

Ingenio Ferrmina
Bemba Feby 1/1862

My Dear Dr

Home again - almost. I am as comfortable as in Monte Verde. Comfortably lodged & so well fed that if the Metropolitan was no more than ten steps away & I had free entrance I would stay where I am - with my good friend Gundlach & my generous host Don Simon de Cardenas. I arrived here the 28th

I wrote to you fr. Santo Espirito - left there the 16th. My horses came back to me from pasture lean & apparently worn out. Instead of resting & recouping they had been put to hard service. I had to travel slowly & after one night at a posada (inn) where my saddle blanket - a new one - was stolen I took to camping again. The 24th I came to an Ingenio (sugar estate) & stayed 4-5 days - the next day here. Four leagues before reaching Villa Clara came to very hilly savannas - much more uneven than our rolling prairies. They afforded me very little - too dry. Three days I traveled through palmets - palm savannas. I got quite a number of nice things - 4 sp. *Witticula*

It is now too dry to do much. but Don Juan & myself are chalking out plans for the spring work.

We will go to Cardenas in a few days. Away S. W. of Habana lives a man named Blain much interested in botany. He has on his estate all sorts of land valley, river, mountains & as bass hills & cliffs. To it he has brought & planted in situations adapted to them many trees not found originally there. Among them is an oak. I shall go there. In fact this place & its owner who speaks English were strong attractions for me. Gundlach knows all the good places about here & his name is a passport to go anywhere. He is a most zealous doctor just so exclusively given to science that he never looks at a newspaper. I have brought & sent him at times new shells & that even if he had any selfishness which he has not worth have put my name in his books. I first made his acquaintance in Yateras. I am resting just now after my long journey. Even if I was fixed there is not much to report. It is so dry. If the rains commence early so that I can give the Western Department a tolerable examination & then improve the spring or early summer in my return to Cuba - well if not - I think I see signs of another years stay. I am watching his process of bird skinning - taking lessons as it were & I think hereafter I'll be able to put up decent looking specimens. Perhaps this will enable me to improve the time when I have not much to say to do.

I suppose you can send me money. I don't know how the financial crisis affects exchange between the North & Cuba. but I presume you can find means to send me \$150 within a couple of months. Tell me about it when you answer this which I hope you will do the first opportunity. And over that I am so near Habana & Cardenas you & I will be able to send at any time almost by sailing vessels. I hope you have some books for me. Direct as follows.

Sr. D. Simon de Cardenas
Ingenio Fermina. Bamba
 For Mr. Wright

Fermina is the sugar estate & Bamba the little village two leagues away toward Habana. The railroad passes within 300 yds of the house - I send some little plants of Melanandra I took for Peruviana, but I begin to suspect that it is Scroph. Not slightly irregular purple ^{plant} another black or nearly so. I found another locality of *P. pollicaris*. I send some of those. I don't think the *Opuntia* can be any form of *C. comicalata*. It is quite prostrate, creeping, & sometimes ^{erect} in ^{the} ^{habit} of ^{the} ^{vine}. Many of vinetlets. Give me also Don Simon tells me that you have gained some advantages.
 Yours cordially
 Cha

If you have any books or other parcel send as follows according to contents
 Habana { Sr. Don Felipe Ray
 Calle de Amistad 120
 Sr. Don Luis Le Riverend
 Calle de Aguiar 42

For Charles Wright
 Cardenas: Srs. Casanova, Hermanos
 For Juan Gundlach

We will go to Cardenas in a few days. Away S. W. of Habana lives a man named Blain much interested in botany. He has on his estate all sorts of land valley, river, mountains or at least hills & cliffs. To it he has brought & planted in situations adapted to them many trees not found originally there. Among them is an oak. I shall go there. In fact this place & its owner who speaks English were strong attractions for me. Gundlach knows all the good places about here & his name is a passport to go anywhere. He is a most zealous zoologist so exclusively given to science that he never looks at a newspaper. I have bought & sent him at times new shells & that even if he had any selfishness which he has not words have put my name in his books. I first made his acquaintance in Yateras. I am resting just now after my long journey. Even if I was fresh there is not much to be done it is so dry. If the rain commence early so that I can give the Western Department a tolerable examination & then improve the spring or early summer in my return to Cuba - well if not - I think I see signs of another years stay. I am watching his process of bird skinning - taking lessons as it were & I think hereafter I'll be able to put up decent looking specimens. Perhaps this will enable me to improve the time when I have not much botany to do.

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Yours cordially

Chas Wright



Wright, Charles. 1862. "Wright, Charles Feb. 1, 1862." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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