

Monte Verde July 29th 1861

My Dear Dr

"We are in the midst of secession & rebellion. A. Car. gone. I wish she was in the middle of the Gulf stream. Ala. Miss. & Flor. going. Guess they will be glad to come back after having suffered some." Dr. G. in Litt. 28 Dec Need some driving, hey!!

"The country looks very blue. But there are better symptoms afloat. I guess we shall get through. A. Car. begins to suffer - is thought to be in the hands pretty much of a mob" Dr. G. in Litt Jan / Harris suffered enough yet - going to make her suffer more, hey!!

"seriously we bewail this state of things & will do all we can with a good conscience & with real allegiance to the Union to satisfy all reasonable & some unreasonable demands" Dr. G. in Litt Feb 23. Pass another Morrill Tariff bill, probably!!

"The natural effect is that the North are getting pretty generally wroth to can to have States in the Union who say they have a right to cut stick when they have a mind to" Dr. G. in Litt. Apr 2 Changed their minds some since, hey!!

In my last I wrote that on my way back from Barroco my paper gave out & I couldn't collect the many nice things I saw. Well after resting myself & horses I started to go over a part of the route again. Accordingly I went to town to have my horses shod. I inquired for vessels going to N. Y. There were none here & there is no prospect of any. Your cursed war has dried up commerce & paralyzed trade. There is no telling when I will be able to send on my collections. Well I went on the road to Barroco as far as the point where it turns northward to cross the mountain. I made a very good little collection. Many being coast plants are likely to be known but are new to my collection. I met with some losses. One of my two remaining traps was stolen but I can manage to press my plants with cord. I lost the large lens you sent me but I can get along I guess with the small ones. Thirdly I lost the key of my carpet bag but I begged & succeeded in getting another on my return here. I had excellent

death through traveling & working in the boiling July sun - in the
lowlands too. I found on my return a letter from a certain Ph. Duncanson
de Gallatin of Geneva. He applied to Spach & thanked him a botan-
ical collector for Cuban plants. The latter forwarded to me the letter
& I have asked him to address Mr. Gallatin to apply to you. It seems
a little odd that living in the same place as De Candolle (Chelera) he
should not know of me as a botanical collector. He appears to want
to select certain families & thinks 25 fr. per cent. a fair price.
A few days since I went two leagues to a neighboring estate &
the next morning took to the wood with a bit of bread & cheese.
After sundown I began to return but it was cloudy & rained a little.
I had lost my compass. Notwithstanding I reached the base of the
hill from which I could see at a short distance well known localities.
However when I was in the thick woods with no sun to guide me
I was soon lost. I soon struck a little path when the people had
been gathering Majagua (bark of Parinari) & thought by following it
I would soon reach the house. But I was at length convinced that it
went in some other direction from the time required to reach its ter-
mination. At length I came into a plain road quite unknown to
me. The left hand end took me to the Havana river & directly away from
home. When the other end came I didn't know. I was pretty well tired
& I concluded to "go to bed" & wait for sunshine in the morning to
help me out. I passed the night napping not very comfortably
indeed. Some mice amused themselves by running around over me
& a wild dog passed within two or three feet of me. What was worse
a thunder storm came up in the night but it didn't reach me.
It rained a little. The long night at last gave place to day & I set
out. It soon became cloudy & I dared not leave the road otherwise I
would have gone pretty directly to the house. As it was I traveled a
long distance & came out of the wood some two leagues away
at a place with whose owner I had some acquaintance. He gave me
a person a horse to return to the place whence I had set out
& I didn't make a great collection but I got *Phellodendron* with

fls & young fr. The char. needs some correction as to the fl. {
Petalas lateralis minima (vel abortiva?) Stamina 8-9 Arbor
1 1/2" diam. 30-60' alt. Sepals ciliate, wings not corolla but
purple I must have climbed some poisonous tree or vine which
left on the inside of my knees several discolored spots which are
a little sore & one of them is a blister. I found the ground in one
place fairly covered with the yellow estate flowers of some *Euphorbia*
which I wanted very much but situated as I was I wouldn't
spare the time & it would have been a hard task to climb the
tree. Perhaps I may meet it under more favorable circumstan-
ces. My horses are pretty near recovered from the effects of the
Baracoa excursion & I shall go again on some other trip
soon but I have not yet considered where.

We have N York papers down in the 6th inst with the Pres. Mes-
s. 400,000 men & 400,000,000 dollars. Col. Sumner was four at \$1000
per man. I have read Mr Everett's speech. Very good & the Mes-
s. on the ground that the South is altogether wrong & the North
altogether right. They appear to me to start on the assumption
that the grievances complained of are imaginary & they neither
offer nor suggest remedies for real ones. Well I venture to
predict that if the Pres. & our legislators are so lavish of
money & blood (other people's not their own) the people will
before long come to the conclusion that a little compromise
a little concession at the beginning would have been a much
cheaper operation than all this military murder & would have
been quite as efficient (if not more so) in preserving the Union
God help us out of the difficulty!

Yours truly
Chas Wright

Prof. Asa Carter



Wright, Charles. 1861. "Wright, Charles July 29, 1861." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/276996>

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>.