

Ingenio Esperanza Dec 10th 1862

My Dear Dr

Last night came yours of the 14th ult. Yes this is a letter as is a letter There's something in it. It satisfies It answers questions. It ~~solves~~ doubts. I am very thankful for such letters. And first I will go over it & make comments remarks &c. As to your kind offer to send me Yankee newspapers I am none the less obliged to you than if I accepted it. But as I long ago replied to a similar offer it will do me little or no good. Away among the vegas & hatos I ~~could~~ ^{can} get neither that nor any other except accidentally or occasionally by meeting the phenomenon of a civilized "veguero" or "hatero" & when I am "enfesada" or at home with Blain or with Descaille I get the Habana papers which give me regularly all the important news from all parts of the world. So the sending of a Yankee paper here would be trouble & expense with little or no benefit — I know it is Eaton's fault that I have not the books but until you explain why you "can not send from Boston to Havana" I must consider it equally your fault. I know that things are sent from Boston to Havana & why could not your parcel be thus sent equally well by giving one of your vile "greenbacks"

Eaton did not get another portfolio made but we can get along very well I hope with the one sent. In my last from Palacios which you will get about these days I wrote about paper

I can do nothing with the plants in Eastern Cuba till I go there which I shall probably do early next year. This is the situation in which they are a box at Nouvelle Sophie = coll. of 1860 in the savannas of the interior North of Cuba — perhaps a pack

at Monte Verde - a package in Cuba or at St. Sophie which
I collected in La Guernia after I had set out to collect ^{here} which
I sent back rather than bring ~~them~~ on here - a package in
Ypinidao sent thither fr. S. de Espirita to lighten my load.
Thus you see I can not ask Mr. Lescaille, Brokers or nor
any one else to look after these things. They must wait till I
look them up myself. I don't know of any thing which you
could send me ~~in~~ that I ~~can~~ can change from worthless
greenbacks into good "indian". I wish I did. I am collect-
ing shells & every excursion gets one new species. I shall
return with a very considerable collection for a botanist.

Now I'll tell you where I am & what I am doing. About a
league fr. Pinar del Rio lies the Ingenio Espartero (getting to
be almost a hopeless case) growing up to weeds & the house
going to ruin. It is a large estate belonging to the heirs of one
Morell as they pronounce it here but as he came from Philadel-
phia it there was probably Anglicized & known as Maxwell. The
heirs live elsewhere & are establishing another new sugar estate
near Camaguey I believe. One Don Pantaleon Jones to whom I
brought a letter recommending my having charge of the estate I was
kindly received by him & installed in one half of the large & pretty
comfortable house - a family of regulars occupying the other
half. With these I board. Don P. lives in town coming here every
day. He made many apologies for the discomfort which I
should feel among the "quite pobre". But I pleaded in favor
of staying here the "lagunas" & the "monte" where I would be
able to find plants & shells whereas in the pueblo I'd find
nothing but good living & that I didn't come to look after
They are preparing to commence the rape or the gathering
of the crop - getting wood repairing machinery reworking the
casks (for rum) &c. & about the 20th it is intended to commence
grinding up. The cane is scattering & small. Large areas grown
over with grass & weed. But the lagunas have given me
a rich collection. Here I find Lemna in fr. for the first time in
my life as I believe. In one laguna is a "terubledora" or floating

island of all sorts of aquatic plants, growing in grasses. Euph.
eracea. Two sp. of Najas two Lemna two Ptilococcus one
Baccharis! growing actually from the water - so different in habit
from those of Eastern Cuba which are found only in swamps & with
a little plant with the capsule of violacea or just like *Asplenium*
fragile on a very reduced scale. I collected just such a looking
plant in springy places in Texas. This is probably the same
plant. An orchid also grows among the grass & sends down
its roots into the water. The island trembles all over as I
sawmble about on it the water below being 6-10" deep. The
grass & cyp. are "cortaderas" & my legs are covered with
scratches. N.D. Examining the fl. of the orchid above mentioned
I find several instances of the pollinia stuck by the gland to
the lobes of the 3-partite lip & standing at right angle to them
so that the lip pressed down by the weight of an insect would
almost necessarily bring the pollen-masses in contact with
some part of it (the insect). This is a tall orchid with yellowish
green small fl. & the largest most inflated another sacks I have
ever seen. Your account of the small demand for my
plants is little in accordance with my expectations & with
your expectations to collect largely of certain families - ferns
mosses &c. Perhaps they'll enable me by exchange to accumu-
late a little herbarium of my own for my amusement when
I am an old man. My collections accumulated here show-
less in bulk than the first ones having very few ferns which
composed a large part of the earlier ones. But they abound
in Monocotyledons & in small flowering plants of the savan-
as & pinales & less in woody ones which again make up
more bulk than number. At Blain's & at Serrana I have
some 8 packages which will count largely in the Cuban
flora. I don't believe I can convert any Yankee product
into cash. At least I know now of nothing by which I
can realize money here. If any opportunity of the kind
should occur I will seize upon it to anticipate any
future necessity for at present I have money enough - and

in fact I have no great anxiety on the subject for I have not as yet failed to borrow for any immediate want having had occasion three times I believe to ask a loan or only two (for once it was offered without solicitation) & then money was not withheld. I hope you'll not forget my request to secure for me & if I stay here long send to me a copy of the new Edition of *Endlicher*

The engineer here is a young man who spent four years in the U.S. & speaks English quite well. He is now here fitting up the engine for grinding & has invited me to go to his house about four leagues away & day after tomorrow we go. I hope then to find something new or interesting

If Messrs. Tuckerman & Sullivan want the snails I'll send the rest of the mosses & lichens to Europe whence will get reports of them some time or other - probably. I don't feel exactly goodnatured that I did not send one a copy of his paper.

Wouldn't it be a good plan to put by a set of all the plants of which there is a plenty of specimens to present through the Spanish Minister in Washington to some national herbarium in Madrid if such there be or to the Queen herself. In case I should stay here longer than I now intend or in the event of my returning here it might result to my benefit. And at any rate it is no more than a grateful return for the treasures I have drawn from the island and the abundant hospitality which has been shown me

Lagunillas 13th. Came here yesterday & have spent today in a ridge of rocks near by collecting shells mostly. Tomorrow I go to the pinales which are close by. They are hilly pinales & I don't expect to find much

Kind regards to Mrs. G.

Yours ever Charles Wright



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