

Monte Verde Apr 11/85/81

My Dear Dr

I got home today just in time to escape a rain of the heaviest kind and not of short duration. Yesterday I got a good wetting. I have been absent about forty days. I have found quite a number of novelties & some others that have a newish look. The books have come & now I can have the comfort of studying some. If I had had them at first I would now know a little of genera & species instead of knowing only families & that very imperfectly. Today I found again my Cicca scandens male & female and not content with specimens alone I got a piece of the stem for I intend to establish it as a true sp. It is a genuine climber exactly like Celtis aculeata or Pisonia aculeata but without their spines. The stam. fl. are much smaller than those of C. Antillana var. viens (as well as I remember) and are yellowish green ^{dark green at first} while those of the latter are white. The habit or manner of growth ought also to be of some importance. If this proves to be a true sp. the other two must be raised to the rank of species for the fourth sp. flowers

at a height of 4'-10" & is common while the
tree form 6'-10" diam & 40-50' high I have
seen only twice so well as I can recollect.
So if the original C. Ant. is the ^{particular} original
sp. as is most probable the other will
be C. arborea. If the form of the leaves differ,
our specific char. the color is different &
that of the fr. particularly so.

A slave has just landed God + bosales nearly
— 15 of them are here. There is a bone for your negro
lovers to gnaw. If you want to stop the slave
trade, just keep a few small steamers around
this island. If England manifested but the energy
displayed in the Napoleonic war & half the disre-
gard of international law exhibited in the bomb-
ardment of Copenhagen or the attack on Com.
Porter in a neutral port she could entirely stop
the slave trade in a year. She need not fear the
threats of the poor dis- United States now. She
keeps up a great naval establishment on the coast
of Africa to little purpose except to watch over the
interests of her colonies there. Let her quit growling
at the U.S. for not doing the same thing. If that
naval force properly managed were on the coast
of Cuba then would be no more slave trade.

14th Mr. T. spoke today of sending his captain
— arrived to Baracoa for a load of cocoa-nuts to
plant. He knows I have been anxious to go by
land if I could & I suspect he has this excursion
in mind as much for my sake as for his own.
But he is now getting his crops to market & we
can not set out for some time yet & it is perhaps
just as well as to go now.

You wrote me once that ^{you} had no doubt I had
sent Buzas but are. I don't find it. Pl. King M. &
I begin to suspect that for some cause or another

a good many of my plants are not included
I expect as an antel that I got it in my late
excursion near Laguna. I wrote you that I found
a second sp. of Portlandia. It has a short angled
sapsule & I propose to name it *P. goniochaeta*.
— I believe that is the correct orthography, — if not you
can settle it as I haven't a Greek dictionary in my
cubana. I enclose some bits of *Cicca scandens*
for Episcopus. You have plenty of C. Antillana
var *glaucescens* (C. scandens) with pretty well grown
fr. — var *viridis* you have in abundance fl. &
fr. — and var *pedicellans* you have with
full grown fr. but no fl. so far as I know.
The seed would probably furnish specific characters.
Your last — Feby 23d — is getting to be rather an-
cient.

Kind regards to Mrs. V. & my friends
down the street if you happen to meet the
Yours sincerely
Charles Wright

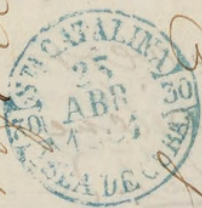
P.S. Why do you publish such names as *Cyandra*
punctata & *Palacioa verrucosa*? Why not bury
them in "honorable silence" as you once promised
to do if they don't live? — as naming by me
is much a matter of guesswork.

21st Just arrived from of 2nd & 3rd inst. You intimate
that Lincoln has not been allowed to act according
to his own judgment I believe it. There is one officer much
needed in our Government. Gen. & State. His duties should
be to apply the "argumentum ad posterorem" to any
& every lazy scamp, brooding about the seas of Egypt
begging for office. For want of a better term & with
sacrifice of delicacy I will call him the anti-bicker
general to distinguish him from similar officers in the
State Govts. He should be caught ^{to} save the Pres. particularly
by all the Gov. officers from the annoyance of lobby, con-
gressmen & all such trash.

Well I didn't know I had spent more than \$2000 since March 1858. When has it all gone to. However it's all right, I know. I am not so saving as I ought perhaps to be. But you spoke once in ^a sort of serio-jocose manner of offsetting your paper (or the labor of writing it) on the Japan botany against one or both of my notes. Little was ever said about ~~it~~ ^{from} the manner in which you mention these notes in your letter I am disposed to infer that you consider them good against you. At all events I am no pinch penny & will not quarrel about that I dare say if we do about politics. Mr L. sends many thanks for the photograph. which is very like



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That abomination, the packing privilege, ought to be the first thing done away with. Until it is abolished our Gov. will go on from corrupt to more corrupt & most corrupt. That a mem. Cong. should have the privilege to send home by mail his foul linen, ^{to be washed} and cart load of congressional doc's. (trash) is outrageous. The same may be said of being himself subject to the annoyance of cart load of letters from applicants for office - a useless burdening of the mails. Well this is a patchwork - the jottings of many days. We have N.Y. papers to the 5th inst. Gloomy prospects to Mr



Wright, Charles. 1861. "Wright, Charles Apr. 11, 1861." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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