

New Braunfels Comal Co. Dec^r 30/30

My Dear Dr. I have just received your letter, under date of Oct^r 23^r, from Pontillas House, Hereford, England.

At times, I can hardly repress a smile, when I think of our sanguine expectations & our large calculations for the year now expiring. It reminds me of the verse of the poet;

Parturiunt montes, &c. —————

ridiculus mus.

I am anxious to ascertain, at length, the causes of my failure; and to remove from your mind some slightly erroneous impressions under which you seem to be laboring. But I fear to trespass, too largely, on your valuable time. If I did not mention the receipt of the "various missives" sent me, by you; it is, because I supposed all had arrived, and that supposed exceptions to a general rule need no specifications.

The 379⁰⁰ dollars, which you ~~thought~~ would be brought me by Mr Bartlett, have not been received. You wrote to me, as if you had sent the money to Washington; but, Prof Henry informs me, that it was in the form of a draft on the Library Committee of Congress; & that, only recently, have the appropriations have been made & the draft paid. It is of no consequence, as I have not wanted the money. I only mention it for your satisfaction.

You wrote me under date of 30th May, "I trust you will make no attempt to start before the Commissioner's party arrives." I guess I have complied, strictly, with that recommendation. I had not, then, got my paper, & knew not when it was. I had asked you to send such things to New Orleans, with instructions to forward. You would have done very well to send to Galveston, to a consignee; but, how did I know what course to take to find it. I wrote, immediately, to Hendly & Co, (into whose hands, I afterwards learned it had fallen) who had done some business for me before, to take charge of it & give me notice of it & forward. They did only the first. Now, what

more could I do in such a case? Write to all the merchants of Galveston. At length, I thought of a friend, to whom I wrote on the subject, & he had it forwarded promptly. Thus, I was satisfied, that the things went in Port Laredo, although the letters of the consignees, (thine if they wrote me) never came to hand.

Mr Sullivan's excuse for not writing to me, is a lame one; for, I always, heed my letters, as you well know, in such a manner as to guide my correspondents, in their directions. Had he directed them to San Antonio or Austin or San Marcos, I would have received them, unless they miscarried somewhere on the route.

I have looked over all your letters, and can find but one intimation of the length of your sojourn in Europe. That is, under date of 2nd. Jan. this; "I land nothing more for a full year for you." I call it an intimation, merely. Why then should not I, a Yankee, guess that you would soon return home?

I suppose I have received all your letters, unless you wrote me, stating the length of your probable absence. I can detect no gap in the connection of the several before me.

The next paragraph, somehow, I don't like: it seems to indicate that I have written something to hurt your feelings. If so, I beg to withdraw (and more if you please)

You write, I, really, have done the best I can for you, & must decline for the present, any thing to do with your affairs, other than the disposing of collections you may send me & forwarding you the money. If it was an offence in my eyes as I was, about not having of the paper look'd, &c. to think I say that you could have been a little more particular in the shipment of them, I must plead guilty, & I don't know anything better, now that the delay has resulted in no great misfortune, than to "laugh, if not 'be fat' over my disappointments.

In the latter paragraphs of your letter you speak, discouragingly,

of the prospect of remuneration. I had rather earn one hundred dollars in pulling up & drying shoots, than in teaching little, erroneous, examples, & sports, ideas, how to shoot. I am not eager to be rich, or I would not be running about the wilderness to please myself & others. If twenty-five men were willing to hire as cheaply as myself, and, then, give me what they would save, two or three years, I would not need to ramble any more, and, at the end of the time, perhaps we would all be happier.

Should you, about six weeks ago, of my present arrangements & of the time I had lost. This loss I regret, as any reasonable man would, for it is a loss which can not be repaired.

P.S. Dec 10th I have delayed the conclusion of my letter that I might acknowledge the receipt of the draft for the money you intrusted Pay. Henry to send me I received it by the mail of to day together with ^{one} from Dr. Ferry enclosing a draft of \$100. from Dr. Short. I don't know when I shall be able to repay Dr. Short but I mean to keep up a bold front for a trip next summer if the prospect of pay is dull.

I think Maj. Babbitt will do more for me than Mr. Barthe seems to have been willing to do. He gave me very kind offers & I felt that I may apply to him in the spring with more confidence than I have felt at any time hitherto.

I shall be very happy to hear from you whenever your press of business will suffer you to write.

Very, respectfully, & truly,

Your old friend
Chas. Wright

C. Wright.

New Braunfels, Texas

Dec. 3 - '87 -

Dr. Asa Gray



Wright, Charles. 1850. "Wright, Charles Dec. 30, 1850." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/276883>

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>.