

San Jose June 17th 1862

My Dear Dr.

Five consecutive rainy days is what I have not witnessed in Cuba till now. This "spell of weather" ended yesterday. One could not venture a quarter of a mile from the house without an even chance of getting a wetting before he could get back. Today I went on an excursion into the hills which I had intended to make on the first of the rainy days. I have been here more than three weeks & have not yet had a right good excursion. A negro boy went with me & as is generally the case he was more plague than profit. He carried a box to collect water for his master & such a thing in such wood is about as portable as an umbrella spread. I thought M. Verde had thickets & entanglements but it can't keep up with these woods. I find some novelties as might be expected. *Phlebottaria* is not rare I got pretty well grown fr. I have examined again carefully the flowers & find them 5-petaled - two lateral ones small. The stam. vary in number 7-9. I hope you will have the errors corrected when an opportunity occurs. It is here a small tree - less than the one I found in Yateras. Don Jose Blain - mine host - takes much interest in botany & collects all the trees & shrubs which are of any interest for beauty, utility or curiosity. He saves specimens for his brother-in-law & plants in the garden or ~~at~~ arboleda young trees. He has a number that I have not met with. He keeps a catalogue of every thing with its trivial name & its botanical name if he knows it. He has by hook or crook learn-

ed the names of many which I do not know &
I in turn help him to the name of some unknown
to him. He has accumulated what knowledge he pos-
sesses on the botany system of "Andreas" & "Gynias"
& he sticks to it a good deal. Daurville-Dorée's brother-
in-law has a considerable herbarium of the shrubs & trees
principally of the island but rather poor specimens I
thought from the few I looked up. He lives in Habana
I was then the last days of May. It's a nasty place
dust dust & more dust when it don't rain & when it
does you have puddles poofs, ponds of mud. They
give me ^{here} glowing accounts of the flora of the savannas
a few leagues farther west. I am about 20 leagues
westward of Habana right at the foot ^{of the} of the Rangel
range of mountains. They are not very high but
rocky & steep with abundance of foralbes where
I always find something good. Oh! I want some-
thing on the monopetalae. I am vexed that you
did not print on the receipt of the mass. That must
need be a supplement or something of the kind and
it appears to me that it would have been better to
print as fast as possible. It was to have been done
by the end of last year if I remember well.

23^d Returned today for a visit of two or three days
to Retiro the other place of Don José. I collected quite
a number of plants of this garden which tho' inad-
equate in other parts are not found here or rarely -
the oak included. I shall probably have occasion to put
down Retiro as a locality many times. I sent you in
one of my last letters a scrap of a *Cassia*? with fibrous
axillaries. Don José says it is *Desfontainia* as a
Sapindaceous plant - odd enough of true
2nd I got \$141 for the drafts you sent me - G.P.C.
do down

When I was in Habana 6 days I had a troublesome diarrhea
and it still continues to some extent - that is - if I eat a
little too much (Who don't sometime?) I suffer from
indigestion. I am naturally of costive habit & this change
continuing so long & so unusual with me causes me
some uneasiness. And somehow I don't feel so energetic
as I used to do - fancy maybe. I have a good appetite
& am obliged to bridle it which is an unpleasant task.
We have a nice little creek a short distance from the house
where I can go & bathe as often as I please.

We get the Habana paper every day but lately it contains
little or nothing from the United States. There appears to
have been no mail in some time or else "Todes los Dablos"
have run away with my letters. Nothing fr. home since
20th Ap. I am impatiently waiting the coming of
Quindach in order to make our excursion together
into the "Ponetalajo" or "down the country", that is
to the westward - down the way the wind flows.
The Melastomads bother me amazingly. We must
either have several genera not in *Epis* or the gen.
will have to be divided & new ones established or
the gen. char. enlarged to admit such as are now
excluded by slight differences of floral structure.

There's a work on Jamaican botany - Macfadyen
I believe or some such name. Is it complete & can
you get it for me without sending to England? If it
does not contain the monopetalae & endogens it will
be little better than *Epis*. - perhaps not so good.

Buy "sayer" on the bluecias you can send
to Quindach. I would be glad that you do so
if you can conveniently.

Inclosed is an address whereby to send
letters

I send H. & J. G. Young, of Philadelphia, Pa.

When I was in the London & ...
cell is generally abortive or smaller
As ever
Yours truly
Charles Wright



Wright, Charles. 1862. "Wright, Charles June 17, 1862." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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