Hartford March 23d 49

My Dear Sir

I see it announced that my ship will sail positively on the 31st I will therefore be in New-York by the 28 or 29th to complete my arrangements for the operations of the ensuing summer I hope I shall find you there

Will you please tell Mr Grant that it will be unnecessary for him to write to me unless he should ascertain that some change in the time of the sailing of the ship has been made

Should your business be such that you cannot be in N. York when I come there you can probably make an agreement with Mr Grant to attend to the procuring of paper &c

Besides the common driers Dr Gray suggested that I ought to take a small quantity of something like tea paper for the preservation of some very delicate plants — also some sheets of strong manilla of large size for wrappers — also twine &c to make packages as secure as possible



Very respectfully
Yours

Charles Wright

Recd. June 18th 1850

Port Lavaca June 4th 1850

My Dear Dr

I have just deposited for shipment to you with Fulton Hensley Esq 2 boxes — one containing Cactaceae Echinocactus? caespitosus Mammillaria sulcata & Echinocactus setispinus? — they will doubtless be worth the freight — if anything more give me credit for them The other contains some small plants of my collection this season such as I could save in books & likewise contains my winter collection of Cryptogamae done up in separate parcels — the mosses & hepaticae for Sullivant the lichens for Tuckerman & the Fungi for Curtis? — but consult Dr Gray on the disposal of them I would have sent them to him but feared he would be gone to Europe before they would reach him There are also a few shells for Agassiz & a fossil or two You will find a small Hedyotis which I am pretty sure Dr Gray has received from no one but me & I think it is rare should it prove to be new you will gratify me by naming it subviscosa a very appropriate name



I am preparing for my journey westward but have yet received no means for carrying my plans into effect I hope however on my return (in 8-10 days) to San Marcos to find these bills of credit which will enable me to raise the money for my expenses On account of a rather careless arrangement in shipping ~~I neglected to abandon~~ my paper I have just received it & I had waited so long ~~to~~ for it & remittance of money that I had abandoned

the thought of going westward the present season & came to this place with the intention of going north to spend the summer On my way however I received a letter from Dr Gray which induced me to give up this plan for the present & make another trial to secure transportation to El Paso I look forward to the expedition with somewhat of anxiety & dread I foresee great difficulties in my way — whether I can overcome them unaided (as it seems I must be) by anything but the sympathy of now and then a kindred spirit time will tell

The few plants (Phaenogamous) which I send you I collected in intervals of other employments for the purpose of effecting exchanges when I shall come north I wish therefore you would save the greater part of them for that object — anything however which may be useful to you in your publications take freely

Should you think it necessary to write to me on this or any subject (and I should be very happy to correspond with you) direct your letters to San Marcos Hays County

Very respectfully
Your
Charles Wright

San Marcos Sept 26th /50

My Dear Sir

I had the pleasure a few days ago of receiving yours of the 28th ult. in reply to mine of June last I did not confidently expect though I hoped you would answer it After my return from Port Lavaca I wrote to Mr. Sullivant and though I requested & expected an answer he has entirely neglected me & most unfairly too as I think Hence it was very gratifying to receive your kind & sympathizing letter

I have done next to nothing the past season in collecting specimens. I sent Dr G. a package collected between Houston & Austin & he wrote me "that I would have done better not to send it" Yet I had no place to keep it here unless to trouble some friend with the care of it Hence although desirous of collecting for exchange if not for sale I have done but very little at it I have occasionally preserved small plants which I thought (without books to refer to) had some particular interest or novelty attached to them Of larger plants I could preserve only scraps some of which I will enclose for your examination No1 [Euenide Zuke. was found in crevices of a high rocky cliff of the Blanco perfectly desiccated & dead yet with the flowers & (immature?) fruit in a state of complete preservation Its habitat was exposed to the direct rays of the afternoon sun and it is doubtful whether any rain had fallen on it since its germination Branching from the root. Branches procumbent (perhaps feeble from its partially shaded place of growth) about 6-12 in. high The rest the specimen will show Found in August No2 was found a few days ago in a cedar thicket on the bank of the Blanco Root perennial sending up 1-several stems erect or procumbent 12-20 inches high, much branching towards the summit stems leafy-leaves closely sessile Fl. white or purplish. Is it a Foeslia?

No3 Chrysopsis ciliaris (mihi) found a few days ago in crevices of rocks on the bank of the Blanco. Root perennial sending up 1-several stems erect or procumbent 12-18 in high

Lower leaves unknown (for the rest see specimen) I send along with it for comparison a fragment of C. canescens found near it & from which it hardly differs in its flowers fruit & receptacle C. canescens grows here scattered over all the prairies this I have found only in one locality They are quite different in habit & can I think hardly be identical The former is somewhat glutinous pinnoluche of the

I have sent off to San Antonio my trunk with my books or I might by reference to Pl. Lindh. find some of these plants described Yet I have found many plants and in the very country traversed by Lindheimer undescribed in the account of his plants - viz - Nymphaea Mexicana, Inchocoronis Wrightii, two species of Coelostyles or something near it, all found on the Guadalupe, a Passiflora found at Port Lavaca very different from any thing described in the Flora or Pl. Lindh. an Aquilegia (Canadensis?) found at Austin & on the Blanco Desmodium Wrightii found at Austin and common on the Blanco besides others which I can not now remember. The few plants that I have said the past summer I have sent to Lindheimer to be by him forwarded with his collection to Dr Gray or Engelmann

Dr Gray gave me no intimation of the time of his return from Europe yet using the privilege of my birthright I guessed that he would soon return and about two weeks ago I wrote him a long letter enclosing two very good specimens of No 1 which I hope he will divide with you if you desire it

When I was in New York I was earnestly desired by the ornithologist of your Lyceum of Nat. Hist to procure specimens of birds and particularly of a small species of Kingfisher which I said I had seen here This morning I procured a specimen but I do not know how to send it but by letter in which the head will make a protuberance of no little magnitude

I would remark that I have good specimens of the plants above-mentioned and if they should prove new or of special interest I hope to furnish your herbarium with one for authority

Present to Miss Eliza with whom I have some acquaintance and accept for yourself the kind regards of

Your obdt Servt

Charles Wright

P.S. Sept 20 d. In a note of Pl. Lindh. p. 2? Ulmus (crassifolia I think) is said to have been collected in Sept? in flower the <u>second</u> time (by this I doubt the correctness My opinion however is predicated on negative testimony For several years I have been in the midst of it & here it grows abundantly on all the hills & in large thickets in the valleys It is now loaded with fruit I have never seen it in flower or fruit in the Spring until I receive more evidence I must think its period of flowering is Sept?.

I send you a fragment of Elatine? just collected in the bed of a dry branch. Much branching from the root - branches mostly prostrate sometimes ascending 5-6 inches viscous pubescent Probably E Texana if not it would properly be called E. viscosa

[It is Elat. (Merimea) Texana] C. W.

AUSTIN
TEX
2

10

Dr. John Torrey
Princeton
N. J.

Ansd. Dec. 12th

New Braunfels Tex. 7th 1850

My dear Sir



I am sorry that you have all the arrangements made for my expedition to the Pass on which I have entirely failed. I thought the business was so definitely settled, that I could hardly fail of getting a situation, some sort in the party of the Boundary Commission. But the Commissioner after smashing his own pins & the North with all incorrative situations, on his arrival in Texas was afflicted with a "masterly forgetfulness" of me. As soon as I heard of his arrival in our State I wrote to him asking to be informed when I should join him but received no answer. After a while becoming impatient at his silence I went to San Antonio to see him but he had not arrived then. I made arrangements to be informed when he should arrive & returned Early last month I was notified that the party would start on a certain day. I arrived there two or three days before the time designated but the Commissioner had been gone two days on a forced march leaving the Party to follow when they could. I saw his brother from whom however I could procure no assistance. I had no alternative but to abandon the undertaking for the present.

