

Camp near the head of Devil's River July 31st 1849

My Dear Doctor

I improve the opportunity offered by an express to San Antonio to write you that I am in good health and pretty good spirits. We make slow progress having made but little over one hundred miles per month. We are now about two hundred & twenty-five or thirty miles beyond San Antonio and for the last fifty have been traversing a hilly country and one very interesting to a botanist. I have had good opportunities of securing every thing in flower & fruit owing to our slow movements and long delays at several encampments.

I have made a very fine collection of seeds but the Cactaceae and bulbs I must almost entirely neglect for want of facilities for transportation. I have had more difficulties to encounter than I anticipated. I was thrown by Gen. Garney into the commissary train and here I meet with but little sympathy. I was kindly received by Maj. Van Horn & Maj. Henry but I am separated from them often as many as twenty or thirty miles for one month. I boarded with one of the messes since which I have been obliged to cook for my victuals.

Just think of that, Doctor—a literary and college-trained man turning cook for a living! Well it's some consolation, that when I get out of this scrape I'll not get into exactly such another. However I hope I shall be able to go over the same ground early next year under more favorable auspices. As I wrote you before

I believe I shall have to return to San Antonio in the fall if war and winter do not overtake us too soon and stop up our way.

I have been studying on the several contradictory letters I have written to you—contradictory I mean as to the amount and means of subsistence which I wished you to send me. This was the result of the circumstances in which I was placed. Sometimes I was spending money as fast as I could wish & the next day perhaps I could not buy for money what I wanted. Provisions are now getting scarce and can not be bought for I save my money—when I get to El Paso I may have to pay enough in one day to board me in Boston a week.

The last arrangement made would set my mind at rest if Doctor Baker were confident that my draft would be duly paid—but I have very little confidence that we shall hear from you before we return to San Antonio—and so we must continue in the same state of uncertainty.

My list of numbered plants and seeds now runs up to nearly eight hundred containing as before some duplicates and some seeds without corresponding specimens—these are mostly of them very favourable to if I can get them safely to Cambridge you may expect a rich treat in the study of them—though they are not remarkably rich in your favorites.

I am in excellent health and improve it I don't fear the bane of idleness & have frequently heard the remark

as I passed a company of men at play or sitting in conversation "that is a mighty industrious man"

I can't think of any small specimen accessible to send you at this time.

With the best wishes for the health of yourself & Madam  
I remain

Yours most respectfully  
Charles Wright

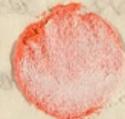
P.S.—A Mexican has just brought me a fine Bachelor button with heads much longer (2 inches) and of a paler color than the common cultivated species.

C.W.

which was important enough to warrant a Circular Letter  
by the General Assembly "and we trust in God's wisdom & grace" it will  
be well to discuss a measure which goes of itself and  
which will bring up the several contracts with so  
much & pecuniary interest of already established well  
to this amount and more of difference which I wish  
to take up. (I will call the first of the circumstances  
of the present)  
I am sometimes I'm spending money  
in the next day perhaps I will  
not have time to do so, are the  
days I have been away I have my son  
and I get full pay for him to pay expenses  
and I don't want to make any trouble about it, I  
never do not understand a boy to be bound by his  
word, and I will do what I can to help him



John Gray  
Cambridge  
Mass





Wright, Charles. 1849. "Wright, Charles July 31, 1849." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/257972>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/276871>

**Holding Institution**

Harvard University Botany Libraries

**Sponsored by**

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.