That point & especial-
ly the road ascending to it has
been a rich place for me. It
woud well repay another visit
at a different season. If the

savanas prove equally rich
I shall perhaps be repaid my
time & expense. I don't know
however but you will be more
the gainer than I. I found
a second? sp. of Lindley's Gen.
Lernonia (I forgot the other prior
name) & at least this sp. has simple
leaves & I am strongly impressed
with the notion that the other has
them ternate. The fl. looks exactly
the same = *L. simplicifolia*

12th. The 9th went to the savana. Cays
del Rey. My collection there would be
suitable since he "took to grass"
A rain overtook us on the road which
tapered off into a long drizzle - a char-
acteristic of the showers in these parts
But we reached shelter & were not
wet. The vegetation was in fine
condition. No composites nor Liliace
nor Amaryllid as might naturally
have been looked for. The savana has
quite a Texan look. If I were

not rather in the humor "To make
a spoon or spoil a horn" I might
take the "back track" or go straight
on to Cuba. But I think of keeping
on to Holguin. If I finally resolve
to do so I shall set out very
soon - just as soon as I can dry
off a little. No cactaceae at Cays
del Rey. There are some at Holguin
though they say the prairies are
quite similar as to soil & surface.
Although as I have said it
rains every day this is not the
rainy season. Señor Vidal tells
me that by July in September
there will be "aguaceros" appar-
ently it only rains now but then
it will pour

Perhaps you would like to know
how I fared at "Cays del Rey"
In this part of the island if one
intends to sleep at a Hacienda
de crianza - cattle ranch or farm
he must carry his bed - hammock
At supper all the food was in one

scally good cookery & I have
free range of the cane patch —
and don't I keep sweet?

Sept del meder 25th. This beats
Josephina Cayo del Rey & every thing
else I have met with yet in this
country. My reception here was
hardly civil I thought but we
are quite sociable now I made
use of the microscope to conciliate
all hands. I sling my hammock
in the doggerly that is over between
20 & 30 dogs the shed is sitting room
dining room laundry cook house
kitchen & doggerly duckery too. They
are horse off for eating tools here
than at Cayo del Rey. No knives
or forks & very few spoons & plates
as I suppose for we eat in little
squad of two or three at a time
& apparently at odd times as if there
was no set time for this important
operation. Every thing is unaccount-
ably filthy — but I must stomach
it. I have had some good botanizing
Among old familiar plants are a

the man if he³ had any cane. No
he had not been then quite a year
If in that time he had only a
little potato patch I conclude
he would never have any cane
No fruit but Guavas! They will
grow any how. Here & there a
Mango tree. But little fruit
this year. Plenty of bitter oranges
none or few sweet. At one time
there must have been a great
many hives of bees. Now all
are gone. The pinal extends to
Cayo del Rey but it is not open
& level as here. It is in plain
sight & not very distant from
the house.

18th. Holguin. Arrived this
morning — every thing outside
of the city looks old & worn out
— think of turning back now to
Mayari but in the direction
of Cayo del Rey — must do this
or go on to Bayamo when I will

be as far from Cuba as I am now
Prairies on the way to Bayamo
said to be grazed upon by many
herds of cattle. A Span. my money
wont hold out to go that far!
Brought me a pack-horse at Mayan
— so can go alone from Bayo del
Rey to Cuba. Saw but little on the
road from Mayan hither. Collect-
ed a few things that looked new.

Holguin is a very pretty looking
place for a Spanish town—pretty
wide straight streets crossing
at right angles—soil sandy or
gravelly. What stones I have seen
appear to my ignorance a soft
sort of granite—but I profess no
knowledge of geology. The fronts
of the houses are white-washed
& look well. Brick sidewalks
in the centre of the city. But a
walk of five minutes would take
one from side to side & all out-
side is not as with us handsome

suburban residences but a sort of
old field—common—pasture ground
sprinkled here & there with bushes
the river!! a little bit of a stream
that one can step over is thick
with little fishes—you might
stir them up with a stick. To
my great & Agassiz's greater
sorrow I can't take any of
them along with me. I have seen
them ^(this sp.) nowhere else.

Barajagua, 22nd Sept. ^{the same day} I left Holguin
the 19th & arrived here expecting
to find prairies but have to go
yet six leagues. The road here
passes over a high stony "loma"
which gave me some nice plants
& shells. I went back over a part
of it yesterday. Tomorrow I set
out for "el hart del medio" where
is a large prairie. I am quarter-
ed in a "tienda" a bit of a store
slung my hammock in a dark
hole opening into the kitchen or
cook-hole. The woman gives us

the old worn out hills. Arrived here yesterday with the back of my pack horse so badly galled with the miserable apparatus which I with difficulty procured from the lary-bones of Mayan that I must lee by a while till the horse is well. My saddle horse too is worse for the journey. I think of going next to Bayamo but I shall equip myself better. It will be some days before I can get my letters unless I go for them myself which I do not want to do on account of resting my horse.

