



Retiro July 15th /63

My Dear Dr

via Key West

News comes this morning of the surrender of Vicksburg & some scraps of information about a great battle in Maryland?

My horse-trade is at last effected & tomorrow or next day I propose to set out on another excursion to the north coast.

In closed is a sketch of the ♂ of a tree reputed to be very poisonous. The ♂ is similar in outward appearance & i.e. the inflorescence is at first enclosed in a ~~closed~~ sphenical white - well balloon - I don't know how better to describe it. This at the time of anthesis splits across the top & discloses the stam. fl. much like those of *Pseudolmedia* as well as I remember for I have no ♂ fl. at present. The ♂ involucre commonly has 4 fl. The stigma is peltate & irregularly lobed or coarsely dentate. We suppose it is *Euphorbiaceae*. From the apex of the seed hangs a red lobed ^{fleshy} arillus (and only fr. D. Jose) The fr. is 3-celled. You may know it. For my own sake & that of Don Jose please give us your opinion. I have sent you specimens of ♂ & ♀ in plenty. I poisoned myself with a sp. of *Sapium* (sp. n.) While holding on with one hand up a small tree I broke branches with the other & put them sideways in my mouth in order not to lose any (it was scarce) but I got some of the juice in my mouth causing a burning sensation & at length excoriation at the angles outside. Worse: I got some of it in my right eye & bunged it up. The left from symp. bunged itself up worse than the other. But I am over it now.

16th. This morning we have a fuller account of the battle of Gettysburg & a rumor that N. Orleans is retaken by

Magruder and a doubtful report that N. Orleans has
been retaken by Magruder.

I find here again my cicca arborea. It is a
large tree—the bark cracks transversely & then peels off
up & down like our shagbark. Don't see in his botanical
book or record—Memoranda—has opposite this plant
"Dicicla Enneandria". This record is the accumulation of sev-
eral years & the entry referring to cicca was made before
he knew me—perhaps several years ago. He don't know
le. antillana.

Yours truly

Chas Wright

Waco.

Cambridge

Prof. Geo. Gray

We have begun to hear from you

This has just arrived.



Wright, Charles. 1863. "Wright, Charles July 15, 1863." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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