

Monte Verde. May 5th 1867

Dear Dr

Back again at the old home and tho' I don't find my good old friend Don Federico I meet with cordial hospitality from Mr. and Mrs. Buisson (Adeline).

From Saladero I acknowledge briefly your notes of the 2nd & 3rd ult. which I found there on my arrival. Along the railroad track from Guantnamo (the harbor) to Saladero - Sta. Leutabina - 5 leagues is a level district of low woods - bushes, vines, low trees, among which, as the train passed, I noted flowers &c. after two days at Harry Escaille & one here, I went down to examine this place - and I am pretty well paid for my trouble. There is a huge, widely spreading *Cereus* with a trunk a foot + in diameter, of which I saved specimens (and troublesome things to dry they are) and which will be a novelty for the Cuban flora. I saw it when here before with fl. but no fr. and I think I have spoken to you of it. A *Plumiera*, which I can't determine, is also found there and a *Pithecolobium*, do. I got also *Stigmaphyllon* ~~microphyllum~~ *microphyllum* Gr. and *Valentinia discipha*, a *Bauhinia* ^(Saguarana probably) and some other things which I can not, for want of books, determine. I have been so much occupied drying these things that I have made no considerable excursion here. It has been exceedingly dry & now the rains seem to have fairly set in, a full month earlier than common, and they are irregular, beginning in the morning, even before daylight, when usually the mornings till midday or later are fair.

My sister did not go to Cambridge. I have only just now from her an acknowledgment of my letter containing the proposal I made her. She thought it best not to accept it.

No doubt I get "most imperfect and one-sided statements of the doings of Congress" My information came mainly

I read from the N. York Tribune in which Mr Johnson's veto messages. Did you read them? In my judgment there was in them something more than "vox et preterea nihil" which often characterizes Congressional declamation. In former times when a bill was vetoed the Congress used to take into consideration the objections to it. Did your Congress do it? No! and it is the very best evidence that his objections were unanswerable and thus Congress were predetermined to pass the bill right or wrong. If Mr Johnson should sink into "in significance" whether "deserve" or not he will have to thank Congress who have completely tied his hands leaving him the name of President without the power. If the good Lord would deign in his mercy to remove to a happier or better country a few of those irreconcilable fanatics Stephen, Butler, Sumner & the like, I would have some hope for the future. On your side we shall agree - that "the Republicans are too many in Congress" and Bonaparte has set the example which will doubtless be followed of reducing their number.

After writing the above & just after breakfast (we breakfast at 1 P.M.) came a letter from Mr Anthony. My box of shells & insects found like my plants. He represents them as soaked with water. The shells can be dried & will not be much worse for the wetting and he represents the insects as not so very bad. Clearly he does so for my sake. Nevertheless I wouldn't give much for a parcel of butterflies drowned in molasses. I hope you'll join teams & sue for damages. & put the figure high for I spent many an hour by day & by night drying these things and spent some money in their transport &c. &c. and don't want to lose this nor the labor.

I think I shall go home next month as I had proposed. Then I can judge better what the damage is. Besides I am getting nearly or quite out of some very necessary articles. My stock

of clothing is becoming very much reduced. My pocket is going rapidly. I may not be able to serve a few weeks longer and that will be all it can do. My pen boards are becoming much the worse for wear. My newspapers are sent out of order. I have got business knives &c. & I find here several reams of paper left here which with that I brought will serve to last me a long time in the eastern end of the island. If I should return here I will visit again to horse. It is more convenient & cheaper. I spend more money coming here from Havana than I should have paid out traveling on horseback in six months.

Oh Today I went to the pond but could hardly find it. Part has been cut down & the rest buried and my fine botanical garden ruined. But I gathered a few things for examination and to dry. I am satisfied that he will hardly pay to stay long here and I may come home earlier than I first intended. Till then I am as well.

Yours truly
Charles Wright



Prof. Wm. Gray,
Cambridge,
Mass.





Wright, Charles. 1867. "Wright, Charles May 5, 1867." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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