My box sent from Mayan I found at Brooks apparently in good condition & everything else is well preserved. On my way to Leaba I saw nothing with a new look. But at my stopping place I gathered some nice shells. I meant to look a little over the farm

a Gentian of ⁽⁴⁾ genus a tetracaulis ^{has polygalas} an Brinchaulon another Sauvageia which is at variance with Lindley very confused ^{as regards the stamens} account of the family. The fertile stamens ⁽⁵⁾ are alternate with the petals ^{the ovary has 5 placental} today formed a flower with the appearance & habit of some Nymphaeaceae. Fl. in umbels 4-5 up. Sepals the latter white with yellow base with flocculent pubescence or some thing like it. Ovary beelies with two ^{or} parietal placenta & numerous ovules. ^(style) short stigma thick. ^{infructu} ^{opposite petals} 5 hypanthium gland. Leaves nearly orbicular cordate seeds yellowish smooth orbicular flattish.

From Holguin to Pinar del Rio I found Canella & of my opinion after examining it is worth any thing here it is. As to the disputed points - the ovary is one celled with two parietal placenta & a pair of ovules to each; amphitropal? as I suppose but one appear to extend rather upward while the other lies a little down. If they are attached at the same height they mutually crowd each other one up the other down. I did not examine carefully the

another calls but if they are two-celled
the cells must be very narrow
I saw nothing of the long cords from
which the ovules are said by Lindley
to hang. From young fr. which I
examined I should suppose but one
seed is matured. The flower (corolla)
is not purple but dark red. They
are a kind of glaucous purple.

26th Found yesterday a little Bormannia-
acorn plant with the flowers so crowded
as to be or appear capitate perhaps 3

27th A new *Polygala* two new
Utricularia & a genuine *Nym-
phaea* today besides other things
of less interest as three or four
Sorbus some *Cyperac.* &c
I am afraid I must stand
the filth longer than I wished
to do

Sept 2nd Yesterday I saw the 2nd
of two sp. of *Palm* which I meet
here besides a few other plants.
but I was mainly after shells
& was eminently successful
though I spent a short half-day

at the Parallon (Cayo del Rey)
My guide (a boy) was impatient
to return & I did not want to
appear ungrateful for his guid-
ance. I return then tomorrow
either to the same locality or
more likely to a neighboring
one. Perhaps I'll go to the Priol
alar. It seems difficult to get
away which I am most anx-
ious to do for I want my letter.
I am most anxious to know
the result of my application for
a zoological companion. The
glass you sent me has stuck by
pretty well but it is gone at last
lost or stolen. Send me more by the
Zoologist if one comes otherwise
never mind. I have yet one though
not so good as that

9th Novelle Sophie Arrived in Cuba
the 6th. In repairing damages or
partially doing so spent all my
money but two dollars. I missed
my good tool & had a long ramble in

all over while ⁽⁵⁾ I remain here
I'll be likely to discover some
thing new or desirable in Zool-
ogy (conchology) if not in botany
Hermitage (St. Esouille) 14th

Yesterday got as salted as you of
the 18th alt ^{with the enclosed draft} found here that of the
4th. You must have lost some of my
letters, as I took particular care to
acknowledge immediately the arrival
of every draft. Nothing yet from
Caton. I don't think I shall go
much out of my way or spend much
time in future to collect a great
number of fern sp. if I am never
to know what becomes of them.
So you couldn't think of anything
to send me when you knew of an op-
portunity. Didn't those 4 great diction-
aries weigh enough to make an
impression on your mind that
you had something to send.
So you have pretty well decided
that I am coming home. Well

just to be a little obstinate I have
firmly well decided to do no such
thing - at present. And you suppose
we have here "long winter evenings"
as in Cambridge. I'm afraid the
book won't get here in time to "churn
the lessons" of them.

I find nothing here relative to
my supplication for a zoological
collaborator. If they don't listen
to me I have a great mind to
wash my hands clean of the
whole zoological fraternity as
too parsimonious or too listless
to engage earnestly in the matter.

Brugemann's letter is an enigma.
I know nothing of the matter of
which it treats. I have no remem-
brance of sending him fl. of berries in
"excellent brandy." When did he get
the materials for all that rignarole?

Yours truly
Chas Wright



Wright, Charles. 1860. "Wright, Charles Aug. 1, 1860." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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