

Austin May 26th/49

My Dear Doctor

Let me report progress. You know the date of my departure from New York and probably that of my arrival in Galveston. I took the first boat for Houston. Unable to transport my baggage by stage I put it on a road-waggon, (unfortunately) overloaded and with a weak team. By a blunder of the driver he started on the wrong road, and one as bad as roads ever get to be. The result was he was obliged to hire himself hands out of the mud into the right road, and on that we had divers unloadings and reloadings to perform on our way up. I footed it through mud and water and had a fair chance to be laise for aquatics or amphibia.

I stopped a few days with my friends at Buttsville and then got here some days before the waggon.

On my way up and here I <sup>have</sup> collected some 250 species probably which will furnish some 2000 specimens, some few rather bad injured by rain and most of which we had a plenty. They are mostly old and known plants but will do for exchange.

I have been here a week and have now ascertained that on Monday next or soon thereafter a waggon will start for San Antonio and the Quartermaster a Springfield man Mr Chapman has promised me transportation. I have a letter to Gen. Kearney which I hope will secure me transportation if not, subaltern to El Paso. I intend to procure one to Major Henry which will secure me his favor and assistance.

The train will leave San Antonio on the 1st prox and Mr Chapman says will be three months on the route 200m per month — ample leisure to botanize by the way. I find no letter in Galveston and my suspense about my last year's collection of plants is quite distressing.



I found in Houston the small box of lichen collected two or three  
winter ago at Laguna. I gave it a start and told it to go.

When arrived here, I thought to hunt up my box. It seems that  
the Cholera almost wholly cut off communication with Houston  
and it was sent to Port Lavaca by a very good friend of mine  
and was <sup>finally</sup> safely deposited there. I have written a letter of  
inquiry to the house that should have shipped it. My trunk  
was also sent on with it, probably at my request for which I am  
sorry as it contains nothing but my letters and papers some child-  
ing and a variety of little trinkets such as an old bachelor may  
be supposed to have about him. You may keep it till I send for  
it. These things should have reached you long ago as they  
were deposited for shipment later in January or early in Feb.

I want you to order to my friend, Hugh McClure, Austin,  
the following "The Working Farmer" by Prof. J. H. Kasper, Heringman  
& Son, Publishers, Clinton Hall, corner of Nassau & Clark Sts. N.Y.  
Also "The Pharmaceutical Practical Recipe Book" by F. B. Willard  
for sale by Wilson & Co. This is wanted on account of some recipes for  
cements, varnishes, &c. McClure is a gunsmith. Also "the Philosophy  
of the Water Cure" by Dr. John Ballisauie. For sale by Wilson & Co.  
These can be sent by mail & you can probably get McClure to attend  
to it and Mr. McClure will pay me the money on demand. <sup>only one dollar</sup> x

My paper was considerably injured and diminished in  
quantity by abrasion when wet in loading & unloading and rubbing  
against the other articles in the wagon. You had better send  
me at some time before winter a good supply for next year  
and be careful if it should cost a few cents more (it will  
be economy in the end) to have it well sewed up in strong canvas  
and in parcels of such size as to be easily handled.  
This and any thing else you may send had better be addressed  
to Wm. H. Hensley, P.O. Galveston & Hugh McClure, Austin  
and I think they will come safely.

\* Will you also order his subscriptions to the Scientific American  
to be continued. I usually expect this month if not continued. Send  
also to gardeners & florists, the 10th Nov.

My health is pretty good, I was considerably reduced by hard fare  
on ship-board. I don't know what else it was for. I weathered the  
voyage without seasickness. Our accommodation, even excruciating  
I could go a steamer passage with ten times as much comfort.

For a remark on *Gymna trifidata* I have found it in one  
or two more localities but always on the side of roads. May not  
its deviation from the normal form be the effect of transmuting?

I may have to lay in provisions at San Antonio for El Paso  
and join some of the messes of privates unless some of  
the officers should take a liking to me as I hope they will  
and it may diminish my expense. These have been rather  
greater than I expected. My trip to N. York and back to  
Mother's fold early in March. Hotel bill for several days about  
the 1st Apr. My passage money not 25 dol. but 27 1/2. Hospital  
money as habitation, refreshments, storage, drayage, tavern expenses,  
passage & freights to El Paso, & a reputation of like little charges  
there with my expenses up the country though I have tried to be  
economical have considerably reduced my funds. Still I think  
I will have enough for the present campaign & if you will have  
arrangements made to supply me for the next I think I will be  
able to do something handsome for yourself and other friends.

You need not hope to hear from me again before I arrive at  
El Paso unless something very important should occur.

Affectionately

Yours

Charles Wright



My heart is filled with love for  
on ship-board I have known what it was to be  
voyage without a companion. Our accommodations were excellent  
but for a stranger's passage with ten times as much comfort  
as for a comforter or friend. I have found it is not  
or two more for the sake of company or the sake of society. They are  
its separation from the normal form of the effect of teaming?  
I may have to say in conversation at the station for 24 hours  
and from some of the necessity of private visits some of  
the officer should take a liking to me as I hope they will  
and I may announce my departure. There have been rather  
greater than expected. They took to the ship and back to  
Western's body is dead. Hotel life for several days about  
the 1st of the. My baggage money was not let off. Hospital  
money is exhausted, the ship is short of money, a voyage, a tower expenses.  
passage of freight to the station, a repetition of the little changes  
these with my expenses up the country though I have tried to be  
economical have been able to do so. My friends at the station  
I will have enough for the present campaign & if you will have  
arrangements made to supply me for the next I think I will be  
able to do something better for yourself and satisfaction  
You need not hope to hear from me again before I arrive as  
I have nothing very important about me.

Yours  
Wm. W. W.

Charles W. W.

\* Will you please be so good as to send me a copy of the  
to be continued. I am, dear friend, your truly,  
Wm. W. W.





Wright, Charles. 1849. "Wright, Charles May 26, 1849." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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