

shall try & send him some more of the seeds,
I saw it only the day before yesterday in
good flower - fruit not quite ripe. It is
very common in waste grounds here.

shall adopt your suggestion & write
to Dr Kennedy. Meant to do so before
this, but one thing and another keeps
me so occupied that my resolutions are
sometimes forgotten.

No. I have not got off on my Pilcomayo
expedition. The steamer which is to carry
us has been lying at the mouth of the
Pilcomayo this month waiting for its
commander to come up from B. Aires.

What detains him, I can't imagine. He
has written to me several times, setting
dates for his departure. In his last,
he implored me not to leave here before
he came, as ~~he~~ wants me to go with
him very much - at least, so he says.

As to the two newspaper articles which
I have sent you, I should be glad to
give you copies, if I could. I could
only get two of each, one of which, of
course, I retain for myself. I think
it likely that Dr Britton only wants them

Asuncion, Paraguay, Nov. 1, 1889

Mr Walter Beane

Dear friend. Yours of Sept. 15 has

just arrived, much to my delight, as

it has now been a whole month since

I have had a single letter from home.

Two from my wife, one from my son, &
one from Prof. F. Hermann Scribner, of Knoxville, Tenn., came at the same time.

The river has been very low for the past
two months owing to an unprecedented
"drought" (drought) which has prevailed
here, & consequently the boats, and
with them the mails, have become
very irregular. Still your letter came
in 45 days, which is, after all,
expeditions for this part of the world.

It grieves me much to hear of
your father's poor health. Yes, I dined
with him once in your company, and
well remember how bright & sociable
he was at the time. I thought him
a well-preserved old gentleman, and
good for many years of life yet. Well,

This letter is all about the seeds, but you ask me so many questions that I am obliged to make a perfunctory letter of it. Excuse the egotism.

we cannot always keep our friends with us, much as we may desire to do so. I hope his end, if it must come soon, will be peaceful & free from pain.

To answer your questions. I was obliged to destroy some of my letters, they grew into such a large pile, keeping only the most important, so that I cannot refer back to yours of last Nov. & Oct., but before doing it I counted the number which I had received from you, and I know that the one which has just come is the 13th that I have received from you, so that one of yours must have gone astray, & probably it was one of the dates to which you refer. I presume that some of mine to you must have done the same.

Two letters from Jaffrey came from you, but so near together that I answered only one of them, which answers you have probably received as this.

No. I am a poor correspondent, I know, but I have written more letters since coming to Paraguay than I ever wrote

before in all my life. I do believe. My wife, when I was absent from home in vacations had to give me an epistolary curtain lecture on the subject about once a fortnight, but I am afraid that I never laid it much to heart. Since coming here, I have written to her regularly every month, & that I consider a great feat - I judge, however, from her letters that quite a number of mine have miscarried. I deal with you, as you do with me. You are such a faithful correspondent, that I should consider it a great shame if I did not acknowledge the kindness. I am very glad that my letters have entertained you. Of course, we could not pass a year among such new & strange scenes as Paraguayan life affords without seeing more or less that was amusing & interesting.

Yes. I have had two very cordial letters from Prof. D. H. Bailey, and I knew that he had succeeded in getting one of my *Physalis* seeds to grow. I

Nov 1, 1889
P.S. I have just recovered an old & valuable friend, about which I must tell you. You remember the little penknife which you gave me on the day when I left Mystic Wharf? Well, it disappeared about 4 or 5 months since. I hunted everywhere for it in vain, & gave it up for lost. The other day in using some of my stick driers which I had not taken out of the pile for a long while, I felt something hard clear inside of one of the sheets, which I thought must be a piece of wood which had got there accidentally, but lo, it turned out to be the long-lost & much lamented penknife. Now it lies open on my table as I write, none the worse for its long disappearance, & as I look at it I think of the friendly hand which put it into mine in Boston, & which I hope to grasp before another twelve months has passed.

will you do me the favor of writing to Washington
& getting for me No 104 (1889.) of the U.S.
Consular Reports? It contains consul Hill's re-
port upon Paraguay. I have read it, & it is quite
interesting. You may like to read it yourself. I
do not wish you to send it here, but keep it a-
gainst my coming home, as I may want it for
future reference! I was well acquainted with
Hill who is now in the U.S. looking after his
political interests. Ward would probably obtain a copy
for you.

I also much want to see a report on
the culture of Cassava in Florida, which Dr Vasey
(of the Agricultural Depart^t in Washington) informs Dr
Rusby was once made to the Depart^t, with a
chemical analysis of the plant. As I am writing
on the Mandioca (Cassava) I wish to compare
the statements in this report with my own
observations. Not here, but when I come
home. Ward will probably also get you
this if it is to be obtained at all.

The Consular Report is easily to be had, since it
is so recent, but the other may be unobtainable.

Goodbye again.

for the time being, to get hints out of them for the determination of some of the plants which I have sent to him. I dare say that he would return them to you in time, if you make a request to that effect. However, that will be as he chooses, as I meant when I sent them home that they should ultimately go to him for disposal. I hope that my Art. for Coulter has reached him in safety. I should be very sorry to lose it, for I spent a great deal of time & pains upon it, and besides shall want it for future reference.

Say the same thing about my paper for D.H.B.'s Horticultural Annual, - about which, I think, I have told you.

I am now engaged on an exhaustive paper on the *Manduca* for Rusby, tho' I fear somewhat that I shall hardly get time to finish it. Certainly shall not if I soon leave for the Pilgrimage. I have written a short article upon the subject already, which I sent to Dr Britton long ago, & which should have appeared before this in the Bulletin.

Yes, some of my specimens have already reached N.Yrk, as I was informed by Dr Britton. He was to open them about Sept. 20. I am quite curious to learn

whether they got home in good condition or not. It is so very damp here generally that I am anxious about them, for fear lest they have moulded in the way. I hope not most sincerely, for never have I treated his sweetheart with more devotion than I have given to my plants, & had it been in our own country. I know they would have proved capital specimens.

I am at work daily in collecting the beautiful spring flora which occurs here. I see from my note book that since Oct. 1. I have collected ³⁹ 85 species which I had not seen before. Indeed, I never go out on a botanical tramp that I do not bag from 2 to 7 things new to me. The last number in my note book is 827. This implies on the average some 15 specimens to a species. The time required to preserve all these specimens is so great

that I cannot go out as often as I wish. What do you think I ran against the other day? No less than our old Xanthium Strumarium!

How ugly & repulsive as it is. It really did me good to see its rough bars, it did look so natural among the unfamiliar things by which I am surrounded. Two or three others of our home weeds are here, & I always pat them lovingly on the head, & put specimens into my portfolios to look at when I reach my room. With kind regards to Mrs. Beane I am, as ever, cordially yours. Thomas Moring.



Morong, Thomas. 1889. "Morong, Thomas Nov. 1, 1889." *Thomas Morong letters to Walter Deane*

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