

24.  
Santiago de Cuba March 28<sup>th</sup> 1843

My very dear aunt

Martha Wright

It is a long time since I last addressed you, say  
21<sup>st</sup> of October, since when I have been favoured with your esteemed letter of  
of 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of August, the contents of which were perused more than once  
with attention and pleasure, and you may think strange that nevertheless they  
have been so long unreplyed to, but the fact is, that the absence of one partner  
and continued sickness of another, has brought a very heavy pressure of  
business upon me, and that my health has not been as good as it generally  
has been, for I had a return of my old heart complaint, which incommoded  
me so much at the desk, that I had to employ an amanuensis, and I didn't  
like to address you written by other than myself, but I am now thank God  
for his manifold favors pretty well over it, so that I can resume the pen  
without difficulty, and am in no danger at all from my present state,  
although I cannot by any means say that I am entirely well. I observe  
that you date from Thomas Street, and can very well imagine to my-  
self all your trouble and disagreement in moving, but now that it is  
all over, I feel satisfied that you will find yourself more content and  
happy than living solitary as you were in the cottage, and the rooms  
as you describe them are very snug indeed, and altogether I feel convin-  
ced that you did right in the matter. Notwithstanding the aid of the  
result of your researches in favor of Jonathan's endeavour to trace the  
family as far as he could, I have not had a single line from him  
since mine requesting him to do so, nor not a word, what is the reason  
of it I don't know, have I set him so difficult a task that he does not  
like even to write about it? he ought in that case to bear in mind that  
he began it, and having set me afloat, he must try to get me safely  
landed if possible

There has been a more awful earthquake on the 8th of last month, than even that of Domingo of which you write, but we were equally as fortunate here in this as we were in that, for it was not felt here at all, Guadeloupe and Antigua suffered most, and it was severely felt in many of the islands, and extended but without doing any injury up to the valley of the Mississippi in the United States, and was observed even in the Capital Washington. We are sincerely thankful here for the infinite goodness of Divine Providence in preserving us from wars, earthquakes and all other disasters.

All members of the family are well in Ohio but Nelson has felt the pressure of the times in money matters, I have had to assist him in his payments of \$1000 by last month, and shall have to send him on as much more in September, to keep him out of difficulties, it is a consolation to me that even if I have been isolated from the family, that that very isolation has enabled me to be useful to them.

Specimens of birds are never put up here, that is only done as far as I know on the continent, so that I fear it will not readily be in my power to fulfil your wishes my dear aunt in that particular, yet I should be very glad to do it if I saw you, I have been thinking as you speak of your happy tea parties, if I could not aid you in an occasional coffee one, with which view I have put up two half barrels of our pea berry coffee, made on the Sophia estate where I resided so many years, one for you, and one for Jonathan, and I shall forward them by the same vessel which this goes by for Swansea to the care of Captain Purston requesting him to do the needful for you as to forwarding them to, and I feel assured that you will acknowledge that you never tasted a good coffee in your life, and I sincerely hope that you may live to drink it in good health & spirits, please to request Jonathan's acceptance of the one for him and tell him to do the necessary in writing to Captain Purston &c.

I am sorry that I am not able to counsel you,  
regarding having the writings of Thomas à Kempis printed, which I  
have never read them, and live in a place where there are not perhaps  
so many people of all classes who speak English, except we count the miners from  
Cornwall who live at the Cobre mines about 12 miles from this, but I know  
well the work is much esteemed, and shall be pleased to have my name  
put down for 10 copies, two of them for this place, and four for Ohio, you  
must determine on your course by advice of those more capable of forming  
a correct judgment than I am, and indeed it would be presumptuous in  
me to say a word about what I am so very ignorant of.

I regret the situation of the affairs of Mr. B's  
late husband, but the distress of the times has been generally so  
severe, that many of our particular friends have been carried down,  
for instance, my old friend Henry Shelton, who had been engaged a  
partner with me for so many years, failed & I think I have already  
advised you in Boston, got on shore last fall, and I grieve much to  
say when on his way back here last January threw himself overboard  
and was drowned, he leaves a widow and two children with her  
very quite sufficient for their support for some time, not poverty,  
but operated mentally on her.

We enjoy peace and quietness here and from  
all appearances are likely to continue so, for some time for many  
years to come, although there is no certainty, I may very safely say

At all times I am greatly pleased to receive  
a letter from you, and begging you to forgive me than I mean you  
to writing me

I remain Dear Aunt  
yours affectionate  
James M. Wright

7A  
MY 19  
43

SWANS  
1848



Mrs Martha Wright  
No 108 Thomas Street  
Dublin  
Ireland