Dr Gray had written to me that he had sent between three & four hundred dollars to Washington to be brought to me by Mr Bartlett this sum was the funds on which I depended for defraying my expenses I could not ascertain whether it was in his possession or not I have written to Prof. Henry for information

I shall reside in this place the coming winter & I wish to be informed whether the cryptogamic plants collected last winter are new or in any manner interesting. If not I do not wish to send

much time in making a new collection I have written three times to Mr Sullivant whose address I know without obtaining an answer I shall make no further efforts in that quarter I dont know where Mr Tuckerman has returned from Europe The address of your other cryptogamists is unknown to me Unless you can in a few days obtain the desired information which I would be very happy to receive from you I am satisfied in this point I shall probably collect but very few cryptogamic plants

I will merely add, as to future prospects, that I was very kindly promised transportation for my papers by Maj Babbitt U.S.A. at San Antonio but could not go with the Boundary Commission for want of funds

Should I receive the "needful" before spring I have no doubt that I can at that time obtain the passes from the L.S.A.

I hope to hear from you soon

I am my Dear Sir

with great respect

Your most obedt Servt

Charles Wright

PAID

paid

10

Rev. John Torrey

Princeton

N. J.

Braunfels, Comal Co Decr 10th/50

My Dear Dr

Your favor under date of Novr 2nd (post-marked Nov 12) has just reached me & at the same time one from Washington containing a draft for $377. So you see I am in funds at present

I have (I believe) written to you since I came to this place but I hardly know what I wrote so for fear you may not be accurately informed of all the circumstances which defeated my plans the past summer & fall I will even at the risk of repetition go somewhat into detail

In the first place the spring the most valuable part of the year was lost for want of paper Dr Gray had strangely (as I think) sent the paper to Galveston without consignment when it was detained till I wrote twice for it and at last went to Port Lavaca for it By this time the spring was entirely gone and the summer commenced And while the paper was on hand not knowing how soon I might be called away I saved but few plants & sent my paper by an early opportunity to San Antonio that I might be in readiness to join Mr Bartlett's party on their arrival Thus most of the summer was spent without means of saving plants

Besides all this I had no means of studying for I was without books The year before I had a copy of the Flora but when I left El Paso I gave away my copy that I might lighten my baggage as much as possible I then intended to go north when I thought I could get another copy Abandoning this intention I wrote to Dr Gray for a copy After a long time

he sent it but this suffered even a worse delay than the paper and I got it late in Autumn So you see the summer was for all useful studies a complete loss

I hold Mr Bartlett altogether inexcusable for neglecting to give me a situation in his party for I have in possession a letter written by him to Prof Henry in which he says there would be no difficulty in assigning me a place However as matters have turned out I could not have gone with the party for want of funds since the money which Dr Gray supposed would be sent me in the spring or by Mr Bartlett has only now been received

Dr Gray writes me discouragingly from England but I am not to be frightened out of my trip by prospects of slow or dull sale I have made up my mind to go and I will go if I have half a chance Maj Babbitt U.S.A. gave me a very kind offer of transportation if I had gone on this fall & I doubt not he will extend to me the same favor in the spring

I am now engaged in teaching the children of two families at this place am doing some good for others and earning something if but little for myself besides being out of idleness which of all conditions in which I can be placed is the most irksome

I have made some excursions with Mr Lindheimer since I have been here He has lately sent his last summer's collections to St Louis They will not probably present many novelties as they have been collected on ground previously pretty well examined

Last week we had extreme cold weather for the season during several days The thermometer was as low as 6-8 degrees below

zero of ~~Centigrade~~ Reaumer. Everything but the most hardy vegetation is entirely dead & botanizing except for Cryptogames is over for the ~~year~~ until next spring

I hope the explanations above given will satisfy you that I have done what I could to carry out the plans formed for scientific explorations. I hope to have it in my power soon to show that I am ready to use all due diligence to repay the money advanced to enable me to pursue my explorations. I feel somewhat embarrassed in receiving the draft from Dr Short but I shall have no immediate use for it & if I should ultimately fail I can return the draft to you

Very sincerely

Your obdt Servt

Charles Wright

Dr John Torrey



P.S. It will be no harm to mention that I am a standing candidate for receiving any papers on botanical subjects that may be published in the proceedings of your scientific societies which may come into your possession and not be needed by you. I would be glad to receive monographs or descriptions of single plants especially the lower families as Grasses or Cyperaceae and any which Decandolle has not yet reached

C. W.

New Braunfels Jany 8th 1857



My Dear Dr.

After an absence of two weeks spent on the Blanco when I passed the Christmas holidays with my old friends I was gratified on my arrival again in this place to find your welcome letter of Decr 10. I did not sit down immediately to answer it because I wished to await the coming of another mail which might bring me some letters containing further intelligence & by that time I would hear from a friend in Austin who wishes me to procure for him through you some books or pamphlets

I suppose I have received all your letters & you have probably before this my acknowledgement of the receipt of the draft of $100. kindly advanced me by Dr Shook I presume I also told you that I had received another draft from Washington so that I have now money for my anticipated excursion & shall not be embarrassed for some time to come on that account

I wrote to you a while back desiring you to obtain from Mr Sullivant Mr Curtis &c their opinion whether the collection of Crypts made last winter possessed much interest In your letter you make some remarks on the subject rather an expression of your <u>own</u> opinion than information from them I am disposed to believe you have not had time to obtain the desired information

You are aware that most of my time is engrossed in teaching Prof. Henry is soliciting me to do all I can for the Smithsonian Institution in all departments of Nat. Hist. Do you see I ought to devote most of my leisure time to such subjects as may prove more <u>generally</u> interesting & if the Crypts do not offer many novelties I had better collect <u>bugs</u> & <u>snakes</u>

I suppose you are not aware that Mr Sullivant advanced me money which however has only lately reached me being part of the draft received from Washington Dr Gray wrote me in the spring that he had sent money to Washington for me and I supposed it would be brought to me by Mr Bartlett as he had made arrangements to that effect but it seems he had a claim on the Library Committee of Congress & he transferred it to me doubtless thinking there would be no delay in the payment whereas it was only near the close of the last session of Congress that the appropriations were made and the draft paid This accounts for the fact of my not receiving it by the hand of Mr Bartlett

You desire me to collect fresh water Algae for Prof. Bailey I have made it a point as far as I was able to save some specimens of every water plant which had about it anything resembling fructification Dr Gray has always impressed it upon me not to collect specimens unless in fruit or flower and many things have been neglected because I could not discern anything resembling flower or fruit on them I know when mosses, Fungi & Lichens are in a proper state for collection Not so with Algae and unless I could have some instruction or a figure or two to fix my attention to them I fear I will make an indifferent collector of these plants I would be very glad to receive instructions & suggestions from Mr Curtis & Prof. Bailey relative to the proper mode of making collections & preserving specimens in the respective classes to which they devote their attention I send specimens of something which I suppose may be an Alga growing on rocks in the Comal spring of a gelatinous nature I will enclose a specimen and you can tell me what it is

I shall certainly attend to your suggestion to say aside a set of my collections for Dr Short & will surely manifest my

gratitude to those who have aided me either with money or books

I want to lay myself under obligations to you for a favor which I think you can readily confer. A friend to whom I am under great obligations wishes me to procure one or two books which can be sent by mail. One is

Henon's Complete Farrier — this, I know can be sent by mail

Another, i.e. — Some work on the Culture of Bees. I know of no work of a practical character to refer to but I think you can procure one. These works are wanted by a practical farmer. If you can procure them send them to "Claiborn Hyde San Marcos Hays Co. Texas" Enclosed you will find a dollar if they should cost you more I will send you the money at another time

Will you be so kind as to send me the "Annual of Scientific Discovery" for the year past as soon as it is published, I will immediately refund the money. Dr Gray sent me the Volume for 1849 with which I was much pleased



In my last I have just seen some men from El Paso they say provisions are very dear & scarce I also learn that the hauling for the Government is again to be let out on contract I fear that there may be under these circumstances some difficulty in procuring transportation for my baggage. If I should be obliged to pay for my hauling and give a high price for provisions I think I shall make nothing by a botanizing tour to New Mexico & it may cost me more than it will come to I exceedingly regret that the prospects are so unfavorable but I will still hope for "better times" and when spring comes I will see what can be done

Enclosed are a few water plants most of them collected in the Comal

yesterday I write me also if you will give me their names It seems the only way of arriving at the named classification of the lower families

No 1 is the plant mentioned above
Nos 3, 4, & 5 are lemnas? floating on the Comal
No 2 ~~is~~ & 8 grow entirely under water — 2 in thick small bunches 8 in large bunches much spreading
No 6 grows on rocks or wood under water
No 7 is a lemna (I suppose) from the San Marcos collected last spring

