

Monte Verde May 5th 1861

My Dear Dr.

I don't know that I wrote you that returning from Bayama my pack-horse had a very sore back & I left at Bradford (Filantopia) my dried plants - two large bundles. On the receipt of your letter of Dec 28 in which you ask why I do not send on the plants collected at Mayaride. I wrote to Bradford begging him to send said two bundles to Cuba. He didn't get my letter of Jan'y 28th till in March when he complied with my request. From Cuba the plants have been brought as far as Norwellle Sophie & I may now look for them here any day. But I think as I shall come home myself before long it will not be worth while to spend time which can perhaps be better employed in getting these things to the place of shipment just now. I am making arrangements to go to Buena Vista & shall probably set out in a few days.

A few days ago I went to Monte Yoro (Yamro) & spent one day & a half botanizing & conchologizing. I did very well in both branches. Of the *Rumiculus* of which I sent a leaf I got specimens in abundance & good. I suppose it is the ubiquitous *R. repens*. It is truly indigenous. I found a new *Cestus* & a *Desphortia*. *C. whipplensis* - very distinct from No. 553 - a *Karwinskia* - a *Lyonia* not answering the description at hand.

On they not agreeing very well with any in my books - several Melastomaceae - better - two Aistobrias (not A. trichostoma Linn.) Some peppers which I can't make out among them a Microsiper - a very little delicate thing - also nettles better - then a little polemoniaceae herb (or a H. drophyll) - specimen scanty - so I gave it a very slight ^{handsome} ~~and I don't~~ ^{of an illustration} - also this

I have I think acknowledged the receipt of your last Ap. 2 but did not answer it. "We had better not worry each other about the secession struggle". A very good beginning, yet you go on for a couple of pages partly abusing of the south. partly in defense of the north. I could if I thought it worth the while give you as good as you send. Suppose it that I am a secessionist. Let them that will live under your old effete constitution. It was very good in the time of Washington Jefferson &c. When men were honest. As for me that of the Southern Confederacy pleases me better. Abolish all privileges reduce the pay of your legislators in half & you'll have more & better legislation & you'll keep out of debt. And be sure you provide for the base-kicker that the President may have some time to devote to the interests of the public & not be tormented to death by such vermin as swarm about him "cherchez le plaid".

But your heart is in this matter as mine is & it is difficult not to talk & write as well as think about it. We have the news down nearly to the middle of Ap. Then all was warlike preparation. The Pres. after vacillating all the month of March & crying peace peace. suddenly sends off all the naval forces that could be mustered with secret orders. Now to this time we know not the object of all this

naval movement nor when the blow will fall but to me it looks all bad all wrong. I dread to hear the result.

6th Today I found a Juglans - a large tree 30-60 ft high. Leaves 6 pairs ovate-lanceolate irregular. For a little more than an inch in diam. - probably J. cinerea

9th Yesterday I got a glorious sucking. I found however Lag. the Linscar for the first time - little else. I hope to be off today or tomorrow for Baracoa. The rain yesterday prevented my guide from coming according to appointment

I have borrowed some money of Mr. L. Please send ~~a~~ a certificate of deposit for \$50.00 in his name. Direct the letter to him without my name on the envelope or he will not open it. You can put within it any note you may have for me. Frederick Loscaille - observe the orthography which is often a matter of importance

Probably you had better not write to me after the end of this month as I shall embrace the first good chance of returning home. after my return from Barcelona.

Yours ever
Charles Wright



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Prof Asa Gray
Cambridge Mass
Los Estrados Windows





Wright, Charles. 1861. "Wright, Charles May 5, 1861." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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