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#### *About the Institute*

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

[1915-1920]

will make it stronger.

Monday noon, at the Of's:

I will drop this letter in the main. Nothing new to report, I reckon, except that I saw DF this morning, and he says they have rented In The Woods to pr Rucker for the summer. When his folks go away early in July he wants me to stay with him at 1331 Conn for a while. You bet I will do so, if I get the chanst.

Father, I note what you say re the introduction to the avocado chapter, and will see what I can do to brace it up. If you get time, you might write me a page of suggestions. It should not be too long. I am going to work up an introductory chapter in which I will play up the importance of tropical fruits, and mention the avocado and other things, so I dont think we need to put all our steam into the avocado chapter proper. The idea is to show in the introductory chapter the importance and value of tropical fruits, and in the succeeding chapters tell folks how and where to grow em.

Fine summer day. White dux feel good. My Of's looks pretty nice now, and very business like, with such a tremendous library. And my two little Guatemalan palms are very attractive. DF always refers to them as "those damn palms of yours". He doesnt like them. I suppose because they arent good to eat, and havent a romantic history. well, they are pretty anyway. I'll say they are.

Lovingly,

W

[1915-1920]

Miami, Sunday evening 8p.m.

Dear Folks:

I was just sitting in front of my grate fire, reflecting and cogitating over various matters, after finishing 100 pages of "Evolution", when the thot flashed into my mind " Guess I will write a few lines to the folks before I go to bed." I am going to turn in about 8.30, so as to be out early in the morning. I see I have Ma Simmonds coming my way on this getting-out-early business, just as Mr F prophesied, so I am going to keep it up. I am finding out that Ma isnt so unjust in her criticisms as I thot, and I dont know anyone who appreciates little things yourdo as much as she. I tried to get them to take dinner with me in town today, but Ma turned the tables on me and made me eat with them, and we had a fine feed, with roast chicken, wh tasted good to me. I blew myself \$1 on a box of Norris candies, wh seemed to please and tickle the madam greatly. I can afford such things as that now and then; it wouldnt be decent to do anything else, under the circumstances.

Mr Deering is out of town, and had his chauffeur come down to take the Simmonds out riding this pm; they asked me to go along, and we rode from 2.30 to 5, going across Collins' Bridge to the Casino at Ocean Beach, where I got a chance to look at the Casino, where they have dancing twice a week. It looks allright but the crowd is probably not exactly the kind one would prefer. I may go over some evening with Dorothy, when I get to feeling i simply must have a little excitement, as I do from time to time. I was just wondering today if it would be possible to get acquainted with any girls here who were more of a high-brow bunch than the Hicksons, but I cant see any possibility. Paul has got me so scared of going with the hoi-polloi that I have to think twice now before deciding whether I am losing caste by speaking to someone I meet on the street. I really dont believe, however, that there can be any valid objection to my associating with such folks as the Hicksons, Uncle Joe being a vestryman in Trinity Church. Dorothy seems like a nice sort of a girl, though (fortunately for Katherine) she is not the kind I would fall in love with. (Feigned applause from the attorneys' gallery).

And now I have to break some news to you that will probably cause Paul to walk up and down the room four or five times and tear his hair in anguish, finishing up by going down to the bank and notifying them to stop payment on all my checks. Well, I tell you; I thot the thing over pretty carefully, pro and con, and figuring that I am going to be here 4 or 5 months, in all probability, and perhaps more than that, I thot it would really be a mighty nice thing for me to have a Victrola, and then the thought of what pleasure it would give Paul when I took it back to Washington entered my mind, and the thing was done. I

not the \$15 one, of course, and have got a few good records, wh added to the 7 we already have in Washn will make us a nice set, and all high brow music. Now Paul can get a few in Arabic and I will get a few in Portuguese, and we will have a little nice music now and then. It really gives me a great deal of pleasure to think how Paul is going to enjoy that machine; of course I hesitated to spend the money for it, but I recalled the words of our Ex-President, "What money is for is to spend", not to mention the words to the same effect voiced by the scion of that grand old family of which John G. was formerly congressman from the 8th district, and when I figured how much I was saving by living down here in Miami where I didnt have to keep up with Paul in dress and entertaining, I couldnt see any other way out. So there.

