

Monte Verde Aug 5th 1859

Dear Dr

Yesterday I went down where they are cutting out the new road. Most of it had been already cut & I knew nothing of it. However if I had known it I could not have been there on account of my boils. I have had four in succession under the left arm from above downwards. They are now about well & yesterday is the first day that I have been away to any distance. I made some little excursions in the wood. Mercabouts with a negro to cut my trees & made ~~some~~ profitable even when my arm was pretty lame. Below but few trees are now in flower - yet I got some good things - a second species of *Oxandra* (I don't find but one any of my books) a common tree - *Gauewood*. I got also specimens of some *Peruleaceae*, tree not in *Intl.* certainly. Returning I picked up among other things a *Cucurbit* with three erect ovules in the ovary & strictly axile flowers (of which I have only the female). I suspect it is a common thing about here also. At any rate I have before collected something with similar fruit. It is quite unlike anything I can find described. I thought I should find mosses below but was disappointed - however I got some good lichens. All my old sores are well but this morning I found a fresh one just above the ankle an angry vicious looking little fellow. I am afraid all the bad blood isn't out yet & shall have to be cautious how I run foul of snags & sawyers.

I have collected two *Rubiaceae* plants which I take to be *Guettarda* but they have the ovules pendulous not erect as *Intl.* represents them.

Before commencing to collect the wood of palms I would like to know from what part of the trunk to take it. The base is more solid and often covered with a thick layer of roots.

(at least in some species) All the inner part of the upper portion is so loose in texture that it soon falls away, & leaves nothing but the shell. Some are two or three feet in diameter, others only an inches.

lyps & pith

6th. I have just examined another species - the third - of what I believe to be *Questaria*. I find the ovule, as in the others perispermous. I found this morning a species of *Salacia* - or I just think it must belong to some new genus of *Myrsine*. It is not a tree, so far as the flower is concerned I see no disagreement of the plant from the description except that the anther-cells are *2* *ovate* *only* *at the apex* - and divergent below. It is scandent to the height of 20-30 ft & the stem is an inch thick $\pm$ I believe it supports itself some what like *Maurandia* by taking a turn round a tree (at least) with a young branch around any firm support it meets & saves a specimen of the wood.

7th. This curious little fellow has grown to a respectable size & has fairly laid me up. I can hardly now get carriage seat to day - unless limping to such. My leg is much inflamed & swollen - It is surprising & I hope will be better soon. It is more painful than the other boils were. It is Sunday & has been cloudy all day & showery without.

I have collected 2 species of *Tanella* - *T. claviculata* which I should never have recognised from the description but I know I got it before & Lindley has so named it, and another common one but rare (so far as my experience goes) in flower & fruit. On both the fls. is coriaceous and connate to the columella half its length or more presenting the appearance of a rather narrow deep goblet - a little one-sided. What then can "plana" mean as applied to the fls in *Quercus*?

I am becoming impatient to hear that you have received the plants. Since Mr. L. went away I can't learn what becomes of his letters. Had it not been for my boys I should have gone to Salvador to make inquiry. The lawyer lives in

the latter place & letters may be sent thither. My brother from whom I have not heard directly in some time has sent me some things but I don't know where he has become of them. I have a note from him to Mr. L. which I suppose came by the vessel that brought the things. It would seem high time that the papers should come too. But whether it is shipped in boxes or sent by Moxie & Co. or whether it is not yet sent I don't know. I have asked Mr. Henry to call to enquire after it appealing to his self interest - for it will benefit him as well as me.

12. Dear one! It seems a long time since I got yours of June 30th. No letters or papers, & our legs make the time drag heavily. My soles however are all well, or there is only a tenderness & slight swelling left by the last one. I am rather favoring it by indulging in laziness. I took a little turn in the wood yesterday for the first time since that vicious little fellow laid me up. I found I believe a new *Asplenium* - at least I don't remember ever having collected it. This morning I saw a flowering specimen of *Asplenium* one of which I wrote before. I have already sent Dr. Schumacher a request to send me a fruit from the same tree. I have sent you the fruit. It is a broadish pod 3-4 long, breaking up at the suture into 1-seeded joints & was collected some time in the winter Jan. or Feb. probably. It is 2 fr. from the same tree. This is the best I can do for identification. There will probably be no uncertainty about it. Today I went to the Point but didn't find much. I followed the path I had to go cautiously to spare my sore arm. I hope I am done with the sores as the little scratches I get show no tendency to inflame & suppurate. Since Mr. L. went away we get no papers & I might as well be in the centre of Sahara as here so far as

getting news is concerned. The latest news I have heard
of the state of affairs in Europe was just the beginning of hos-
tilities between the French & Austrians.

I got yesterday a plenty of the plant of which I sent you
a scrap in my last - a purple-leaved *Clusia* but
flowers more like *Hypericaceae*.

It seems a little queer that while I have had these sores
I have felt quite well & strong, with a good appetite &
the digestive system apparently in good order.

13th. I have just got news of July 6th - the first intimation
I have received that the plants did not go by the La Grange. I
suppose Brooks & Co. had other & more important affairs to
attend to than to inform me of it. I ought to have gone down
& attended to it myself or made inquiry about it. I cannot with
a clear conscience complain of B. & Co. - they were so kind to
me two years ago. But I am disappointed in not receiving
intelligence of their safe reception instead of their being
left behind for lack of cabin doors big enough to admit
them. I had my doubts whether the fume of sugar would
spoil them, but it was safer at least to yield to the judg-
ment of those who know more about it than I do. But now
in the week comes it that your letter, ^(postmarked N.Y. July 18) is five weeks in coming
here. Well it is some relief to know the true state of affairs. I
was expecting the paper from N.Y. as Mr. G. is gone & I shall
probably not stay much longer now & shall give myself no
more trouble about it. Glad to hear that we have got the
pecuniary value of the lost plants. I shall have to get
some money on the "letter of credit" of Cunningham here for the
first time I go to the village. I got yesterday a *Buongium*?
a very pretty-like bush or small tree with small white
flowers, but the leaves are alternate & most of them
well ??? the more I look at it the more I don't know what to
make of it.

Yours sincerely

Chas. Wright

P.S. Aug 15. This morning I was treated by the mayoral with
studied neglect in a matter wherein my request was a most
reasonable one. This will probably hasten my departure. I shall
not however act without due reflection. Tomorrow I mean to go
to Henry L^o ^{nephew of the old gentleman} & have a talk with him. He was here today & waited
an hour to see me. I should not wonder if Mr. Gaston the
overseer gets permission to leave. There was some difficulty
yesterday which I could not understand in which he beat
one of the house-servants over the head & face with his
hand (not fist) the hand is heavy enough to do harm
when brought into contact with even a negro's head.
The woman ran off to Henry's but was brought back today.
She appears to be a very good industrious servant.

I think I shall pack up what plants I have dried &
send them off before I leave. I will let you know however.
My present plan is to go to Nouvelle Sophie - the other
estate of Mr. L. - for a short time & meanwhile consult
Mr. Bradford who has traveled a good deal over the
island as to the best plan to get into the prairie
region. I may go first for a while to Loma del Gato.

I was out today & found some novelties - a Guarea or
something near it with but 5 anthers & a 4-petalum corolla -
I got the ^{young} fruit of that Leguminous tree of which I wrote
not long ago as having its inflorescence in a huge leafy
panicle. I hope I got also a complement of one of the
lagging ferns

B. W.



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