I would be glad to correspond with Mr Curtis Prof Bailey & others who may be able to render me assistance in my labors I & in my turn could occasionally furnish them with specimens of rare or curious plants & so the correspondence would be mutually profitable & pleasing But I know not their address Could not you give me a list



Hoping to hear from you again soon

I remain
Ever Your most obdt Servt
Charles Wright

Frontera Sept 28th 1851



My Dear Dr

I head my letter with a place with which you may not be familiar. As I had better explain Frontera is a single adobe house some two hundred feet by one hundred in dimensions including the court or open inclosure so common, I may say, universal in oriental architecture. It is situated about eight miles above El Paso, belongs to a Mr White and is rented by the Boundary Commission as a kind of camp, store house, observatory, &c I wrote to you from our camp in the great bend of the San Pedro about a month ago (I think) We marched on from then with considerable rapidity resting but two or three days on our journey hither and traveling a good deal in the nights By this I should have very much regretted if the flora nearly all the way had not been parched entirely up by a drought of many months On the Limpia which before furnished me with so many plants that I hardly had any rest day or night I now found a very scanty number of species in season and most of the vegetation was entirely dead At the head of the stream I found a very pretty Epilobium a blue-flowered Linum some grasses & other plants From that camp onward I collected but few In this neighborhood no rain has fallen for a year so you may judge the prospect for making collections is very dull I have a very pretty variety of Cactaceae to which I shall make some addition here and send all I have collected back by the returning train I am confident that I have passed over some Mammillarias allied to M. applanata which I observed on the Limpia and which had been burnt over in spring The whole region of this creek to the summit of the mountains had recently been swept over by fire

Hence all vegitation was very young and what had not been killed was much injured

I do not yet know exactly what disposition will be made of my plants I am not yet formally attached to Col. Graham's party though I am ostensibly In a conversation with him relative to the disposal of the collections I wished to make a special reservation of a set for Dr Short This he refused on the ground that he (Dr S.) might proceed to describe & name such as are not known I could not persuade him that this would not be done by an honorable man as I take Dr S. to be He finally came to the conclusion that he would intrust the collection to Dr Gray for description but held firmly to the idea that the plants, descriptions and all, must be considered the property of the Boundary Commission till after publication — then all, but one or two sets, — one for the Smith. Inst & another for (perhaps) the Jardin des Plantes of Paris will revert to me Besides this I will receive but a small ($300-500) salary This is a mere verbal agreement but I intend to have it reduced to writing before leaving this place

I fear that the specimens thus far collected will offer but few novelties though the flora of the Pecos which I lost before in consequence of sickness will reveal some

I now want to beg some books which I hope you will use some exertions to furnish I naturally need such works as Lindheimer's Fendler &c which I already have as also your own two papers on Emory's plants Executive Doc. No. 7. App. No. 2. & on Fremont's Doc. No. 166. C. Beginning with Cleomella & ending with Pinus monophylla — also Engelmanns account of Wislizenus plants Under Compositae you mention Nicolletia as an additional new genus to some which Dr Gray described in the "Boston Journal of Nat. Hist for Jan. 1845 I want that paper Under Enogonum ovidatum you say "many other species will be described in the next report" I want this same next report

Under Enogomm Abertianum You say "A full account of Mr Gambel's plants by Mr Hallall will soon be published in the journal of the academ. of Philadelphia" This would be very useful to me Under Allonia micranthum is "Bonr. in Frem. 1st report, p. 76 This you could doubtless furnish me. So under Ipomea leptophylla "Bonr. in Am. Lyc. N. York 2, p. 248, t. 4. under Quercus Emoryi. Gray & Engelmann have described some plants in Proceedings of the American Academy 1. p. 50 Any or all of these and any others of which I have no knowledge would be most acceptable to me who have now the prospect before me of a residence of two or more years in the wilderness Please confer with Dr Gray on the subject and whatever you may collect send to Dr Engelmann and instruct him to forward them to me "care of Col J. D. Graham" of the Boundary Commission Pray dont send me any thing via San Antonio for the stupid P.M. will let it lie there forever & ever Amen Besides there is no organized mail between San Antonio and El Paso but only a private express Col. Graham says he counted twenty-odd letters for Col Munroe in command at Santa Fe lying in the P.O. at San Antonio - some of them too directed "via Fort Independence" Mr franked too & prepaid Pray send me the sheets of my plants as fast as published and by the Western Mail If they reach me - well - if not - it is no great loss If you have a private opportunity dont fail to send me any thing mentioned above of reasonable bulk & weight which you may be able to procure



July 2 I have remitted my packages (4) by the returning train and a barrel of Cactaceae to Dr Engelmann My catalogue of plants runs up to about 575 including of course some duplicates I have entrusted them to the tender mercies of waggon-masters teamsters and Quarter-masters merely tied up in bundles and wrapped in large wrapping-paper

If Dr Gray has returned from Europe you can send him this letter I have not written to him though I may do so soon in which case I shall send

by private opportunity or via Santa Fe. My tied plants are remitted to him. I hope whatever I have already sent or may hereafter send may be so husbanded that I will on my return north be able to cull out a pretty good set for myself besides having a plenty of some species for exchange. I hope to hear from yourself or Dr G when my collection arrive in safety and the next time I send I trust you will receive something more interesting

Very respectfully

Your Obedt Svnt

Fronteras July 20th 1881

My Dear Dr

I wrote to Dr Gray the last time since — but having an opportunity of sending back I improve it though I have nothing of much interest to communicate.

My plants were sent back to Dr Gray and a barrel of cactaceae to Dr Engelmann. I am preparing another collection of the latter.

Yesterday I made an excursion to the mountains, near here ~~but~~ collected a few specimens mostly cactaceae. I found something new among the latter.

Capt Skillman who has been for some time bearer of despatches between San Antonio & the Post near El Paso is going on to Washington to solicit a postal arrangement between those places. I want to remind you of wishes expressed in my former letters for papers (originally published in Scientific Journals) on collections of plants made in this western country. You will probably have an opportunity of sending by Capt Skillman anything of reasonable weight and size. Apply to Dr Gray also on this subject — and to Dr Engelmann for anything on the Cactaceae particularly. I wrote a few days ago to Dr Gray via Santa Fe & Independence. If he should receive my letter he will be fully informed of my wants.

I believe I am somewhat indebted to you for book sent and thought to have remitted you the money before I left San Antonio — but you had better pay yourself ad libitum out of my collections.

I enclose some Algae for Prof Bailey if I have not sent them before which I think probable — if I have you can keep the specimens, you know.

We have had a few light showers lately the herald, (I hope)

of the rainy season, which last year I saw this country it, customary annual visit. The rains have as yet had no sensible effect in vegetation except to cause Ammannia radicans to flower copiously. We have here (I suspect) Ch. virginica on the mountains but the fruit is <u>very</u> not quite as stout as the Elna

I hope you will neglect no opportunity of sending to me any thing you may be able to procure which will be <u>really useful</u> to me during my sojourn so far from anything literary or scientific. Write to me also. It would be but a feeble expression of my feelings to say that I would be grateful to receive long & frequent communications from you

Most sincerely
Your obt. Serv.