I wish to goodness it would clear up and shine a while, so we would have a chance to get some mango bloom. There will be nothing doing as lodg as this weather lasts. I woke up with pains in my knees this morning, and had to scurry for my raincoat to spread over the bed. A grate fire feels very good tonight, tho I suppose it is not lower than 50 or 55.

Yesterday afternoon I rode down to Coconut Grove on my bike, and saw a few interesting things.

Paul: I will try to give you an article or two for the Unpire soon, tho it is a doggone shame to waste our breath on such a sheet. That book on Evolution in the Home Univ library is as interesting as the one of psychology is dry. Guess I can finish it in another evening. How is Mr Faire child's health since he got back? When he left here he wasnt in very good shape. That Botany of Strasburgers is simply the finest thing extant. If Allen wants a real handbook of botany he better get that, but it costs about \$5. How is Allen getting along? I must write him when I get a chance. Got a peachy photo of the roseapple and tamarind to add to my collection. I get a few now and then as the opportunity offers, and being here during the season when the fruits are ripening I will probably be able to get about everything there is on the Fla East Coast.

Wish Ma would leave that dear little Jasper at home when she comes over here; not that I have anything against Canis domesticus as a species, but this particular individual, besides being extremely disagreeable, has been demonstrated by me to be a disseminator of Pulex irritans. Jasper is just dawg, and not much of that, but he runs that Simmonds household, in the absence of any Simmonds progeny.

Bailey sent me the proofs of my Feijoa article, - final or plate proof, and I just happened to see that in adding a few botanical notes some fool had said that the flowers were unisexual. Everyone knows that Myrtaceae has bisexual flrs, that being a characteristic of the family. Wonder who Bailey gets to do the dirty work. It would have come out over my name, and made me look like a fool in the eyes of every botanist, - worse than Webber with his hard, woody skin on Casimiroa.

Sorry I cant attend the lectures in Washn on Heredity. Looks like a good course. Getting along well with German. Hickson says I made a hit with the Belgian population. There are a number of refugee families here.

CA 15-1920

San Antonio, Sunday evening.

Dear Folks:

Just arrived. Weather warm, and plenty of it; havent sweat this waysince I left Washington. Am stopping at the Saint Anthony, pretty swell and \$ 1.50 per day, but the best is none too good for uncle Sam's henchmen.

Now is the time, etc. Nothing like a good typewriter for a traveling companion. Notice I said good. That doesnt include Blicks.

Finished up my ahucate this noon, to the consternation of the waiter, who inquired to know what I was eating. Got away with some fillet of sole and ice cream tonight. Will have to come down to two bit meals now.

The manager says this is the finest hotel inthe south, and I guess maybe its so.

Guess I'll go to bed now. Didnt have anything to write anyway, butnI just wanted to see if this machine was still in working order. Makes me look like a traveling salesman, carrying this machine. Been getting off on \$1.75 a day so far, which leaves me a like amt to dispose of as I see fit. Think I can cut a little off that \$3 50 every day, except when I am staying at home.

Awfully good for the laundry business this weather.

Monday afternoon,

Following F O Ps advise I made a bee line for the chamber of commerce this morning, and spent the better part of the morning talking with the men there, altho they had no exhibit of products. Got a good deal of information. It helps a good deal to be a Govt man, when you come to want to get anything from anybody. They even interviewed me for one of the daily papers. Of course I had to be very careful of what I said, and didnt compromise the Dept, but as the reporter made verbal notes only I doubt the accuracy of his forthcoming article.

Sent in my expense voucher today, and find I have \$104 coming to me, about \$80 being my per diem. That with my \$300 salary will enable me to pay up my bad debts, I guess.

Dont think much of San Antonio= Havent seen a respectable looking citizen yet, and the buildings are about the same order as those of Oskaloosa Junction, <sup>Ind.</sup>as. Streets narrow and dirty. The Secy of the Chamber of Commerce was a very brilliant man, however, and told me a good many botanical facts concerning fibre plants I did not know before, and in fact I think he is the only living man that does know them. Altho he has never been nearer Brazil than Sotuh <sup>Tex.</sup>Brownville, he says the Brazilian plants are sure to be a success here.

