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COLOMBIA, S. A.

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CABLE ADDRESS:
CARRIKER - BUCARAMANGA

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My Dear Hopkins:

Your long and most interesring letter of Jan, 29th. was duly received and I apologize for my long delay in replying to same. As usual, life seems to be just one d--m thing after another, as the cat said when the dog chased it down the alley.

Personnally, things have been going pretty well, except for the spiraling of prices of most things, especially food, while the income seems to decrease, rsther than keep pace with the outgo.

The health has been good, and I have no complaint on that score, since damm few men of my age are doing what I am (85 last Feb.)

I keep pegging away at the Mallophaga and at the moment have several large papers "in press", but when they will see the light of day is problematical.

They tell me that my Catalogue (all of my work on Mallophaga) will be out this month (probably), at the U.S. Nat. Mus. Since you are not now much interested in Mallophaga, I wont bother you with what I have been doing on that score, but will, of course send you the papers as they appear.

We have been collecting birds quite steadily, with some interruptions, since that is mostly what keeps out the old old bad wolf, and on the whole, we have done very well. In April I close up my work for the Los Angeles County Museum and the Western Foundatiog of Vet. Zool., since it no longer paid to look for the rare species whose quota had not already been filled.

Fortunately I hooked up with the University of California (Oakland) almost immediately, to supply them with a complete collection of all species in this area. I made my first shipment to them last month of 302 skins, and already have quite a few more collected. The exchange rate of 10 to 1 enables me keep ahead of the stead rise in prices, but I am really getting too old for such strenuous work, although I still manage a car and shoot as well as ever, by my legs have gone back on me for some time, in fact ever since I had a serious operation nine years ago.

The wife has been an unfailling and invaluable help all the time until late last year when she became ill, for a time better, then worse, unti. on Feb. 5th of this year she was operated on and nearly passed out. She was in the hospital 20 days, then in bed two weeks at home and was not good for much until about three weeks ago. Now she seems to be almost back to normal, only lacking the strength she formerly had, due, I suppose to the long period without her usual exercise. You can imagine what all of that has cost in money, as well as loss of time for me, but if things continue going as of now, we can see daylight ahead.

Let me congratulate you on your work on the fleas. I can well appreciate the frustration you feel at not being able to make your own drawings, which is one big advantage I have, since my drawings are now as good or better than they ever were. I certainly would like to emulate Dr. Jordan, but, alas and alack, I fear that is asking too much, although I seem to be in as good shape now as I was ten years ago, at least mentally, also physically, except my legs.

As for "bandileros", we dont actually have any in this area, although there was a brief flurry not so far from here last year, of which no more has been heard. Actually, the government seems to be making good progress in wiping them out.

I thoroughly agree with you that most africans were not read for independence and all of the recent mess they are in has strengthened that belief. Neither do I think than England should have given British Guiana her independence.

The background, training and mentality of all of those people simply does not warrant letting them govern themselves. India has not done as bad as some of the others, but its condition today is far from good. Also look at Cyprus and Indonesia. I blame the U.S. very much for fostering this idea among those people, also the United Nations, which to my thinking is mostly

a farce, and I would not see a lead if it died a natural death, for all of the real good it has ever done. With all of these new african republics having a vote in the "U.N.", God only knows what is going to happen.

I am an American, always, and proud to be one, but that does not mean that I have been in favor of many things that the american government has done especially the last two administrations. The thing that I can never forgive Kennedy was his failure to support the invasion in Cuba (Bay of Pigs), after he had promised to do so, with covering planes. Every day Cuba becomes a larger menace, and nothing is being done but talk.

Well, no more politics. Sometimes I am glad that I am out of it all, but I cant help reading about it and listening to radio reports etc., and it is not a bit comforting. Sometimes I wonder what will happen to my 8 grandsons. The eldest is now in training for the airforce, at the same time going to Harvard.

Well, here go all my best wishes for you, and may the fleas not overwhelm you. My regards to the wife.

Yours very sincerely,

M.A. Carriker Jr.
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