

Habana. Feby 8th 1867

Dear Dr.

I came here yesterday with all my luggage - left good. Don Jose with his seeds planning his Nueva Holanda. We took a parting glass - of beer together. He will be lonely now. He desired me to return you "smiles de gracias."

I saw Sanvaller last night. He is quite well for him - seems to have had some change by which he has wonderfully improved within the last half year or more. We didn't talk much botany. He has been appointed a kind of inspector of the Western Railroad - where there had been much malversation or mismanagement - probably misconduct - plundering &c. This with his own private business keeps him very busy. He was at Balisena while I was away west. Col. Maury - son of Lieut. M. was with him. I would have been glad to see a life rebel of some eminence to talk with him. But perhaps I was better employed.

Don Simon de Cardenas is at his sugar estate near Remedios & Grand Luck too probably. They are expected in a day or two perhaps will come today. Nobody in the house but the "portero" (door keeper) But I find a lodging which is the principal thing & Sanvaller told me that I would find a vacant place at his table & a knife & fork. So I shan't borrow trouble about "what I shall eat" &c

My plants come in two large bales put up as I have sent them before in "yagua" - the sheaths of Oreodoxa regia. I don't know as I shall pull them to pieces & put the parcels in boxes - will consult Mr. Marnitz. They reached here in pretty good condition & perhaps with a strong cord I can fasten them so that they will go on so in all safety

These all except a very few of those last dried are thrown into families in the order in which Grisebach has arranged them in the introduction to his Flora (not as in the body of the work). Then there is another bundle from Treand which I can not incorporate with the rest - nor is it at all necessary - and two little parcels one of which I find in my trunk collected mainly about the city here or dried ~~the~~ here tho' collected elsewhere and another which is still in "la Fernina" & which Grisebach will bring when he comes. These two or three I may pack up so as to form but one bundle or I may put the smaller ones in a box I can tell better when I get all together. Then there is a bundle of Fern-caudices pretty well tied up with majapala (bark of *Adiscen thioam*) Paritum. Perhaps I shall strengthen this with cord & let it go as it is. You know my views of making these things useful by splitting them. Bason once with me that he thought or feared you would absorb all these. Split them with a saw & then make specimens for two at least - perhaps for four. I consider a half lotter than the whole - for you then see the internal & external structure at one view. If they can be sold for enough to pay my expenses on them "tanto mejor" - that is, a part of the trouble.

As it is a settled plan that I am to undertake a "Gloria Culana" it will be better not to distribute any of these except the lower families - not even the ferns. We will settle that matter when I come home next summer. I fear the parcel from Treand especially some alga may be badly moulded and I can do nothing with them here (No it looks well).

I have just taken a peep at the stereographs. They are very fine I am so sorry the others were lost. & now these come so late that they will be much less useful. But when my success comes we will fit him out with a good lot of the best.

Have you been entreating Grisebach that he should get "muffed"? I get no letter from Gay since he went to New York. Perhaps he is "muffed" too. I don't like his late demeanor towards me at all. I fear I must go to Matanzas. If so the connection between us will be dissolved at once & I will keep my money in my pocket when I can get it whenever I want it.

I haven't any tidings from my brother since the last of November - very, very strange! I can't account for the frequent miscarriage of his letters. That he has written I can't for a moment doubt. Hence I don't know that my order has followed my counsel.

Sanalle says he will do all he can to carry out my plan for continuing botanical exploration when I retire from the field. He will aid with money, hospitality & recommendation of the right kind of a man can be found.

Friend Blain received a few days ago a box of living plants from Washington. May-be when I come home we can make him another remittance.

10th. Went to Matanzas yesterday for money. I had written but Gay was strangely silent. But he explains his reticence of a manner with all excuse that he has a good deal of richness in his family & that he is driven about by the chiefs of the house so that he can never be sure of having a moment that he can call his own. I saw that he has to dodge here & there, quit one thing to attend to another which he can do better than the other employees &c. I went to M. almost with the resolve to blow him up & break off all connection. but he seemed so cordial

that I was very much appeared. He had written in answer to my last application - but too late. I shall get the letter from Retiro in a day or two - probably

Don Smoore & family returned yesterday. Grand lack will be here today. I shall then soon arrange every thing for shipment and be away to Trinidad. I go today to breakfast with Marnitz (10 A.M.) and will then & then make all necessary arrangements for the embarkation of my plants.

I hope the bank-plundering, bragging Brute Butler don't represent you in the next congress. A pretty kettle of fish you have then in Washington - a kind of modern French Convention. But I see Pennsylvania will send Robespierres to attend to his own business at home. Pray tell me what your opinion is of the proceedings of our semi-U. S. Congress. Instead of admitting new states into the ~~union~~ union they are manufacturing them out of very ^{su} inefficient materials ($\frac{1}{5}$ of the required population) and advertising ^{them} as ready for admittance. I wish Jackson would rise up among them & swear "by the Eternal" that he would make them learn the Constitution by heart like schoolboys the catechism.

Sauvage wants to know for what sum per annum a good collector could be obtained to come to Brazil and continue botanical explorations.

I see by the papers that some good souls in the North are doing something to relieve the sufferings of our Southern brethren. If not too late will you contribute for me and charge to my account \$20 (twenty dollars) to aid in the good work. I have kindred there - loyal people too who fought for the union and I would rejoice to know not only that their daily food was daily provided but that they would soon - immediately indeed - enjoy ^{all} the civil rights to which as citizens of the United States they are indisputably entitled to exercise. In such case the fanatical mob calling themselves the U. S. Congress would soon lose some of its power.

13th Feby. Today I deposited a box of palm & other seeds in the English consulate for Peru. If you think of it tell Dr. Hooker of it when you next write so that if there should be any neglect or carelessness the British officials may be chargeable. They told me that it couldn't go now till next month.

I am going to put my plants in two boxes which I am having made. The parcel from Torcano looks well on the outside and as far in as I can see by opening the sheets a little. Some of those in the little bundle left in la Fermina & brought by Gundlach were badly eaten particularly an Asclepiad and a Cactaceae. perhaps others

15th. Yours of 4th inst just come. Thanks for the seeds. I am here sweating & stewing waiting for some boxes to put my plants in. I can't probably get off for Trinidad till next Wednesday (20th)

- You'd better not write again till you get fresh instructions for Marmita tells me that the mail comes no more to their house so that our plan followed heretofore will yield us no more advantages. But few letters at most will pass between us in the three or four following months. I will write you on my arrival in Trinidad

I will look out for Wolffia. These little things cost no trouble hardly. Almost as soon as the pond-water has evaporated they are dry. Who is Austin?

Kind remembrances to Mr G. & hopes that her face has subsided

For a few days I am snuffling & sneezing so as almost to snap my neck in two or burst my head open - otherwise as well as common

Yours truly

Charles Wright



Wright, Charles. 1867. "Wright, Charles Feb. 8, 1867." *Charles Wright correspondence with Asa Gray*

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