Nothing exciting to relate. Will be glad to get to N O and see a little interesting country. No summer resort, this.

Lovingly

*F. O. P.*

*like mine*  
I see the Corona typewriter here; It costs \$50

12/5  
[1915]

F O Popenoe  
RFD 2, Pasadena, California.

Dear Folks:

This morning we started the new regime, and I was given a stenographer to dictate legends which go on the Brazilian negatives. They have never been written up for the files and I am going to start in now and put data re each one on the negative jackets. The typewriting is hard work, however, so I asked for a stenographer, and got it. I will probably be able to hang onto him until I go away, but I don't suppose I will be able to get a great deal done beyond the negatives and a few other big jobs of that kind which I have on hand.

Paul and I passed the New Year's entrance without any undue excitement, and I was asleep when she came in. We got no invitation to dinner, so ate at the Philadelphia Oyster House, and Allen and I each had a big plate of raws, much to Paul's chagrin. It was a good dinner. In the afternoon we three and Fuller made up a line party in the gallery at the National to see a french operatta called Adele, which was strictly a winner. The music was fine and we enjoyed it immensely. Then after the matinee we went around to the YMCA, as it was open house, and after shaking hands with a few of our friends, went up to our room. Fuller didn't stay, but Paul and I and Allen dined off the California box and a gallon of Louis Browdy's best.

But this will be our big day. I suspect Paul's heart is going about 140 per minute already. At 4 pm we call for the adorable Katherine, not to mention the lovable Helen, and go with them to a The Darsent at the Congressional Club. Then after that is all over and smoke is cleared away, we go to a dance at Safford's at 9 pm. I think Paul finds a good deal of pleasure in stepping the light fantastic, given the right partner, and I cannot deny that I am not averse to it myself.

The last week has been very quiet, probably because evere was engaged at home with his own affairs, but things ought to liven up socially a good bit from now on. Paul has been bewailing the dullness of things considerably. He likes to have things come thick and fast, about 3 engagements an evening. Personally, I do not care for more than 3 or 4 a week, but maybe if I stayed here a while I would get to like the  
not more better

I have paid Paul a month's rent in advance, so if I go off before the end of January it will be my own funeral. Allen is dickering with Ma Stoner for the other empty room in the house, but hasn't come to terms yet. Allen never quite makes up his mind on anything. He lacks decision. That it probably one of the results of the college training. I think when he gets out once or twice and has to decide within a few minutes whether he is going to take today's train he will learn to decide more quickly, unless he always waits and takes tomorrow's.

Nothing more that I know of so Hasta luego.

Lovingly,

Will



1915 [1915]  
Thursday noon.

Last call! All sru! Too late!

Which I wish to remark that the morning mail brings me a last touching remembrance from my client in the form of a poem on Carissa, and some instructions to the effect that hereafter I shall kiss my sweetheart on the cheek. Now, how does he know that I have ever been kissing her anywhere else? My attorney assumes a good deal, I must say.

I am also the grateful recipient of a copy of the Boletim da Uniao PanAmericana, edicao Portuguesa, wh I will read tomorrow on board the SS Mascotte, to try to take my mind off the bad smells. I see my old friend Edmundo Arturo Belfort de Magalhaes has put some of Jaboticaba literature into Portuguese. He evidently recognizes good literature when he sees it. That Jaboticaba paper has been published abroad in two languages already. Hereafter I shall reserve all rights of translation when I publish anything.

Well, what do you think I ~~done~~ this morning? I'll tell you what I done. I finished up my packing about 10,-1 hr ago, and it being Thursday and therefore a legal half-holiday, the thought flashed into my mind: Why Not? So I stooped at 232 Miami Ave on my way in town to buy some ABA travelers cheques, and was met at the door by Thyra; wearing a big blue apron which extended from her scapulae to her metatarsi. Says I Can you and Will you? Says she Sure; Says I; Hist! At the accustomed hour and place, which the same means, in your language, the 1.30 bus from Collins office. Just then Ma Jeremiaassen walked in and raised an objection on the ground that Thyra had a sore throat, but I assured her that salt water was a specific for sore throats, and was always indicated unless contra indicated, so we overruled ma. Now I will go in to take my tiffin, and then we'll hie ourselves merrily away where the billows roll. I claim it was a real and genuine inspiration on my part to think of this.

