

Monte Verde July 4th 1861

My Dear Dr.

For a few days past I have been sad at heart & ill in body but I am better now in one respect & in the other for my boil is "busted" & I have news a little more cheering from the "Frederick". The Courier of the 12th ult announced the first hostile firing between those who should be brethren in heart. That of the 15th gave a better report: that Seward had abandoned his irrepressible conflict doctrine & had made a noble effort for union & conciliation. I do not yet despair of the restoration of harmony but it will not be brought about by force. Col. Anderson really opened hostilities & shame on Buchanan for approving his course! I am glad that the firing on the Star of the West has not apparently widened the breach. I think with you that there are better symptoms afloat" not that there were at the time your letter was written - 7th ult. These symptoms are an appearance of returning reason among the Northern lunatics. For let me tell you emphatically the north will have to back out of the scrape. Would to God you & those of your opinion could transport yourselves back three or four generations when perhaps your fathers & mine were engaged in the slave-trade & then that you could know as well as I do the character & situation & feelings of the slave-owners. You would I think at least not abuse them but sympathize with or at least pity them. On this question I for one shall not surrender my opinion for that of any other who has hardly or not at all been south of Mason & Dixon's line. I have no sympathy for slavery. I take it as I find it. I didn't create it & don't feel bound to make myself a martyr for its abolition.

You say "all the North is writing as one man". Now I don't like to say - you tell a - 7th but I can't help saying I know it ain't so. I get my political news from a less partial source (Courier des

Chas Wm than you do. There are thousands that acknowledge the grievances of which the South complains & that will die rather than go to battle with their southern brethren. Would you do this Doctor??? The offer of General Sanford of New-York to give the ~~West~~ the use of his State Militia has brought out some ~~stimulation~~ of popular sentiment indicating that Mr. Cesar Lincoln will have a "hard road to travel" if he attempts to cover the South. There may be a Brutus in his path.

S. Car has the credit of being windy. Be it or not there are now several other States of her opinion. The curse of the country is windy orators blustering about the perpetuity of the ~~union~~ & rebellion at the very time pursuing a course to cause the one & destroy the other. Even your Ex. Governor (Banks) declares that the "union must be eternal" as if it were the prerogative of a God of Man to decide what must be eternal.

You think Democracy is very corrupt (or its pack-  
dams) Suppose it is. Do you think Republicanism much better or that it will long remain so under the influence of the spoils. I believe both parties contain good & thus there is little as to moral character to choose between them.

I saw above that I had been ill in body. I have had my lower lip swollen out of all reasonable proportions by a boil or something of the sort. It made me quite feverish for two or three days. The ulceration was slow in reaching the surface through so many interlaced muscles. I trust it will be well in a few days. This affliction has however given me leisure to read Darwin & all the reviews from a to zed. I should not have had time to read the "4 great Dictionaries" if you had sent them. Darwin has certainly made an interesting book with an easy style more than can be said of some of the reviews & a plausible train of argument. But sometimes I don't like to admit "all is well" that bones & muscle

& vegetable fibre have or ever had such power of making selections as his theory allows — By the way Great Britain has a breed of Dandies. Just tell Darwin to put his (Natural Selection) machine after them. It's the same fellows who burnt Charles town in 1775. Washington in 1812 & the Chinese Empress's palace in 1860.

Looking over St. Mr. I find a few misprints & some familiar faces I don't see. Under *Yapformia* in-festum. *Ypis* has *H. nitido*. Is it a *lupinus* *penae* with *Hisingera* in the mind? In 1857 I collected sparingly a shrub or bush with apetalous yellowish sweet scented flowers which I referred to *Biliacea*. This time I have sent it home in abundance but I don't see it any-where. I have certainly sent home two sp. of *Maregranaea*. I should have probably have discovered *Marila* which I doubt-fully referred to its right place if Brd. had put it there instead of placing it in *Thomson*. *Ypis* has given a queer description of the fr. of *Gyrostemia* Under *Pouzolzia* you have ~~same like above~~ *dentatus* <sup>for a sp.</sup> Look for your cases. Under *Phoradendron constrictum* "in quodam fruticem shrubs be in quendum re" *Gilandropia*. Omit the h. The locality of *Phlebotomia* is given "Prope urbem Sancti Martin de Guantanamo 1856." Whence came this? I did not go there till 1857 in the spring. As to the "familiar faces" mentioned above I don't know how to account for their absence. At first I thought *Ypis* had not received the later coll. But then you say the distributo numbers amount to 1700 & I see references to numbers above 1600 so that it seems *Ypis* has the whole coll. before him. Please enlighten me on this subject.

15th The latest manifesto of Mr. Lincoln "find his N. York organ" is very bellecore. The north will be no place for me if he attempts to execute his will. nor the south if he succeeds.

I would like then to know what means I have  
to go upon if I must seek a free country to live  
in or take my choice of the responsibilities which  
are plenty enough. Some time (then) when it is  
most convenient will you give me a summary  
of my pecuniary relations with you. Let what  
money I have be so placed that I can get it  
without much delay.

I have been skinning birds for Prof. Baird  
& the arsenic or something else has made my  
finger-nails so sore that I can hardly touch  
any thing without pain. I don't remember that  
such work formerly produced this effect. I have  
in addition a very sore nose. My blood is  
apparently in bad condition. Baird has kept  
me "dilly-dallying" terribly. I don't know  
what to make of his treatment of me I  
could during the dry season have done much  
for Smiths. Prot. if he had sent me such things  
as he promised. As it is I have done but little.

Your last is dated Jan 7. Mr L. send to town  
tonight & tomorrow I hope for later dates. But  
I shall send off this

Please tell Suckermann that his letter  
(~~enclosed in yours~~) is very encouraging & I have  
been turning over the tree-tops in a large "vois-  
sieux" which Mr. L. made recently. Maybe I'll  
get enough Thelotiemus to make the list  
amount to 40. I hope the collection & the elabo-  
ration will redound to the credit of the one & the  
other. I hope to get together my scattered  
parcels to ship by some early opportunity.  
Kind regards to Mrs. G. - hope she is as thick  
as two rails. Yours truly  
Chas. Wright  
P.S. Lost one of the Jack-purveys already



Wright, Charles. 1861. "Wright, Charles Feb. 4, 1861." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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