Dr John Torrey

Charles Wright

Corpus Christi Octr 10th 1851



Dear Doctor

I have a few minutes to write now as I am just returned later with the fruits of an excursion through a region hitherto but little traversed I give you a short account of it We left this place on the 27th of Aug. for a journey of two weeks to meet Gen Conde in his camp in some undefined spot of Northern Sonora but have spun it out to the length of six weeks and to a distance of five hundred miles or more If you have Emory's map (and if not you had better get it) you will observe a large space inclosed on one side by the Gila and on the other by the route of Col. Cooke. This space we traversed to Santa Cruz not in a straight line but zigzaging about till we got from one end to the other and returned by Cooke's route and that of the California emigrants which diverges from that of Cooke at the San Pedro and passes through Santa Cruz Neither is it an open prairie as Mr Leroux believes but is crossed by three or four ranges of mountains of different heights ~~and~~ with wide intervening grassy vallies variegated by "salinas" destitute of vegetation or covered with tall coarse grass or dwarf Chenopodiaceous shrubs & annuals or in other places with "chaparrals" of Mezquit (Algarobia) and Mimosaceous bushes also spiny Nicotianeae with Portulacaceae and Cactaceae also The mountain passes furnished me many interesting things Among other curiosities I have two or three unifoliate species of Desmodium (annuals) Several Cucurbitaceae also were met with one Passiflora (in fruit) at Santa Cruz also a Sambucus and a Heuchera with deep crimson flowers and a Gentian with bright white flowers beautifully fringed within

I set out with a very inefficient supply of pill pers all I have however at this place and was somewhat straitened in my labors on that account Consequently I may have neglected some interesting plants from their resemblance to such as I had before saved particularly the Grasses and Solidagos and such as can not be ~~read~~ readily declared new by simple inspection

Col Craig leaves this post tomorrow with most of his command to join the Commissioner on the Gila and in a few days we will go down the river to Frontera I must clean up every thing here before we leave though I shall run some risk as the Indians are becoming troublesome having made several successful forays upon us and robbed us of many of our mules My horse was taken but was sensible enough to come back to me the next day I have had no letters since I left San Antonio I hope to get a good lot of them when they get on the right track Send by Independence & Santa Fe You can forward this to Dr Gray as I do not know that he has returned though I think it probable I do not know what disposition will be made of my collection now or how It is possible I may bring it on myself There is great discord among the members of the Commission and some of them will probably be recalled If Col. G. returns I shall probably return with him The affairs of the Commission have been badly managed and I would not be surprised if all operations were suspended The appropriation for the current year is said to be largely overrun and the Commissioner worthless without money

It is late & I cannot write now more at length

Sincerely Yours

Charles Wright

Camp on the Rio Grande Nov 29th 1851



My Dear Dr

Some days ~~ago~~ since receiving your letter of June 28th On our return from the Copper I was detailed with a party of nine men and a small escort to survey the Rio Grande from Doña Ana to Frontera In a few days your letter was sent me from Frontera but then I had no paper or writing materials – for the last three days however we have been confined in camp by snow – which though not deep confines us insufferably dull as we are ~~keeps~~ ~~in~~ in camp and I am now writing in the open air over a heap of coals towards which I have frequently to poke my fingers to keep them in writing condition

It is entirely unnecessary after what I have written to tell you that the botanical season is over – So they have converted me from a botanist to a surveyor I dont know how long they will keep me at it You know of course that Col Graham has been recalled and that Maj Emory has been sent out to succeed him and his arrival at El Paso is announced What change it will make in my business I am anxious to know I hope I will be allowed to make collections in the proper season I suppose Dr Parry is with Emory I am informed that he is to report to the Commissioner – if in person he will have to cross to California to do it – before he can get to work he may be recalled for delay like his predecessor I think injustice has been done both Col Graham in this matter if I am rightly informed but we have as yet very meager news from the station below

I dispatched by the last Santa Fé mail a letter to Dr Engelmann with a request that he would forward to you Dr Gray & giving some account of my travel and discoveries in Northern Sonora I hope soon to have time to give you a detailed account of that excursion in which I collected many things which I have no doubt will prove interesting

I received along with your letter one from Mr Curtis giving me some brief directions for preserving Fungi

I have written you already on the subject of books In your letter you speak of your labors on Dr Parry's collections I hope you will not forget to secure me a copy if it is in your power You may find me an incorrigible book-beggar Well I need them I ought to have a few comforts to relieve the many hardships & deprivations which I have to endure

It is now about a year since I last heard from Dr Gray Tell him I shall expect him to remember me among his first friends whom he favors with a sound from his ugly fist I want a work on the Marsupialia Is there any of small or moderate size that you could send me

I believe I acknowledged the receipt of the books you sent me for Col Hayle as well as the Annual of Scientific Discovery though this last is not the one I sent for (as you will see by reference to my letter) having previously received it from Dr Gray I wished for the Vol. of the present year and would yet be glad to have it I dont expect you to be at this trouble and expense for nothing If you will just keep a memorandum of such things as you may send me or have already sent I will direct Dr Gray who will probably have some funds for me on his return to repay you I want every thing relating particularly to the plants of this region that can be procured if of portable size I weight regardless of expense and when my collection comes to hand just repay yourself to your satisfaction

You may wish to know something of the vegetation of the Rio Grande within the range of my travels so I give the timber of the river is cottonwood P. fremontii mexicana and one of two species of willow attain the size of a small tree these are the only trees I can now recollect. A sort of Algarobia glandulosa or whatever you botanists may eventually decide it shall be abounds in the form of bushes and a shrub like Prosopis odorata (perhaps Strombocarpus) of somewhat larger size. A Lonicera shrub with tubular flowers and a reddish-yellow fruit (edible) abounds in patches in the deep ravines two sp. of Fraxinus grow in the low-bottoms in dense patches one at least becoming sturdy. In a note to Pl. Fendl. page 75 Dr Gray speaks of Ephedras as forming large patches of a supposed evergreen but according to the brief description then given about the flowers and appearance resemble those of Gnetus. A Chenopodiaceous shrub with winged fruit is very common. These are the principal plants that I am now able to recognize I meeting them every day they are fresh in my memory. Of the numerous herbaceous plants & grasses I shall say nothing at present leaving that to my collections. A sp. of Amorpha is abundant along wet places in the river bottoms attaining a height of eight to twelve ft. almost a tree. It is the same species that is common in Texas along streams and I believe is found nearly all over the U.S. A sp. of Equisetum grows on sandbars in very large dense patches attaining a height of 3-6 ft and a diameter of nearly half an inch. I collected on a low sandbar a pocket-full of panicles of a low (1-2 ft high) grass killed of course with post. I will enclose a panicle.

Enclosed is also a letter for Dr Short. Please despatch it I am not certain of his residence or I would have sent it direct to him. I remain

Very truly
Your obt servt

Charles Wright

P.S.

Frontera Dec 8th 1851

I have just seen Maj Emory and am retained in the commission with the promise that I may collect & work in the season Col. Graham takes home my collections & I have no pledge from him of a reservation of a set for Dr Short or for myself I hope you will look out for them and secure them if possible from falling into the Patent Office hands. I am determined thus unless I receive a pledge of a reservation of a part of my collections they never get from me a note or a list of localities or dates of collection &c. The Commission is top heavy and many useless members are retained here for want of money to pay them off preparatory to a discharge. As for myself the hope of collecting next summer alone returns me here I have no hope of receiving my salary for a long time to come If I can get a small compensation for what I may collect I am content to stay I expect and intend to work hard this winter that when the river rises I may obtain leave of absence to visit the interior

A mail is carried now from San Antonio to El Paso and letters to me may be sent to the "care of Maj W. H. Emory Frontera El Paso Co Texas

Let me hear from you as soon as possible

C.M.

P.S. I have [illegible] in some small space
memorandum [illegible] found on the ground after
rain at our camp on the San Pedro
It may be of some interest
A. W.

Rec'd March 17th
and March 23.

Presidio de San Francisco May 27th 1852



Dear Dr.