But Lets be serious ( A pig,--). Attorney, I have about made up my mind that I shall send you some specimen fruits from Cuba/ as it is not a very long trip and they O "2 travel allright. Of course a great deal will depend upon what the postal rates prove to be. Since I paid \$2.36 on that Victrola I have felt muy pobre.

I have fully decided to have a Boy over in Cuba, to carry my camera and talk Spanish to me. I think I shall travel 2nd class on the trains, because in the 1st place it will make the money go fater and I will feel better able to afford a boy, and 2nd, I like to see the people (that ancient argument of all poor travelers) and to talk with them. Thirdly, if 2nd class is good enough for F S Earle it is good enough for me.

Well, here we go. Up anchors, out main and topsail!

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

Washington, D. C., Jan 4, 1915.

F O Popenoe,  
RFD 2, Pasadena,  
California.

Dear Folks:

Just a few lines before I begin work this Monday am. After writing you Saturday noon I recd MBP's long letter written on Christmas day, which of course was very welcome. We were glad our things reached you O T, as they say in RR parlance, and that most everything fit. One can never tell just what size to get, you know.

Well, you arter seen Paul and I tripping the light fantastic on Sat. Wow, it was a strenuous afternoon. We took a haircut and changed our clothes and arrived at Browne's about 4, to find Katherine just getting up from a nap. I guess the exertions of New Years had been almost too much for her. However, we got to the Congressional Club in ample time, and there was quite a crowd of young folks there, many of them pretty young, in fact Herb would have been right in it. There were plenty our age and older, however, but the girls only knew 3 or 4 so we didnt get widely acquainted at once. After things got to going we mixed up pretty well, however, and I lost track of our crowd for quite a while, but finally found them again. I didnt risk the fox trot, but got along OK in the one step and hesitation. Had a particularly swell time dancing with a young lady named Lamb, whom I met in the Paul Jones, - which name is applied to a dance wherein you take partners, dance until the whistle blows, and then exchange partners with the man nearest you, or words to that effect. We went home about 6, when the janitor came in and put out the lights, and had supper with the Brownes, afterwh Pa repeated his famous speech on the Hobson amendment, with addenda et emmenanda, not to mention elaborations and explanations, and then we came to 1527 to dress for the Safford's dance. Pa likes to talk politico. In fact, we arent very often given an opportunity to get in a word, when he gets going on some phase of national economy, and tells us what his constituents think about it. However, his ideas are pretty good, and I wouldnt mind listening to him under ordinary circumstances, but with four pairs of blue eyes like those, or rather two pairs, that is, four eyes in all, one gets noivous. In response to MBP's earnest requests I will say that I think DF would be satisfied with

the match, but I don't think Paul is going to be in any hurry to close up the deal. K is only 20, and is a freshman in college, so there is no hurry. You ask is she pretty? I reply, Can a duck swim? Now don't misunderstand me, she is no beauty, but is what you would call a very attractive girl, with eyes that simply surpass all comprehension. If you don't believe it, ask Paul. I ~~claim~~ <sup>think</sup> they are blue gray, Paul claims they are brown. Evidently someone is so far gone that he can't even see straight. I will submit my side of the case to an ~~impassioned~~ <sup>unimpassioned</sup> and uninterested jury. Ma Browne is a good manager, no doubt about that. She evidently runs things for Katherine, and so far has conducted the campaign entirely alone, but I think she is going to shift part of the responsibility onto K very soon. I think K felt a little bit uneasy at the dance Sat. I don't think she was used to striking out in a crowd on her own hook, with two young men to drag after her and introduce around. I like em better unsophisticated, anyway.

Helen is leaving tomorrow, and Paul (n.b., Paul) suggested that we send her a box of candy to take along so of course I empowered him to charge up half the cost to me, as he would have done it anyway, and just as well save any hard feeling by giving in to begin with.

Well, to leave such delicate subjects: we had a very pleasant time at the Saffords from 9.30 to about 12.30, these being the fashionable hours. There were about 20 couples there, I guess, including the Briggs and Kellermans of our bureau, not Miss A, but Karl, who is now asst Chief. I danced with the wife of each, and daughter of the former. It was a very enjoyable affair, and came off very well. I must say in justice to myself, however, that I am not yet a shining light in the social world. I am not exactly on to all the wrinkles yet, and don't always do the right thing at the right moment, but my intentions are good and I have an excellent master, and no doubt I will improve with age.

