

Santiago de Cuba December 20 1839.

Mr the Wright

My Dear Aunt

I received yesterday the very acceptable letter of 10^{mo} 23rd and this being a Holy day I avail of it to reply, so you will give me credit how ever hard it may be of being more regular in correspondence than they are in Ohio. I have had letters from them not long since advising Father's getting better of a violent inflammation of the eye, the course of which his life was at one time almost despaired of and as I have received nothing subsequently, I take it for granted that he is now established, otherwise they would undoubtedly have again addressed me, still I am very anxious to see a count of his advanced eye, and would feel much easier had I confirmation thereof by letter, and as they do not say much on other matters than Father's illness in the two letters which I received I consider that Uncle William and also other members of our Family there must be doing well. I observe with much interest all you say of changes and want touching the several individuals and branches of our family, treated of in your letter, isolated as I am such information is doubly precious & I will thank you to continue it. I have a friend an Amateur collector of Butterflies and I shall try to get a Box of them for you, our birds are few and not choice

I am getting along very well in health, in business, and in the Court
life, I think I mentioned to you the approval of Lord Palmerston
of my appointment and in my various occupations my time
is fully employed. I notice the reduction of postage to one
penny this however is only on domestic not foreign letters &
Packets, which remain at the former rate it is however in con-
templation to diminish on Foreign also, by fixing it at 2/6
per half ounce, to tell you the truth although our correspon-
dence is extensive it is only letters that I have made my-
self acquainted with the extravagant rates charged, for
our business is too heavy to feel it much, therefore although
Postage is not of much consideration to me, it must be of
some consequence to you, and it behoves me not to tax you
therewith, in which view you will find under cover a Bank
note if I can find one if not an Order on Parry & Pothers
& Co for £10. 1/2 to be applied to cover the charge that
your correspondence with me has and will entail on you,
I beg you to receive it in the same friend I assure that
it is enclosed and I am sorry to learn as well from the Papers
as from your letter the deficiency of your Crop as it will fall
heavily on the Mass of the People, the Working class here never
suffer from want of food we have always enough and to spare
and we have not such thing as Paupers except now and then
one, who as charity receives an offer of nothing under our small
silver piece of about three pence 1/2.

I believe that I may have to postpone my visit to you a few
 months longer than I expected as having given my Partner
 Mr. Brock two years for a tour of pleasure, I have found
 myself compelled to call his attention to business there nearly
 a year in England, and I have thought it only just
 to say to him to take in part of the months so employed
 in a six months tour of his own and when he returns
 I believe now that I shall have to visit Ohio and that my
 arrival in Europe will be put off till the autumn of 1841, and
 I assure you the months will seem long to me till then
 All affairs go on smoothly in this Island, indeed we
 seem to be under the special protection of divine pro-
 vidence, great ~~trifles~~ great prosperity and con-
 tinued tranquillity has been marked out to us, and we
 ought and hope are fully sensible of it and grateful to
 the dispenser thereof. No Country in the World is advancing
 with more rapid strides in civilization and abundance
 of all things necessary.

I remain Dear Aunt

Yr affectionate nephew

James Wright

Answered the 3rd of 6th
1840

MS
Mrs. Martha M. M. M.
No 33, South Place
Dublin
Ireland

MS
1840

MS
1840