Your kind letter of Dec 27 1851 came to hand a few days ago You had done better to send it by Maj Emory who tell's me that he left there since it was written and he has been here some weeks But n'importe I received no letter from Dr Gray Fuckerman writes me in great glee over the Lichens sent him a year & a half ago Your long letter came also from Dr Engelmann

You need not trouble yourself about "Nuttalls Plants of Gambell" but any report you can get unincumbered with other matter I will be happy & thankful to receive

"The plants lately dispatched from Frontera" were directed "Col. J. D. Graham care of Dr Asa Gray Cambridge Mass" and you will probably have the opportunity of examining them I doubt however whether you will find many things of interest among them My last collection however taken home by Col G himself will be I doubt not of great interest to you He intends I believe to send them also to Dr Gray

I hope you will use your interest to have a reservation of a part of them made for me I used every argument to induce the Col. to promise me two sets if not more one for myself the other for Dr Short I plead that my entire outfit was my own I rode my own horse and worked with untiring zeal while others of the Com-

mission with greater salaries were lounging about doing absolutely nothing. But his jealousy lest some one else might fall into the hands of Dr Short through me & be published without glorifying him any overpowered all arguments and crushed any little remains of liberality which he may once have possessed

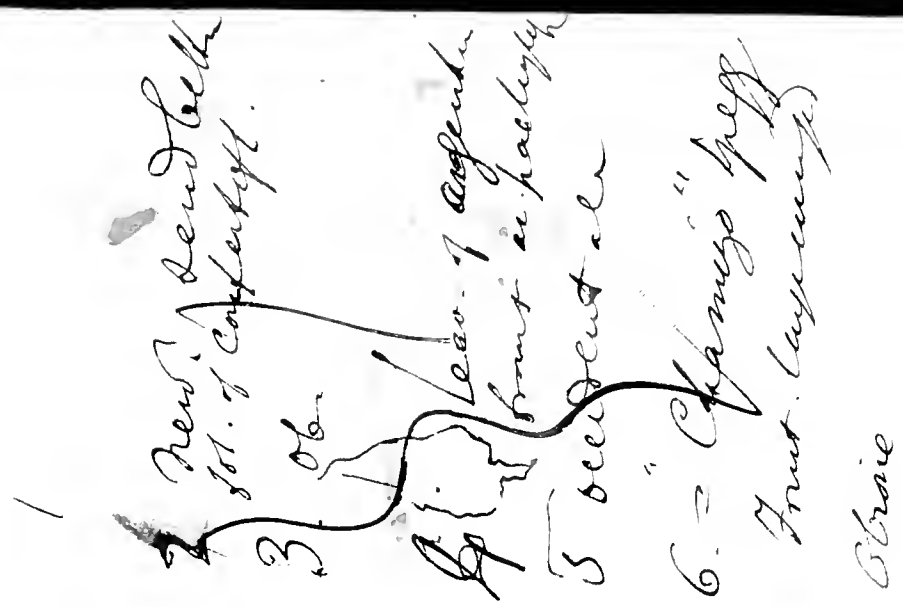
I do not intend to neglect the crypts. I have my eye on some mosses. I was greatly vexed with Sullivant because he did not write to me & I feared did him injustice ignorantly for I did not know then that he had suffered so great a bereavement. I have thus far seen but very little in Buckermans field of labor.

I have finished two jobs of surveying on & somewhat more than fifty miles reckoning by the road but probably more than three times that distance by the meanderings of the river and another of thirty miles by road and more than sixty by river. I am now ordered to join another party & work with it about twenty miles when we shall organize anew and travel with pack mules — perhaps. Maj. Emory starts today to hunt up Mr Bartlett. Gen Conde is dead certain. There is considerable doubt whether much more will be done on the survey until the Maj. returns

I have found one plant in flower already probably a Nasturtium — the flowers resembling those of N. Palustre. I did not examine it minutely

I enclose the fruits of some Chenopods. Please give me the generic names at least — if you can

Sincerely Yours Charles Wright




so great a bereavement I have thus far seen but very little in Buckermans field of labor

I have finished two jobs of surveying one of somewhat more than fifty miles reckoning by the road but probably more than three times that distance by the meanderings of the river and another of thirty miles by road and more than sixty by river I am now ordered to join another party & work with it about twenty miles when we shall organize anew and travel with buck mules — perhaps Mr. Emory starts today to hunt up Mr Bartlett Gentleman is dead certain There is considerable doubt whether much more will be done on the survey until the May returns

I have found one plant in flower already probably a Nasturtium — the flowers resembling those of N. Palustre I did not examine it minutely

I enclose the fruits of some Chenopods Please give me the generic names at least — if you can

Sincerely Yours Charles Wright

Camp ~~near~~ San Ignacio Feby 10th/52



My Dear Dr

I did not expect to send you another epistle by this mail but in looking over your last letter I perceive you think I am in possession of more of your publications than I can by any ingenuity parade — Prof. Henry sent me one or more Ex. Doc. from which I cut out and had bound those parts relating to Nat. Hist. There are in it two papers on Botany from you and one from Dr Engelmann I wrote you the beginning and end of one of them in my former letter and now I will describe the other. This last (and it seems to be subsequent in time to the other) is marked in the corners when commonly by is the paging thus [7] — is paged 137 — 156 — has 12 plates — begins with "Ranunculus aquatilis" & ends with "Lycopodium a small sp. allied to L. rupestre." [From Emory's Report] In this under Sarcobatus for instance reference is made to your two reports and on examination I find that I have the second but if you think I must of consequence have the first ——— you'll have to send it to me Now I dont pretend to explain the want of coincidence in my experience & your opinion or belief. Perhaps an imperfect copy was sent me — for I am pretty confident that I have lost nothing of what was sent

Beautiful new Physcomitrium - with a long hair

I lately found a beautiful little moss resembling specimens of which I have vainly sought in vain. These have abundant fruit I want very much to send Sullivant a specimen but it is not dry. I believe I'll risk it though I fear it is not mature enough and — after all it may be some common Northern plant

I have just received a letter from Lindheimer in which he announces some new discoveries. (Eng. auth.)

I picked up another Algæ the other day — it grows on the naked argillaceous flats of the Rio Grande valley

We fear that the last mail with its carrier has fallen a victim to the Indians. We have ceased to look for it

Truly Yours

Charles Wright

Ans? June 6th

Frontera March 28th 1852

My Dear Dr

Your letter of Jany 17th came by the last San Antonio mail & was received day before yesterday Maj Emory also read me your last communication to him I was much disappointed at not hearing from Dr Gray I have certainly not deserved such neglect I have been long anxious to send some money to my brother on whose labors our aged & blind mother and a nearly invalid sister depend for their support & comfort but had nothing transmissible but the certificate advanced by Dr Short. This I have retained till now lest I should find it necessary to return it from inability (through the infidelity of Col Graham) to comply with the conditions on which it was advanced I also hoped Dr Gray would have some money for me that could be easily sent to my brother and which I wrote to him to do stating that you had long ago informed me that he would soon have some more money for me I know my brother needs my aid & that Dr Gray had not on the 23d Jany complied with my wishes & this neglect of me gives me great uneasiness



I find Maj Emory disposed to treat me with great liberality and I have no doubts of his honor or generosity to me Col Graham should undoubtedly have turned over to Maj E. my collection of plants as well as other public property I was desirous Dr Short should have a set of my collections made at the Coppermines & thence to Santa Cruz When you see the specimens you will believe me excusable in pronouncing them beautiful & interesting if they should reach you in good condition There is too

a plenty for distribution ten or more specimens of nearly every thing Maj Q Moore has expressed his perfect willingness that I should have the ultimate disposal of a liberal portion of what I may collect particularly if on other duty in the intervals of which such collections are made

I am pleased to think that my first collection made while in Col Graham's party has arrived though your letter is not perfectly clear on the matter You mention the arrival of two boxes Now when I sent off my plants they were not in boxes at all but in four packages wrapped in large stout sheets of paper They were probably transferred to boxes in San-Antonio I believe I wrote you or for that there probably would not be many novelties among them the country on which they were collected was so severely parched with drought

You suppose Dr Gray sends me the sheets of Pl. Wrightianae You need not suppose any such thing — at least I have no proof of it I have however received two copies of the article in Silliman to which you refer and on which I recognise the handwriting of the Dr thus evincing that he knows when a letter would probably find me

I am for the present relieved from the duties of the surveying party and am at liberty to turn my attention to botany which I shall not neglect I shall have divers little interesting things to enclose in this letter Dr Digelow & myself are commencing to give close attention to the cactaceae making detailed descriptions from the living flowering plants which will be sent with a collection now accumulating to Dr Engelmann We already find several new species new at least to us with the few means of determining them at our command

One of my last letters will inform you what books I have & I hope you will not conclude me mistaken in my knowledge of what I have & persist in believing that

because I have this paper published in a Congressional Document therefore I must have that being both printed in the same volume I know I gave you the sum total of my botanical Library unless I omitted Dr Gr's Manual & perhaps Tuckermans Synopsis

I feel very grateful for your assurance that Dr Short shall get a share of my collections I have never much doubted that he would obtain some but this belief was not equivalent to certainty

The plants which I enclose are numbered as in my catalogue collected the present year

No 38 Epilobium colline, (mihi) equally sp. Stony hills along the Rio Grande from Frontera to the cañon of the San Antonio road March 20 Fl reddish