FOP, don't send any Passiflora fruits until after Feb 1st, if you haven't already done it, as DF leaves for Fla day after tomorrow.

Yesterday after church we went out to OF Cook's place, about 45 minutes ride on the Baltimore line. He has 3 kids, boy about 15 and girls about 13 and 8. Mrs Cook is something on the order of Mrs Franklin, high brow, but doesn't seem capable of much emotion, as Paul says, and if there is anything which is sincere non with Paul nowadays it is emotion and sentiment, tempered with romance. We had a mighty pleasant afternoon, however, and towards evening took a walk out in the woods, where we stumped OF on the names of several native trees, and learned the names of a few mosses. It is a good idea to meet these men in their own homes, one often gets quite a different idea from that obtained by meeting them in the OFs. Cook is very agreeable and friendly. He has about as good a sense of humor as anyone I know. His house is full of curios which he has brought from his various trips, and he has little Japanese gardens in small bowls all over, - ones that he has fixed up himself, with the use of a few mosses and an old scrap of wood covered with lichens. He has fine taste in such things, and he is a real lover of plants, as evidenced by the number of potted ~~and~~ palms and others growing in the house.

Paul and I have been figuring out what I will do down in Fla this winter. I will take my Sunday evening dinner at the Royal Palm, in full dress and opera hat, and hope to get in with a few of Mr F's friends so that I may occasionally be invited to something or somewhere. This season is the right one to be down there; when I have been there before there has been absolutely nothing doing, at all at all. I can see I would have to learn a lot about society if I stayed here with Paul; he dresses to the minute, and has plenty of savoir faire. Only wish I had half as much.

Say, I am sending Herb those two cravats I bought from Ibrahim ibn Abdelkader b. Muhammad bel Abdul Kareem, but he is only to wear them around the place and to scuff around in on Saturdays. They are not good enough for a Pope to wear in polite society.

Say! After reading MBP's letter and frank remarks about the proper kind of books to send to young ladies, Paul lit into me on the grounds that I would be sued by Pa Browne for bigamy, and I am just about ready to start annulment proceedings. You've got me scared, alright. No need to emphasize the thing again. I told you I wasn't onto all the wrinkles, didn't I? Hereafter I let my attorney run things entirely. However, I don't call that book horticultural, not by a goldurn sight.

But ma, don't worry about that thin ice business, and all that sort of thing. There is nothing to it, I tell you. Paul realizes his position in his lucid intervals, and will not go fast, I am convinced. He doesn't want to get in deep until he is better established in the world than he is now, and as for me, I don't stick to one girl more than 2 months, so what's the difference. No, I don't think Paul has been going out to Brownes when I was away, but I do think he will be a pretty regular caller there in the future, tho I don't suppose Ma will let him come more than one time a week. Yes, she is bright, MBP, and has a very sweet disposition, is a good manager (inherited character) and all that. In fact, I think she would make you a good daughter in law, on Paul's side, and I would sanction the affair. But don't come on as yet, -things are likely to go slow.

Enuf of this for once, and too much, but I thought you ought to know just how things stood.

Lovingly,

Will

Later:

Wow, but I am stung, STUNG. We have just decided that I will go down to Miami about the 14th of this month, and I went and paid Paul a full months rent in advance. I suppose there is no recourse, not even the law.

Just had a talk with DF, preparatory to his departure for Miami. And say, I wanner tell you, that DF is O K. I am to go down to Miami to "burrow", he says; wants to give me a chance to dig into the microscopical side of the work, and get a little more theoretical botany, and says it cant be done up here. I am to have a letter for 4 months, tho I may not be gone that long, and have included Cuba in it. I will collect a lot of material of mango flowers, etc, and preserve it in alcohol. Then I will either study it down there at Miami, or go up to Gainesville with Belling and study it there, where there are better facilities.

