

Monte Verde
Sept 15th 1860

My Dear Dr.

I feel grouchy & if you catch it some I hope you will have patience to bear it. I return here after two months absence in hopes to find something satisfactory something calculated to enable me to plan out my future work. I find nothing. Two little scraps of letters from you since the 18th June. nothing yet from Cator nor Sullivan an enigmatical line from Engelmann. A letter from Baird tells me that my zoological specimens in the little bottles were all spoiled but does not explain the "how" so that I may pack them better in future. Nor a word from any body relative to my petition for a collaborator.

As long ago as Aug 28th you announced your intention of sending me Darwin's book by the first vessel up for Cuba & May 5th you wrote me of the purchase of the "4 big dictionaries". In the mean time you seem to have forgotten both & in your last come to the conclusion that I am about to return home & probably won't send them at all. What am I to do with the "4 big dictionaries" at Cambridge or Wetherfield? I don't know what is come over you. You seem to have an unusual fit of forgetfulness. I think I suggested to you long ago to put such things into the hands of some shipper from Boston to Cuba & not bother yourself more about them. Well maybe I'll get them six months hence about the time I wish to return & can amuse myself with them on shipboard. But your treatment of me is really too

bad. I cant excuse you. You ought better to appreciate
my situation. Nearly all the Time I am without much
intellectual aliment & sometimes without any at all
I know you are busy - so much stronger motive to
turn this business over to other hands. Not a word
neither relative to the plants I have enclosed. A late
letter contained some but I shant trouble you with
any more. It is trouble without any benefit to me
& you will see them all by waiting. I have found but
few ferns that had a new look. Henceforth I shall not
take any special pains to get a great number of specimens
for I never can know when I have enough for full distribution.
& I see no possible way of filling in those ~~defective~~ ^{incomplete} numbers
I thought there would be at least thirty full sets but when
I learn that they are whittled down or duplicated in the dis-
tribution (making an auger hole with a gimlet) or got rid of in some way, so that the 2502 set only
counts 202 & the 34th only 163 I am not a little discouraged
& now five or six months are gone & I get not a word of
explanation. Its confoundingly provoking. If any mode
of filling up those defective or partial sets can be hit
upon the delay of month after month will at last
render it unavailable.

If a zoologist should come out dont forget to send
me a good large magnifier & it would be well to put
in a dozen cheap ones for distribution among
the people where we are particularly well treated. An
opera glass too would be a great conciliator of
the people. Put in a few good strong pocket
knives. I go on losing & breaking as usual

That Bomtaceus has put out its leaves during my
absence & at or about the same time opened its pod
& shed its cottony seed. I doubt if I shall secure
good fruit but leaves I will be able to get I hope
17th I shall set out for St. Sophie tomorrow or next day
& soon start for Bayam.

Yours truly Chas Wright



Wright, Charles. 1860. "Wright, Charles Sept. 15, 1860." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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