

Palmaria 11th 1861

My Dear Dr

Yours of the 21st Aug came about the 12th ult.  
(written on the back of Sullivan's). I should probably have  
the following one promised: I went at Monte Verde. I  
am on a little excursion westward not very distant some  
5-6 leagues in way of the road perhaps not half so far in  
a right line. The place where I now am is just on the edge  
of Monte Libano (where Lim. from Buxus cubensis) but on the  
northern watershed. I have been here more than a week but the  
weather has been catching & I could not go out so often as I  
wished nor dry so fast. Although so near M.V. I find a num-  
ber of things not seen there. The absence of one a large *Mes-  
saria* which abounds here somewhat surprises me. You  
may remember receiving from me a little plant which I refer  
to *Cymbocarpa*. I find that & another second sp. abundant  
also another of the same fam. (I can't recall the name - my old fail-  
ing). Beside these a yellow flowered *Vogelia* and a white & blue flow-  
ered plant of the same fam. <sup>(see below Oct 8)</sup> and an orchid of the same habit all  
shade-loving plants destitute of green leaves occur in the same  
localities. The *Vogelia* I have met in many places but nowhere  
common. I rarely find more than one or two sp. in any one  
excursion. I think I wrote you that I had heard of the existence  
of cedar on the island & had seen the wood of it. Today I went  
out a tree. I have abundance of *Stam. fl.* It is a scarce tree  
<sup>(in this locality)</sup> only 3 occurring of which I cut one more than a foot in diam  
& 45" high I should think. There is one larger & one smaller. I cut also  
a small *Freziera*? with fl. larger than any I remember to have  
seen. A week ago I found something queer, <sup>enclosed in a cone fl.</sup> It comes nearest to  
vernation. but has the leaves mostly opposite on young <sup>thrusty</sup> branches  
sometimes alternate. Sepals of *Freziera*. Cor 5-lobed imbricate, 3  
segs. orbicular with thick barren stam. adnate to the inner  
free (one on each) 2 narrow (lanceolate) segments with one stam.



on the base of each filament about as long as the segment. Another implectid  
in the bud but extrorae after expansion of fl. Ovary 2-celled, 2-3 seeds  
in each attached to axile placenta. Stigma coriaceous slightly 2-dent-  
ulate. Fl. small white in dense panicle. Petiole of leaf thickened at  
base. I found today a *Pilea* which is not in *Gris.* Since I  
last wrote I found plenty of *Epilobium schaffneroides* (not  
I will have to revise "inertue" from the other. It is the  
same compound species as the others. In the same locality  
occurs a *Trillium glandulosum*? perhaps near *Glandulosum*  
is described as very variable. But all the varieties are said  
to be more or less pubescent on the leaves or branchlets cal.  
or cor. This however is so absolute, hairless that it  
resumes the name "*glaberrimum*". There are no glands on  
the petiole. At the same place occurs a *Rubiac.* which at  
first I took for a *Gesner.* Of the 5 atom. 4 are declined to  
one side of the fl. like those of *Labiata*—the other erect  
but large dull purple <sup>deep</sup> thick like the cal of *Clematis* ~~white~~  
*ochroleuca* &c. The specific name ought to be "*gesnerioides*".

"Mrs Gray is grieved at my defection." I am very sorry.  
I would make any reasonable sacrifice for her good opinion.  
But there are some things we can't believe. You wouldn't try  
to convince me it is midnight when I see the sun in the  
Zenith. As well you might as persuade me the present  
administration will establish the Union.  
To say nothing a little of the frequent seizure of "suspects"  
the gagging of the public press—the arrival of that old relic  
of barbarism the passport system &c. Let us look at the worst  
course in Missouri. He has proclaimed martial law has  
made himself Judge Grand & may restore runaways  
of the faithful to their owners & liberate those rebels. Now  
if I remember well our Constitution secures to every man  
his life liberty & property until deprived of them by "due  
course of law". Perhaps martial law enacted by a military  
tribunal is "due course of law". It is such law as I don't

want to live under. Is such a soon race likely to lead to union?  
You know my opinion. I know they are honest men?  
believe I have plenty of strong reasons for entertaining them.  
Now were I to abandon them is heil about I hurry for  
the war & Lincoln's words I gain the esteem of Mrs Gray  
or win her contempt? God save the Union in some way!!

7th. I have visited a extensive prairie near here—more high  
than that of Mr. V. The vegetation recalls that of *Bureau* and  
*Maya* which are doubtless all one species but broken in  
place. How much farther west it extends I know not but  
I think there are prairies near Kansas or Kansas. I  
found something of novelty though not much during  
my visit & got my customary picking on the way back.

"Might should see to it that the sets of masses of your seeds  
when they will be appreciated" full. What does that mean? I  
promised to give one set to a friend here who I am sure will  
not cast my "pearls before swine". You can dispose of the rest  
if there is a market for them which I hope rather than believe  
I am sorry to say you won't get my plants as soon as you  
seem to expect. A vessel sailed from Guantamoo about the  
first ult but I did not know of it in time to avail my-  
self of the opportunity although my friend in Saladero  
promised to give me notice which they neglected to do.  
I want to go on some more distant excursion but must  
wait awhile till I can get my collections away. Then  
I may go to La Habana.



Tube remains

Potosi in Mouth Yoro Oct 13. I find here another sp. of those little white Voyer-like parasites a new Gesner and three sp. of Microstylis having a newish look - also a Physalis that I don't remember collecting before - a Cordia apparently new & a Lantana perhaps new also. I have now plenty of fruiting specimens of Sloanea amygdaliina. I expected to get letters sent here from M. V. but am disappointed. I am afraid your letter with the draft hasn't come. I shall return then in two or three days.

14th. Late at night. Just got yours of the 6th & it with the draft & the sketches which I have read and now I shall send off this the first chance I have.

As ever

Yours cordially

Charles Wright

Mouth Yoro 17th. Got back yesterday in the rain - road awful. I hear that a vessel is unloading at Guantánamo. I send tonight to enquire about it. If she returns north I shall send by her my plants by her. I send a scrap of the cedar & a couple of little ferns - fair specimens of the plant. If it is new I want to say something about the naming of it. But I will write to Easton about it.

course in Missouri. He has proclaimed martial law has made himself Judge Grand Jury restores runaways of the faithful to their owners & liberates those of rebels. Now if I remember well our Constitution secures to every man his life liberty & property until deprived of them by "due course of law" Perhaps martial law enacted by a militia Colonel is "due course of law" It is such law as I don't





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

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