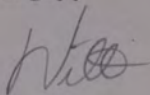
DF says he has been talking with Cook and Collins and they have about decided it may not be necessary for me to give up my work and go to Columbia to get my experience in systematic botany; they think maybe it can be arranged so that I can do the work right here in the Dept that is necessary to give me the training. DF said he thot it would be more desirable for me to put in this spring and summer on such sort of work than to go off to Surinam for some interesting citrus fruits which they want to get. You see he has my own interests at heart.

I will be sorry to leave old Paul, but I will have a nice quiet three months to study and hope to learn a whole lot. Then, there are worse places than Miami that a fellow might be in.

Recd fine letter from MBP this am. The enclosed Postcard was in it, and I return it to sender. Very sorry to hear about Mrs Oney.

Have been pounding this machine all day, finishing up the captioning of photos for my last summers trip report, so I want to quit and go over to the Herbarium and talk with Steels about mangos a little while.

Lovingly,



Miami, Jan 19 1915

Dear Talks:

Just in ret of letter from Paul, in wh he says he has once again put the room to rights. Now I am here to tell you that if it hadnt been for my efforts that room never would have been cleaned up; but the trouble with Paul is that he is never happy as long as any other persons belongings are visible. You neednt worry about that boy taking in a room mate; I am surprised that he tolerates my presence, even. We seem to get along together more than O.K., but no one else could fill either place.

I sent Paul a small consignment of my poetry last night. After D.F. has gone and I begin to get lonesome I will write some more. One never wants to wake the muse except when he feels lonesome and out of sorts. Then it sort of relieves his feelings.

By gosh, but this country is tropical alright. I've been sweating all day, and the nights are soft and balmy. This region is really a

part of the West Indies, as far as climate, soil & plants are concerned. I am looking forward to a mighty interesting stay here, tho' I fear I shan't have much society and have a pretty big job cut out for myself. Mr Fairchild began this morning to start me off on the mango work, and he had me on the jump until noon. When he gets started he makes things hum and keeps everyone around him on the move. He has laid out my work for me, and there is plenty to keep me busy. It is going to be fine training, - worth a year in college any time. I find the Green Tree has run their supper up to 75¢, however, & I guess I won't go of there than 2 or 3 times a week. One day a week, - probably Sunday, I am going to put on my dress suit & go to the Royal Palm, so I won't forget how to act in polite society - altho' I never really knew much about it, of course. I don't believe I am going to make very many congenial acquaintances here tho' of course one never makes many anywhere. I hope I can make one or two friends that I will want to visit now & then. Prof. Simpson is the only one I know from previous visits that I care to cultivate.

There are more fruits ripe here than I had anticipated, - papayas, pineapples, Citrus, sugar apples, and sabbaliba not to mention the coal

3

and refreshing coconut. I brought down my machete  
this time, and can cut them open with ease. I just  
drained I on coming back from town an hour ago.

I suppose Paul will fly high now that there is  
no one to hold him down. I will get my chance later.  
What I am doing now is worth a good deal more to me  
anyway. I suppose Katherine is happy with Paul  
all to herself.

We had dinner with Edward at us for yesterday, &  
Mr. Farshel set us up to broiled lobster and Chicken à  
la Maryland in town in the evening. I got my new  
galassane suit by mail today & am now wearing it.  
Surely is something swell.

I am going to get some more good fruit photos for  
my book while I am down here. I am beginning to  
get a collection on trop fruits which I think in 2 or  
3 yrs more will be for the best extant.

Mr. Dorsett expects to go in 2 or 3 days. Mr. F  
will probably be here 10 days yet.

Lovingly  
W. L. H.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

~~Washington, D. C.,~~

Miami, Jan. 21, 1915

Dear Talks:

Guess I am about due to write another letter. When my typewriter gets a new next week & the crowd has gone I will write more regularly. Rec'd a fine letter from JOP yesterday, which I will try to follow. Mr F has cut out a tough job for me here, but I am game to tackle it, and I will of course work in a lot of miscellaneous work on the side, such as photos and notes on fruits, all of which will come in handy. Think I am going to make a few agreeable friends here tho I dont know about young folks. I got a bike yesterday, and am now fixed to ride back & forth. I think I can make the post pay for the bike, but it may not go thru if it doesnt. I will sell it when I leave and stand for the loss.

