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Santiago de Cuba October 29th 1848.

My dear Jonathan

I have before me your interesting letters under dates of May 28th, June 4th, and July 29th, which I have perused with all the attention which it so justly merited, and I acknowledge the truth of your plea in explanation of your delay in replying to me, but hope that you will not bring it forward too often. I have not read "Guy Rawles" in Bentley's Miscellany, but as the facts about the Wrights are taken from Lingard that I have, which was the interesting point for me, I am not excited to a search for the former. I have no correspondent in London, that I could expect to attend to such an enquiry for me, for those that I have, are all heavy business men, except one, and he is entirely too much occupied for me to think of addressing him on the subject, and I would a great deal sooner pay the expence necessary for a trial through the S. P. who you refer to, indeed I must leave the matter pretty much if not altogether at your discretion, merely confirming what I have already written you, as to my entire readiness to reimburse to the amount named. I shall be truly pleased to receive a draft of the family tree, accompanying one of the arms which you have selected and I anxiously wait their getting to hand. The state of Ireland is really awful, and I can fully enter into your feelings with the family of the unfortunate victim John Catchell, as well as sympathize in your fears as to the final result of such universal and continued agitation, how much better we are off here, thank God for it, why we got through our late change of authorities throughout the island, consequent upon the revolution in Spain, with all the quiet and tranquillity of a friends meeting, and you must never be uneasy as to News Paper reports of our position, for in general the writers thereof under some malignant influence deal in a continued tissue of falsehood, never has the colony had a prospect of greater safety and peace than it enjoys at present.

... me ... as I am not unfeeling of her ...

I have as you presumed the affairs of Mr. Henry,
or rather I should now say Mr. Helen Shelton to attend to, as I have her power
of attorney & administration to settle up the estate, which I calculate may leave
a clear result of about \$120,000, say One hundred and twenty thousand dollars,
but this does not add to my labor & much, as I am ably seconded by partners.

Please to say to your brother Nathan and wife, that I am gratified in having
been brought before them, and beg to be kindly remembered to them, how pleasant
it must have been to you to see the affliction of sickness pass away, and a grand-
son to your father agreeably close the dread array. How well I remember Abby
and Margaret Watson, and sorry am I to hear of pressure upon them, either
as it respects means or domestic ties. What a change does your statement
as regards the Knott branch of the family present, it shews the vicissitudes
of the world and is truly distressing to contemplate. I had a letter lately
from Ohio where all the different members of the family were pretty well, father
was at about his best as regards health, but had been troubled in mind, fearing
the reenactment of the scenes of 1778 again in Ireland, and dreading the results
of some entirely false newspaper statement of insurrection here, Uncle William
had been hurt by a fall off a load of oats, but not seriously, brother Benjamin
who writes me, had been to visit him, and found him I am happy to say, not
much the worse of the accident, but he had had a fortunate escape indeed,
Benjamin himself was in good health, and felt no effect from his
old hurt except when he exercised too much, and all the rest were in
their usual health, Mithson Wright was mayor of Columbus Ohio &
have put up two boxes of our sweetmeats of eight pots each, exactly
alike, which I shall ship by present conveyance to the care of Captain
John Ruston of Swansea with instructions to hold them at your dispo-
sition clear of charges there, and beg you to advise with him about them, as
to getting them safely forwarded to you, and to accept of one of the boxes

yourself, and present the other in my name to Aunt Martha, with hopes that
they may be found good, I regret that we have no variety here, so as to enable
me to force you oftener to recollect me, which you cannot fail to do, when you have
such little mementoes on the table before you, for it is more natural for me iso-
lated as I am, to think of my native land and family frequently and strongly,
than for you to bear a stray individual in remembrance. Busy as I am
generally, I don't think I could bear up against your fifteen hours a day
of employment, I should certainly flag under it, and the smaller in detail
the business calling for it was, the sooner I should give out, nothing but
strong excitement could possibly carry me through, and that would inevitably
eventually wear me out, in a few years I should be fairly used up, indeed
I seldom take up the pen except in the forenoon, for I find that after
two or three o'clock P.M. I am not at all fit for it, I am happy to be
able to say that my health keeps slowly improving, that which I
have suffered most from, is a chronic catarrh of the bladder
which prevents me from taking the necessary exercise to keep
myself otherwise in real good health, in fact I don't move ex-
cept by carriage, I don't mean moving about the house, that I can do without
any augmented sufferance, and always have good appetite and digestion
which I am compelled to limit to avoid plethora.

I remain Dear Cousin

very affectionately yours
James M. Wright

P. S. Santiago is the Spanish for James, therefore you ought not to
direct Santiago James, but either one or the other, as you please,
I am well known either way your O. M.

SMALL LETTERS
SHIP LETTERS

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