

Fronten Ap. 12th 1852

My Dear Dr

Your letter of Jan'y 23^d found me in a woful
bad humor & acted as a charm I fancied you had thought
me querulous & had resolved to "cut my correspondence"
And yet I could not persuade myself out of the conceit that
I was just at this time the most important collector in
our country considering the field I am in and the consider-
able experience I have had in the Botany of this western
region I am very sorry I lost your letter by its being "enclos-
ed" to Col. Graham I can hardly believe I so directed
I have however asked my correspondents to send their
communications to me in "care of Col Graham" & "Mess
Emory" successively with their consent The other mode
would be virtually asking them to pay my postage bills
a thing which I hardly think it possible I could have
done — You are laboring under a slight mistake
in thinking that the collection now in your hands was
made before I was in the employ of the Commission
Although not officially notified of my position and salary
till after my arrival at this place my certificate of
membership in the Commission dates as far back as
the 10th May — the time when I left San Antonio So I
consider my labor as properly belonging to the Commis-
sion only so far as it is modified by circumstances
My case differs from that of others materially thus
I rode my own horse I worked with my own capital
— my paper I cost the Commission nothing as others
did, in transportation to Texas & I have been continually
busy while most of the others have spent months in
perfect idleness On these grounds I thought I was
justly entitled to a share & a liberal one of my plants

Battell, Wells, Thurber, &c. have committed a great blunder in storing their collections here at Magoffins. They doubtless thought to get together in one great mass all the treasures of the country and come out in a perfect flood of glory. I question if they don't find many of these destroyed by insects or scattered to the winds on their return. But Dr. Bigelow is of the right stamp so far as he goes. As Dr. Torrey wrote him "he is just much of a botanist" but he goes at it with his whole heart & soul though he makes scrappy specimens & throws them all together in wondrous confusion. Nevertheless his zeal will tell on the flow of this country. I hope he will receive full credit for it. I don't to hear something pleasing relative to my mosses sent to Sullivan. I have found but few in this country. One which I had often seen in Texas but never with fruit. I found here this spring with fine fruit. I sent a specimen to Sullivan through Dr. Torrey. I hope now that he is married he will resume his studies and give us collectors something to amuse us in the intervals of our moss-hunting.

I find some things in Plant. Wright, needing correction or explanation which may be put in the form of Errata. Thus none of the plants of 1848 & summer of 1851 before I went to the Coppermoss were gathered in New Mexico proper although I thought they were at the time. The southern line of that territory strikes the Rio Grande some twenty miles above here so that the expression "between Western Texas & New Mexico" is not strictly correct. El Paso itself is in the Mexican State of Chihuahua. I suppose Limpia should be "Limpio" or "el arroyo limpio" or "clear creek". "Phacelia hastulata" seems to be misplaced or separated from the other species of the genus by *Sida*. *Wondersida filipes* "Hills of Turkey creek near Austin" should be "Hills of Turkey

creek: also, near Austin" for they are "a many miles apart" as Linthier would say. "First time of Hermannia" "Palma" should be "Palmar" meaning "Cypress" or "El arroyo Palmar". The locality of "Oralis Wrightii" should be "at ~~first~~ ^{paigosa} camp, head of the Limpio". Do you remember the discussion we had in your study relative to the biennial nature of the fructification of *Condalia obovata*. I observe the same here in another species or it may possibly be the same. I perceive you have acknowledged in Pl. Lind the correctness of my views but have forgotten to give me credit for making the discovery. And I will tell you something interesting concerning *Fouquiera spinosa*. Young branches show no spines. The midrib & lamina of the leaf are connate except near the apex. At maturity the lamina separates entirely and leaves the indurated midrib a rigid spine. I hope you will also bear in mind when you come to it that "*Colinus crassifolius*" does not flower in the spring but in the latter part of summer—say Aug.—Sept. At those seasons I have uniformly found it loaded with fruit but never in the spring. You will find among my last plants the other of *Amorimia*. I send you my notes containing a correct account of my collection from the time I left Fort Leavenworth in July till my return, containing some small plants collected this spring.

- No 30 *Streptanthus carinatus* Stony hills near the Rio Grande March-Apr
64 *Compositae* Stony hills near Fort Leavenworth Pl. Wright res March 27

N.B. I perceive I have made a blunder above relative to *Condalia*. It is of *Euryphora* that you have acknowledged the ripening of the fruit the year after flowering. You may as well do the same with regard to *Condalia* for you will be obliged to do it or your successors for you.

* Or as in my original notes; "Valley of the Limpio, at its head on stony ridges. June 13" I do not remember seeing it at any other place.

- No 47 Stony hills near Frontenac Fl light reddish March 26
 " 83 On rocky ridges opposite Frontenac " 30
 " 85 Stony vallies near Frontenac " "
 " 92 Hills near Frontenac Ap 1
 " 56 Stony hills near Frontenac Fl light purple March 27
 " 57 " " " " " " " "
 " 20 " " on the Rio Grande common " 5
 " 31 " " " " " " " "
 " 38 *Epilobium colline* Stony hills near Frontenac " 20
 " 48 " " " " " " " "
 " 53 " " " " " " " " Small specimen 26
 " 54 " " " " " " " "
 " 90 " " " " " " " " Fl reddish white " "
 " 42 Sandy ridges along the Rio Grande Fl white Ap 1
 " 19 Hills along the Rio Grande very common March 29
 Please send me the names or at least the generic ones of

these plants — We go in a day or two on a scientific excursion to Lake Guzman said by some to be the receptacle of the waters of the Membrus by others of the Santa Maria which runs in an opposite direction by others thought to receive both. May be we will find out the truth — may be the Indians will catch us. The distance is about sixty miles and we will be gone a week probably.

Prof. Baird seems to be in ~~the~~ raptures at the fine collection of fishes & reptiles sent home by Mr Clark — pleasure in which I have a share as I took part in the fishing and snake & lizard catching.

I find on the neighboring mts. a sp. of *Adolphia* with solitary pendulous fruit & white flowers. Is it *A. infesta*?

Present to Mrs G. my regard & congratulations on her good health and my sincere desire that you both may see many years of health & happiness. Sincerely Yours Chas Wright



Wright, Charles. 1852. "Wright, Charles Apr. 12, 1852." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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