Mr Dorsett leaves tonight. Mr Fairchild expects to expect stay for 4 or 5 days more. When I am alone I will have more time for reflection, and the writing of letters & poetry. The last 2 nights have been cold. - about 45 or 48. I had to put on all my coats & sleep in a sweater last night. That is, the coats were on top of the bed. I have a home made shower bath wh I will use freely as soon as it gets warm enough again. I am not going to bother with bathing or bathing while I am here

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

Washington, D. C.,

alone. I wouldn't wonder if some of the goat men might stop here on the lab with me from time to time. Later on when its ~~was~~ I'm going to buy a 1 qt ice cream freezer and make up some tropical fruit sherbet from time to time.

The hotels here are pretty high priced. Mr. F. & I took lunch at the Helicon today, which is second only to the Royal Palm, I paid \$1. Dinner there is \$1.50. I suppose it may be \$2 at the Royal Palm but I may have to go on Sunday evenings occasionally, just to get a chance to use my dress suit.

I regret to see that Paul has fallen down in his capacity as attorney. If Herb were a little older I think I would empower him to look after my interests in Calif. but I guess he wouldn't qualify. I don't know why Mr. Brown won't let her daughter dance with Paul. She ought to know he is a decent guy or I wouldn't have chosen him for an atty.

Lovingly  
Wilt.

Miami, le 22<sup>me</sup> janvier

[1915/1916?]

Bien chère mère:

Je viens de recevoir votre lettre de 16<sup>me</sup> et carte de 15<sup>me</sup>, et je prendrais un peu de temps pour répondre avant de retourner à mon travail de l'après-midi.

J'ai été très occupé les derniers 3 jours, ayant été ici un jeune entomologiste qui va à Jamaica pour être entomologiste du Gouvernement. Il vient de Glasgow, et je lui trouve très gentil et agréable. Aujourd'hui il est allé à Soldier's Key avec M. Seminole, et je reste

ici avec mes affaires. Demain j'irai  
avec lui aux pépinières de M. Cellier.  
Il va partir pour Cuba le mercredi,  
je crois. Nous avons dîné chez le Royal  
Palm vendredi soir, et hier chez Mme  
Simmonds hier soir nous avons  
allé au Royal Palm pour le concert,  
lequel j'ai trouvé superbe.

En ce qui concerne l'argent, le 25 cou-  
rant j'enverrai mon facture pour  
\$125.<sup>00</sup> au Bureau (la somme de mon  
billé de la Calif. à Washn, et l'argent  
que j'ai dépensé ici) et avec une demande  
que l'argent serait payé à Paul.  
Il doit le recevoir le 10<sup>me</sup> mars environ,  
et vous le enverra immédiatement.  
J'aurai besoin de mon \$125 du 1<sup>er</sup> mars  
ici, pour payer les diners au Royal  
Palm, etc, mais je crois que je  
pourrai vous envoyer \$50 le 15-mars,  
si vous l'avez besoin.

Dites à mon père que j'ai reçu  
les mandarins Clementine ce matin  
et les trouve excellent. Je vais  
donner un à M. Edouard Simmonds  
ce soir. Ils sont petits, mais d'un  
gout très parfumé et agréable, mélangé

que les mandaranes que j'ai  
mangé ici jusqu'à le présent.

Je ne suis pas sûr que vous  
aurez besoin d'une grande collec-  
tion d'avocados à Pine Lodge.  
Si vous avez seulement 2 ou 3  
variétés vous avez beaucoup  
plus ~~de~~ de plants d'une variété  
pour vendre, et il est plus facile  
de les vendre en quantité. Mais  
c'est votre affaire.

J'ai reçu une très-intéressante  
lettre de Carter ce matin, et  
j'espère lui répondre bientôt.  
Mais je suis désolé d'entendre  
que vous n'avez pas réussi  
le gâteau aux fruits.

Père à toujours trop de peur  
de ces choses.

Je suis bien content que mon  
poème sur l'appel des Tropiques  
vous a plait. C'était les  
verses que j'ai écrit pour  
envoyer à Mlle en retour  
pour les siens. Je n'ai pas  
le temps pour écrire des vers  
souvent, et il n'y a pas besoin  
pour trop de poésie. Ça ne  
fait fleurir les marguieres.  
Je suis sûr de celle qui elle n'a pas  
encore trouvé le temps pour  
être cliché, mais il faut  
de la patience, je suppose  
toujours de la patience.