No 69 Boraginaceae balls among the hills near Frontera Fl white March 29

No 55 Polemoniaceae Stony hills near Frontera Fl. light purple Mar 27

No 57 Eutoca Stony hills near Frontera Fl purple. Small sp. " "

" 24 Boraginaceae Sandy hills along the Rio Grande very common " 19

" 63 Gilia Stony hills near Frontera Fl light purple very common " 27

" 58 Polemoniaceae " " " " " " " " "

" 87 ——— ? " Nemophila " " " " " 31

" 80 Boraginaceae on ~~sandy~~ "rocky" edges near Frontera " 30

" 60 Polemoniaceae Stony hills near Frontera Fl white with a pink tinge " 27

" 80a Boraginaceae = 80? I have probably made some mistake which I have not time now to correct They may be both the same plant of different ages I would like the names of these plants if you please & have the means of determining them



Very respectfully
Your most obt Servt

Charles Wright

Sat. Ap 9th at night I have just received a letter & three sheets of Dr. Wright's from Dr Gray which have put me in a better humor than when I penned the first ~~part~~ of this letter & I have suppressed a letter ~~a~~ a very cold — I had prepared for him & written him very briefly

C. W.

Camp near San Eliario Nov 24 52

Dear Dr

I am sorry to say that last mail received two letters from you — one dated 23 & 24 Feb 13th in same sheet with Dr Torrey's) and a later note. I have made two interesting excursions since to take the mail & one to the Engay Rio near Doña Ana. Various interesting things were secured on these excursions and the region around Fronteras we have now actually investigated. We are now "en route" for Presidio del Norte though we stay here a few days to make preparation for our journey. Mr Mai talks of sending me on with our collections for Mr Bartlett may come on and seizing occasion — as I have a prospect of becoming re-shipwrecked if crossing a crisis I will do it



I would like to have one good reason why all our American publications should stop at that "halfway house" Dr Gray's Ultima Thule. Is no more than half of our American flora to be studied and published by foreigners? Is it pity that we have no adventurous Columbus to fly the ocean from Bay to Bay? and yet some plants which we collected in Chihuahua might be new to Botanical species — Everything or something near it one or both of which Dr Gray also was out for several days as I wrote you little Clay. Is it so you as to surprise? I was to convince him that this there was a new genus which he appeared unwilling to admit. His opinion is that he don't like to be told by a simple collector that this or that is not in the Flora. I sent some things to Engelmann also which he ought to have communicated to the Dr. Besides which I notice that

[illegible] which I well remember collecting is not published yet I had often recalled it [illegible] I guess all [illegible] since then he has done [illegible] in a hurry & notice also that he had no notes to guide him in the description of the plants sent back to Dr. Graham. The poor old Col. may never think of them again though I hope he will for I do not want to write off another copy. Your question whether the fruit of Crione No 4 belongs to the leafy branch of the same number can now be answered only by my saying that I think I made no mistake. When I collected them I was engaged in surveying not in making collections & only picked up these things in the intervals of other labor & saved no corresponding specimens. You will however probably be able to determine the matter when you have opportunity to examine my last collection which contains divers plants of that genus if I remember rightly.

June 7th. We will probably start for San Antonio on the 15th inst or thereabouts — so by the last of Aug I may hope to be in Yankeeland & shall bring on all my own late collections & duplicates of Dr Parry's & Dr Bigelows and everything of the cactaceae which I can find (and we have already a respectable number) But then I shall probably proceed immediately and directly to Saint Louis that they may without delay be put into the hands of Dr Engelmann. Bayle Moriz has not yet made out my instructions but I suppose I will have the pleasure of delivering the collections to you in person.

Truly & sincerely

Yours Chas Wright

Ans. Sept. 10th
Inclosed in Weathersfield

St. Louis Aug 30th/59

Dear Dr

I arrived here day before yesterday and have spent most of my time with Dr Engelmann

I expect to leave for Cincinnati this evening

I despatched by Adams express from St. L. all my dried plants those for your study in one panier and my own in another

I design to go directly home to Wethersfield Conn

I am instructed to aid you in the distribution of the plants if you need my assistance Please write me soon

I lost the keys of the paniers and if you are impatient to peek into the contents no harm will be done by breaking the locks or (if you choose) have new keys made

I shall be home in a week (I hope)

Sincerely

Yours Charles Wright

Hetherington Sept 14th 1852

Dear Doctor

Yours of the 11th came to hand last evening — glad the plants have reached you

In answer to your prayer to be informed what is to be done with all these gatherings I will transcribe a part of Maj Emory's instructions to me

"You will take charge of the two packages containing the botanical specimens collected by Dr C. C. Parry Dr John M. Bigelow and myself & deliver the same to Dr John Torrey take his receipt in duplicate & send one copy to me" also



"On arriving at New York you will aid Dr Torrey in arranging & collating the botanical specimens and preparing notice of all new & rare plants for immediate publication in such form & in such periodicals as may be selected by Dr Torrey"

I dont remember how the plants are put up but Maj Emory required of each of us triplicates of our collections Dr Parry & myself prepared such which form two small bundles — mine in very fine white paper Dr Bigelow I think put up all of his having no span paper to divide them Mr Schott was far below in at Eagle Pass — so I dont know any thing of his collection

If I understand Dr Gray you intend to turn over this job to him & consequently what assistance I may render will be given to him & please let me know for in that case I will not repair to New York immediately

The box contains the plants I found after the above division was made and on my way in from El Paso

There will be few or no novelties among them

If you will need my assistance please let me know ~~soon~~ but if you turn over the collections to Dr Gray perhaps you had better send them on to him & I will repair to Cambridge and render my assistance there

Dr Engelmann sent you a book by me—Salm Dyck on the Cacteae Shall I send it or bring it on when I come

Have you received the Box of Parry's plants sent by Maj Emory when Col. Graham returned?

If you go to Cambridge soon you can take on the plants with you and I can meet you there when we can all talk over our adventures & devise plans for future operations.

Hoping to hear from you soon & at length

I am Dear Sir

Your obdt servt



Charles Wright

Wethersfield Sept. 21st 1852

Dear Dr

I received yours of yesterday this evening and reply without delay

I might have been more explicit in my letters and explained the ownership of the several parcels in the panier. You know perhaps that I have collected rather largely and as major Emory required only triplicates the bulk of my plants still belongs to me. This explains the ownership of the large bundle

The two large bundles in the box are those I collected on my way in & have not been divided and the spirit of Mag'r's instructions requiring only triplicates of these also so when I go over them I intend to separate that part which will be subject to your control

You have judged rightly as to all the packages in the panier except the large one which belongs to me as mentioned above

I shall go to Cambridge day after tomorrow (D.V.) when I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you of talking over future plans or plans for future operations

I am very glad to hear that the missing collections of Dr Parry have arrived in safety. He has been so unfortunate it would be a pity that he should lose any more. Yours truly C. Wright

Cambridge Sept 27th 1852

Dear Sir

I have now been here since last Thursday night (23d) waiting for the coming of the plants. From the tenor of your last note I supposed the plants would be here in advance of me. I hope you will not keep me waiting for. I want to be through with the distribution and make preparations for my return before winter. Can you bring with you the small package of plants I sent you in the Spring of 1850. There are some things in it which I wish Dr Gray to see.

Yours truly

Charlemagne Wright

Dr John Torrey
New York

Cambridge Sept 28th/32

Dear Dr

I have just received yours of the 19–24th inst
My last from Wethersfield will I hope have cleared up your doubts but lest it should not I write again

The largest bundle of all in the panniers is mine: the package in "fine white paper" being triplicates of the same subject to your order — to retain or send to Dr Gray
All the rest of the plants in the panniers are those of Drs Parry & Bigelow.

The box contains the plants collected on my way in; and after I shall have taken from there triplicate specimens (according to the spirit of Maj Emory's former requirement) to be subject to your order the remainder will be mine also. I think now the matter is well explained

I do not care to stay longer than to go over the plants with Dr Gray & yourself to obtain such general knowledge as will enable me to collect with greater judgment and efficiency in future

I expect to go to Washington and would like to finish my business here so as to take New York as well as Washington on my way as I return

Please send the plants soon if they are not yet on the way & give us the pleasure of seeing you as soon as you can make it convenient

Very truly
Yours
Charles Wright

Cambridge Oct. 18th 1852

Dear Dr.

