

Retiro Aug. 8th 1866

Dear Dr.

I fear I am in a scrape. About three weeks ago writing to Mr. Lavalle I copied from your letter of 22nd June the principal part of your suggestion to me relative to the Flor Cubana putting them in quotation marks. This I thought was in accordance with your counsel "Tell your friend I say it must be done". Well can you believe it? Mr. S. has gracefully slipped himself inside of all that & thinks it fits him like a brand new suit just as if written by you to himself. He answers that nothing would please him better than to have his name connected with such a work but fears it is above his abilities yet thinks it can be brought about perhaps with my help & thus of Dr. Morales concluding thus "Consequently if you join me I will go in for it"—the last four words copied from your letter. Is the good man weak in the upper story? He says he is so much better in health that he is able to do as much work as anybody.

Want you drop him a line finding some excuse about the agency for the sale of the Catalogue or some way in which you can tell him the advice you have given me but that doubtless I will be glad to receive and I counsel from him & Dr. Morales we're making the undecision as gentle as possible. Direct to F. A. Lavalle Calle Dr San Ysidro no. 37 Havana. He expects to come down here soon when we will talk over the matter. Perhaps I may not see him before your letter can reach him.

Day before yesterday I came back again from a two days excursion toward the coast. I have now four Nymphaeas having added *N. Rudgeana*. I found a new ^(pro sp.) *Chuncoa* (*Bernieria*)—a little bush three ft high. I describe carefully one of the bipinnas which I remembered had the inner segments of the perianth very peculiarly bent in a sigmoid manner when viewed edgewise. Among grasses & Cyperaceae I find the Cas.

and Grisebach quite insufficiero. I am doubtless discovering novelties. I collected last trip a Physalis quite new to me - the bladder being 10-ribbed - all others I have seen & all enumerated in Grisebach's Flora having but five. It is a weedy-looking thing like the rest - smooth angular with purple patches at the forks of the stem & branches. Leaves small. Fl. yellow. Anthers violet.

Will it not be well to send to Prof. Baird a copy of the Catalogus (handsomely bound if you think best) to be presented to the Spanish Minister in my name with the request that I may have some privileges in the island? I know very well that at least it will depend on the will of the Captain General here who is endowed with more unlimited power than the Queen of Spain herself. It may after all be casting pearls before swine but it may be well enough to try it. I have been a trifle out of sorts but am better now. *à la Señora*

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Gray
S. B.



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