

Balesterna Feb 17th 1866

Dear Dr

Mrs. Sawall's poor man is in such a feeble state that he is unable to engage in any active labor. So he amuses himself in making out catalogues of his plants with their vulgar names their place in the Linnean & the natural systems, their time of flowering &c &c. Occasionally he makes drawings not equal to Mr Sprague's but very faithful in what relates to foliage venation ramification every thing in fact except the minutia of floral structure. At other times he takes the specific gravity of the woods which he has made into small oblong tablets nicely planed & varnished (but the bags will bore into 'em). I help now and then to pay my immense debt to him by bringing him woods which he has not already. Today I got him *Miconia Rangelina*, *Craton coryliifolius* and *Colubrina acuminata* Gr. This is a very hard heavy wood (I gapped my hatchet badly cutting it) of a bright red color (heart).

On some occasion Don José, always observant, noticed a branch of *Clusia rosea* accidentally broken and left hanging by the bark or a part of the wood, with all its leaves ^(dry) adhering to it. I tried the same plan to make the leaves stick but it did not succeed; perhaps there may be something in the season of the year. But the thought occurred to me of trying to dry in this manner *Phoradendron latifolium* which is remarkable for the disarticulation of its leaves. I broke a branch & left it hanging two or three days & then pressed specimens. The leaves stick very well though some of the younger ones are not smooth. On the whole they make very creditable specimens however.

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Dr. Asa Gray
Cambridge Mass



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