I expect to return to Wethersfield on the 20th inst and shall be ready then to do any thing I can for you Please write to me there

We are much disappointed at not seeing you here To the very last day of the past week we flattered ourselves that you would be here every night because you did not <u>write</u> and we hardly can guess why you have kept us in such suspense day after day

I have distributed all my collections nearly to the end of Compositae when the labels gave out and I was obliged to stop

I want to make preparations for returning to Texas as soon as I can before winter comes on

Very truly Yours

Chas Wright

Wethersfield Oct 26th 1852

Dear Dr

Not a word yet from Dr Torrey. I am almost ready to become <u>morbid</u> and not budge from here till he writes I dont want to go to New York to find him absent or sick or dead and nothing to do but turn about & come back again

I have a proposition from Baird He writes that an expedition to consist of three steam vessels under the command of Capt Ringgold U.S.N. (who asks permission to take a naturalist which will probably be granted) will sail about the middle of Decr round the Horn to the Sandwich Is. will establish a depot there and pass their winter there The destination is Behring's Strait and the N.W. coast generally — I have accepted the proposition What think you of it

I neglected to tell you that I settled with Mr Tuckerman for the past He paid me though not very liberally

Write me as soon as you can get

time & let me know if you hear from Dr Torrey I fear he is sick

Yours truly

Charles Wright

Wethersfield Nov 11th/32

My Dear Dr

I reached Hartford this morning before sunrise - and home to breakfast - passage quiet & pleasant - found all well

Prof Baird's letter is rather unsatisfactory - being nothing more than he had written to me the day before to which I replied promptly The expedition will be gone three years

He could get me no money but promises to keep a sharp lookout for it in future

Has Miss Jane found any "little things" missing since I left?

Pray write me if you hear anything in my way of business or about the Bound Room.

My best regards to all the family

Yours Truly

Charles Wright

Dr John Torrey
New York

Wethersfield Nov 17th/32



My Dear Dr

Just now I received yours of the 15th and at the same time one from Prof Baird announcing my appointment as Botanist. He wants to know what materials I will require, when they can be procured & at what price. Can you bestow a few moments to this business and give me your opinion

He also asks what books I will want thus intimating that some books will be furnished. Please jot down a few that will be most useful to me

I think I will hardly be able to visit Dr G. as I may be ordered on to Washington at any moment

Glad to hear that I am somewhat gaining credit in your family

Should I be so fortunate as to receive any more of the same moral lessons I shall endeavor to profit by them to the utmost

Would it not be well to consult Prof. Bailey as to the best manner of collecting algae & the apparatus most approved by him — Will you apply to him on this matter

Prof Baird desires information relative to the paper books &c soon



Yours truly

Chas Wright

Watheresfield Jany 8th 53

Dear Dr

I returned from Cambridge last night having been there somewhat more than a week looking daily for a letter from you relative to those books — but none came

Now don't your conscience smite you for non-compliance with your promise? I commend you to Miss Jane as the object (in my stead) of a moral lecture on the obligation of contracts agreeing to on my part to dispense with one on honesty or the law of meum & tuum

I left Dr Gray & family well

I have permission to remain here

until further orders nor have I any intimation when they may come or when we will sail.

Yours Truly

Charles Wright

P.S. I remember a long time ago you promised me a copy of your paper on Stansburyi plants — That promise remains unfulfilled.

C. W.

Wethersfield Jany 18th / 53

My Dear Dr

Yours of the 11th was duly received

I had previously learned through Dr Gray that Mr Carey would with pleasure give me his fathers copy of Endlicher

If any of these are to be bound and if there is time to do it they had better be sent to the binder as soon as possible

I hear nothing of the time of sailing Do you ever meet any newspaper reports on the subject? — if so please cut them out and send them to me and oblige

Yours truly

Chas Wright

over

P.S. Please send me a receipt for the amount paid you on account of transportation of packages from New Orleans It is important in making out my accounts against Government

C. W.

Northampton Feb 25th 1853

My Dear Sir

The enclosed came today with a request that I would forward it to you & ask you to return it to him as he has the other already in your hands

He hopes you will soon be at leisure to pay some of your epistolary obligations being some 3 or 4 in his debt

He says Pl. Nr. is in the binders hands and will be ready for distribution tomorrow

I have been confined almost to the house all the week by rain and cold. The ground is bare and frozen. The river is open and nearly clear of ice. The wind blows a young gale and altogether with nothing to do and no books to read time passes rather heavily

I suppose that it is of no use to ask you to write to me while so deeply in debt to Dr Gray

Kind wishes to your family and to Dr Parry if he is with you

Yours ever

Charles Wright

Norfolk May 31st 1853

Dear Sir

Yesterday the squadron (our ship excepted) was to sail at midnight yet we are all here at 7 o'clock A. M. with wind from the N.E. which, says the pilots, won't take us out of the roads. Yet the pilots are all on board and we are tied to the Vincennes by a hawser whether for towing or not I am uninformed. Moreover it is rather gusty with light showers, I see no sail spread yet. To day we expect to be in the Gulf stream and then looking seasick folks. It is not a very pleasant anticipation [illegible] I expect to go through the mill - hope I may come out new and - not young - but fresh

Capt Ringgold has directed all letters for him to be sent to Singapore, Batavia, Hong Kong, or Macao, until further advices from him so I hope to hear from you as often as you can make it convenient. I shall expect to get a copy of such things as you publish so that I may be something of a student not a mere collector. And if you wish to be particularly obliging you may send me some weekly paper from your city - a thing which I neglected when I was there

At 7 o'clock commenced running out of the harbor towing the Vincennes. The Porpoise and Fenimore Cooper still at anchor in the harbor. We expect to go no further than the Roads to day to wait there a fair wind from Sec. Dobbin and a fair breeze

At 12 M we are nearly down to the Roads and may go direct to sea though the Pilot says no but I will close and put my letters in the mail bag

Very truly Yours

Charles Wright

Hong Kong May 29th 1854
U.S. Ship Vincennes

My Dear Dr

You and Dr. Gray in the mails I think have treated me shabbily All the letters I have had of you both the year past is contained in a short letter from Dr Parry Now I have written several times to Dr Gray which is much about the same thing as writing to you & once I believe to you Now I would be glad to know if I am ever to hear from you direct again and then I will know whether to write any more myself



All the squadron except the Fenimore Cooper are now here and I learn from the officers of the Hancock that had I been left on board of her I would have had an excellent time among the small islands of the Java Sea where they spent a number of weeks with opportunities of landing on them every day As there was no naturalist on the steamer nothing was done except the preservation of a few seaweeds Some shells were picked up by officers but probably of no great scientific interest

I am making a good collection of plants here All those I collected at the Cape and at Sydney are packed away in the Naval Storehouse — to rot likely enough I suggested sending them home but was met with objections and they may rot for all I care They are not worth much I suppose It will be the same thing here — no opportunity to go where there is hope of finding any thing new Oh the folly of transferring me to the pretty ship always in the market or the open sea If he had given me three or four hundred dollars and sent me to Europe I could have bought all these things and taken them home safely which is more than I can hope of what I find here The store ship is full of bilgewater and great quantities of some tin rotten and why should not my plants suffer the same fate when they are sent home

At New York I was removed from this ship to the

steamer in order to divide the Scientific Corps & thus increase its efficiency. At the Cape I was restored in order to concentrate the Scientific Corps & thus increase its ~~efficiency~~ conspicuousness. Glorious consistency! Could he have imagined that I neglected my duty on board the steamer or did he think if he could give me a better field of labor on this ship or did he consult vanity wishing as large a retinue about himself as possible. He has certainly mismanaged the matter egregiously. When we arrived here the Wardroom Mess hired a boat for their own particular benefit in which I could go ashore & return almost at any time I pleased. He quarreled with us about it till we discharged it and now I get ashore — when the ship's boat is not on ship's duty or — when I can: and come off at any time — by paying boat hire.

