From Rev. Mr. Briggs - of that lovely old St. Johns Church on the hill.

Quintyne's St. John's.

Barbados. NOV. 18. 1921

ans. Nov 19. 21

return at leisure

Casey A. Wood Esq.

Dear Sir

I have made no scientific study of animal, insect or plant of the island except in the narrow field of macro lepidoptera - But I take a general interest in all from the monkey which has seriously increased in this district lately to the spider whose strong textured nests ought to be of commercial value. Yesterday as I arrived at St. Margaret's Chapel & before sunrise I caught sight of what I thought was the white back of a runaway sheep & through the silk grass (Agave) fence & sent a boy after it but he reported it was only a large monkey

Divided between love and duty!

It is just a little distracting to catch sight of a large one just about 30 yards off when one is in Chapel. This has happened to me more than once. The next largest wild beast is shier & scarcer - the racoon which I have only seen dead - one killed by our mason's dog ~~which~~ of which I bought a pound & relished as much as the best mutton. The same place where I saw the monkey yesterday I saw a white butterfly (P. monuste) about 10 days ago & have scarcely seen any since the last white butterfly year 1907 I think it was when I saw perhaps 20 or 30 & got my series - More frequent but very intermittent though at times very plentiful is the Painted Lady - V. Cardui - I doubt if it breeds here. I have watched milk thistles & nettles in vain for signs of larvæ - But I am forgetting you are more keen on birds I believe

Hyacinth Orioles or Buzzards or Vultures — My only
Yellow Breasts or Chats — Eye or Swallows & the B'dos
Goldfinch or Xmas Bird & on the
Yellow Breast. I thought the 1st were
only passing visitors but this year
noticed them in June & July which looks
much like breeding — We get 2.
(H. erythrogaster & H. dominicensis I
believe) — The goldfinch is very
handsome (Oct. - March) the male has
a beautiful rose coloured shoulder &
some orange about the wings. It is I think
of the fly catcher family. I have seen
them occasionally near the College & also
here — None yet this season I think
The yellow breast reminds one of a
large tit-bird has some of the habits
of the humming birds (Two species of

the latter are fairly common - I have also seen a rarer red crested one (or red throated) at S. Joseph's Rectory)
But to return to the Yellow Breast. It may often be noticed gathering Lantana flowers or else sucking the insects from them. The bird of course not doing so on the wing. I think it feeds much on the mealy scale insects that infest palms. coc. d 9/14

Some years ago life histories of our butterflies & sphinges as far as I know them were published for me in the Educalio Gazette but I was handicapped over the identification of one or two food plants though kindly helped by Mr H.A. Ballou & Mr F.R. Boxell. I write thus at length as I cannot fear the chances are I may not be home when you call

Yours faithfully Fred. Julian Briggs