

longer.

Many kind regards to Mrs L.
& other inquiring friends at Cambridge
& elsewhere.

Hope to see you in due time —
Meanwhile God bless you. Keep you
well, cheerful & happy.

Yours as ever with undiminished love.

Thomas Moray.

Pilcomayo River, 83 leagues from
Asuncion, March 2, 1890.

Dear Deane.

Chance has afforded me an opportunity to drop you a line from this great wilderness. We have been detained at this point for nearly a month waiting for rain & high water, unable to go ahead or to return with the steamer. It proves to be an exceptionally dry season, and the water in the Pilcomayo is not over a foot in depth on the average, & besides the bed is choked up with old logs & snags, so that we need at least two feet of water on the average before we can proceed. How long we may have to wait here, & how much longer the voyage will prove to be it is impossible to say. In the mean time our provisions are running short, & we are obliged to send a canoe back to Asuncion for a new supply. That will take a month to go down & return, at least. By it I send this note, as well as letters to my wife & Britton, to be posted in Asuncion, which I hope

will get through safely in due time.

I cannot give you many details of the voyage, at present, as I write in a great hurry, & tormented at the same time by mosquitoes, large & small, great small-
er than the head of a pin but with a sting as sharp as a needle, & biting flies of various kinds, all of which swarm here by the myriad, & under life intolerable. In other respects the voyage is really delightful. My health is capital, my appetite voracious, my ability to work unimpaired. I estimate that I have collected some 90 species of plants since entering the river, & some 1000 specimens, the most of which are rare & valuable, so far as I can judge. One Naiad, at least, I have got here, a Ruppia which abounds in the bed of this salt river. It seems much like *R. maritima*, tho' not exactly the same. One *Palma* (*Palma nigra*) is very common on the banks, & multitudes of other shrubs & trees which form a dense growth on both

shores of the river. Herbaceous plants are not numerous, but lianas & shrubs are infinite in number.

But I shall have to tell you about these things some other time.

Meanwhile, all I can say is that I am in good health & spirits, ready to encounter any perils that may await us.

As soon as I return to Asuncion, which I trust will not be longer than two or three months hence, I shall pack up and start for Chili, going round from B. Aires to Valparaiso by steamer - then after a short visit to my brother, away for dear old Boston. You might venture to send a letter for me to care of our U.S. Consul, Baker in B. Aires. Very likely there will be time for it to reach there before I do. Don't send to the U.S. minister as before. Baker is better. At all events, you will have sent your monthly reminders to Chili.

I must say goodbye abruptly, as I have no more time, & can stand the swarming mosquitoes & great no



Morong, Thomas. 1890. "Morong, Thomas Mar. 2, 1890." *Thomas Morong letters to Walter Deane*

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