At nights. The Fenimore Cooper is just in and now all the vessels of the squadron are here. Where we will go next is as great a secret as all our other proceedings have been. I doubt whether anyone knows. I heard it once asserted that we were going on a nice little cruise — a very definite destination. I have been dissatisfied ever since I was restored to this ship. Tried to plead off but he made fine promises which have not been realised and I acknowledge that I am disappointed. I fear too that my labors will be of but little value unless I am assigned again to the steamer for which I have a strong inclination to ask. In nearly every respect I have been treated with great ~~respect~~ consideration and I am very well pleased with my mess. The officers however care not a fig — any of them — for our labors and never put themselves to any trouble to facilitate them. If they can eat good dinners drink good liquors and smoke their cigars little do they care how the world wags. I met with more sympathy among rude teamsters on the plains of Texas than I expect ever to find again among even gentlemen. I liked the officers of the Hancock and judge from the manner in which we met

here that they like me

When I was last in New York you had just published descriptions of some California plants and if I am not much mistaken you promised me a copy when it was finished out Is it complete yet? or have I lost my chance by being thousands of miles distant and thus out of sight out of mind. I fear when I get back I will find the same difficulty in procuring such papers as offered when I wrote to you from the Rio Grande asking if certain other papers published years ago were obtainable — yes by purchasing the volume of which they constitute but a small part

Talking with Stimpson this evening he says I hit upon the true reason of my transfer His tail wasn't long enough without me I hope he'll not find me a very limber joint of it I gave ~~you~~ Dr Gray some specimens of Autocracy I'll give you one The 24 inst was the anniversary of the Queens birthday and the Governor celebrated it with a ball to which our officers were invited Two of the Lieutenants intended going and had made all necessary preparations but they were not going with him or as a part of his tail They had understood him to be willing that the forward officers (Gunner Carpenter &c) should keep their watch during their absence When he discovered that they were going in a "gang by themselves" he sent for them and enquired "How's this all the Lieutenants going to leave the ship? I cant allow it" "Why we understood you to be willing that the forward Officers should keep watch temporarily when there was no duty to perform" "I meant no such thing and can not allow it" So they had their toggery ordered on board again and stayed on board A day or two after the first Lieutenant fell sick and then there was no difficulty about the gunner keeping watch and he does it now regularly We believe that if they had fallen into line just at the spot when he wanted them or had lengthened the caudal extremity by two vertebrae the gunner would have kept at least one watch earlier

31st The rainy season is fairly set in nevertheless yesterday I went on shore & climbed to the top of the mountain where I found a bird not seen before — a bobolinkia perhaps — but the weather

was lowering even showery & I confined myself mostly to the path and caught bugs for want of something better to do today It is raining again and monotony prevails hardly broken by the arrival of two American ships The news low that a vessel sails tomorrow for California spurs me up to finish my letters

I will merely add that I am in excellent health & go ahead in the face of divers predictions that I will be sick if I go in the sun and don't drink brandy — I take plenty of fresh (I cant well say cold) water outside and in and think with this purifier I can confidently trust my health to prudence, temperance and Providence

Do write! You cant tell how I long to hear from near home as well as from home itself Remember me to all your family & believe me

Very truly
Yours



Charles Wright

Monte Verde
June 20th 1859



Dr John Torrey
Dear Sir

I have taken the liberty of asking my brother to send me to you an occasional package of old things as the most of what I bring is secured to threads by the dews & what is preserved, I get rid of from its numerous encounters with the vegetable dyestuffs of the island. I am winding up my business & hope to start for home early in July, but should not be disappointed if the latter part find me yet at sea as the vessel in which I am to return is not yet reported as arrived at Cuba

I hope I have made a suitable selection. I suppose Dr Gray has kept you informed of my principal operations so I will no enlarge

I am in good health and am pretty well clear of the rheumatic complaint under which I labored last summer

Present my kind regards to the ladies of your family & believe me

Very truly
Charles Wright

Dr John Torrey
Assay Office
Wall St.
New York

Mary Torrey

Oct 1849.

Cambridge March 19th



Dear Dr.

Your of the 13th inst came duly to hand

I had previously heard with regret that you was unwell. I hope by this time you are quite well

I determined that plant I send you after it was gone to my satisfaction although I did not come to the same conclusion as yourself I found in Dr. Grays Herb. No. 3530 of Wallichs catalogue which is the same as my specimen and is described by Nees as Lebidiopsis fusca. (see Kunth 2. 249) You probably have. In Wragworth's on comparison of the two you will not fail to notice a strong family likeness. It was so unlike all forms of Cyperus rotundus that I have seen that I did not think of referring it

thither. In fact the spikelets are not distichous or very imperfectly so

I have just finished all that falls to my share of the Hong Kong flora. Dr Gray is to do the Compos. & Rubiaceæ and Mr Eaton is at work on the ferns & is at the same time examining those of Japan Loo Choo Bonin's &c. The grasses of Hong Kong Japan Loo Choo & Bonin Islands I have sent to Montreal to be studied by Col. Munro who is familiar with the pasturage of those parts. Having these things off my hands I am trying to persuade myself that the job is about half done. I have been today beginning the examination of the plants from Loo Choo & Bonin.

I have yet a few grasses left & Mr Thurber's hay should fall

about I will give him what I have ~~to~~

Dr. Gray had a letter this morning from Dr Bigelow in which he desires to be remembered to me. Have you been poking him up? It is the first information for a number of years that he & myself were ever known to each other.

Present my kind regards to Mr Thurber

Very truly

Yours Charles Wright

Cambridge
June 5th 1869

Dear Dr.

Yours of the 2nd came yesterday

I am glad that you saw Mr. Roezl and that you will likely be able to assist him. As you say nothing of the condition of the small part of his arm left him I may infer that it is better. When he was here it was giving him pain and uneasiness lest (though so long ago apparently cured) it might again become gangrenous & carry him off if it could not again be amputated higher up.

I would like to see Dr Bigelow though he will play me

a rather shabby trick on his return from the Boundary.

However I have long ago acquitted him of a malicious design of annoying & really though not greatly injuring me as he really did

No 3719 is Cymodocea manatorum Asch. I have mislaid the paper in which Ascherson makes mention of it. It was long ago mentioned by Sprame I think but as well as Thalassia testudinum has been little known and the t of the latter seems not to have been by any one previously collected. If you will have a little patience I hope to give you the names of the others "poco a poco"

I hope you will pardon me for reminding you of the fact that months ago I sent (which perhaps I ought

not to have done — you have so much ~~business~~ business of your own & of the public to look after) you a letter of Grisebach asking you to show it to Westermann and ascertain if he was willing on its authority to let me have a few copies of Grisebachs Cat.

h. P.S. Cub. I hope the letter is not lost. Since I wrote by Mr Roesl I sent you a little Chorin to which you do not allude. But you may not have had time to think of it.

We send today a box of seeds to Washington. A while back came a box of Australian plants and with them some great packages of seeds of Acacia bipshantha which grows (so says Baird) as fast as a corn stalk. They came in package,

of half a peck more or less & in number thousands upon thousands No instructions came with them and after waiting longer than I ought perhaps I wrote to Baird on the subject who replied "send them here". So to Washington they go.

My last from Dr. Gray was from Rome Ap 21st and Florence May 8 when he was (worked) to the utmost limit of his ability. I have fears that Mrs G. is so unwell as to need a good deal of his time and attention. Then again he may be much engaged with Parlatori (who I believe is in Florence) disentangling the snarl about the pines



Canby has returned from Florida & promises to see me at Salem (taking it for granted I will be there) where I shall hope to see you also.

Yours ever Charles Wright

Cambridge Oct 4th 1869



Dear Doctor:

Dr. Gray, writing to me on the 16th ult, in allusion to those desiderata for Godet, says you are prone to forget things and that I must "nudge" you. I shall be sending a box of things pretty soon — Cuban Fungi &c, and it will be a good chance to put in some for Godet, if we can get together the greater part of them. Did you apply to Cauby? Dr G. thought that with his help alone I could probably nearly or quite fill the list.

He has not written me when he will start home; but Mr Loring tells me it will be on the 9th Nov. He says Mrs G. is better.

Thurber was here with Guerneau about a week ago.

We are getting our things into the

greenhouse, which makes the garden appear tousled an gappy.

I am still dyspeptically disposed; but am trying a new regimen or treatment — take regular boluses of woodsawing, and, I think, with manifest benefit.

Yours truly

Charles Wright