J'attends une lettre de lui cette  
semaine. Usuellement elle attend  
une semaine environ, avant de répon-  
dre, qui est tout à fait, comme il  
faut.

Je mets une bouquet de fleurs  
à la japonaise sur mes table  
chaque matin; j'ai trouvée un  
magasin japonais ici et achete'  
un petit bowl et turtle pour  
55 sous.

Maintenant il me faut étudier  
un peu. à bientôt

Votre fils dévoué  
Witt

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

Washington, D. C.,  
Jan 6, 1915.

F O Popenoe,  
RFD 2, Pasadena,  
California.

Dear Folks:

I aint got nothing to tell, but Paul says write, so here goes.

D F leaves for Miami today, and I suspect inside a week I will hear from him as to when I am to go down. I rather suspect it will be by the end of January or slightly earlier. To tell the truth I would rather stay here until March, but business first, of course, and I will have plenty of time to enjoy Washington society later on when I am settled here and cant get away. Of course I would like to be here right now to back up Paul in his endeavors to win a home, but he doesnt require a great deal of backing. What he needs most right now is a little holding off, I should say.

Since my last letter we have heard Jagadis Chandra Bose, who talked at the Cosmos Club last night. He had a very interesting subject, the sensibilities of plants, and gave a very interesting illustrated lecture. Some of his conclusions seem a little bit strong for the meager data he makes them on, but no doubt he has made some important discoveries. He is typical of the Bengali babu, and it fairly brot the tears to our eyes to hear him talk in the Babu vernacular. ~~and~~ We could almost imagine we were back on Dhurramtollah or Bow Bazar again. Allen went with us, as also Anderson, the other new man, who I am getting to like better all the time. He is no great shakes as a scientist, and I doubt if he ever will be, but he is very well bred and a mighty pleasant chap. I think he will get along well in the Service. While coming away we met Mrs Peirchild, and she invited Paul and me out to Dr Bell's first Wed evening, wh is tonight, and of course we will go.

Dorsett has been feeling pretty seedy for a couple of weeks, having a bad cold himself, while most of the folks at home are sick. He has threatened to fire 2 or 3 fellows in the last 3 days. Bisset is about the only man here who never loses his temper. He is always the same, and a pretty cool, level headed fellow.

FOP, I got another letter from Bailey yesterday, asking me to handle several more subjects for him. If I had been in this strong at the beginning of the Cyclopaedia I could have had all the tropical fruits without doubt. As it is,



I have all of them that I want, and all those wh I feel competent to handle. Of course I would not wen t to do any with wh I was not familiar. D F is going to write mangosteen, but he has a sort of sentimental interest in the fruit, but left me to handle the whole subject of mangos. I also have Papaya, Sapodilla, and several others. Good business, that.

Glad to get the letter from Baker that you end in your last. I shall write him soon, and tell him that so long as Fairchild is here and wants me I would not consider a change. If F should leave, however, I would like mighty well to go out to the Philippines for 2 or 3 yrs, later on, but I suppose Katherine wouldnt stand for it, as Paul would say, when speaking of MY affairs. However, I like mighty well to have a few such openings in view, so if the time should come when I felt I ought to get out of here I would not be turned out on the cold cold world, but could feel that I could step into another good job at once.

Dont suppose I will be down at Miami more than 2 or 3 months.

Guess I better get to work now, I have plenty to do.

Lovingly,

Wilt

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

Washington, D. C.,

Miami, Jan 22 1915

Dear Falks:

The reason I am writing this is to ask FOP to send down Macmillans Handbook of Tropical Gardening, if you dont need it. It can come under frank, of course. I find I am shy of literature on tropical fruits. I am going to send to Washn for 100 manila folders, then label them, one for each of the fruits, and keep them to receive notes wh I may make while down here. I think I can work up quite a little material in the next 3 or 4 months outside the mango work - particularly cultural observations wh I will make first hand, & wh are more valuable than clipped or copied notes. There is a good deal to note here on the behavior of the fruits in this climate.

Tomorrow Mr F and I are going for an all days trip to Paradise Key, about 45 miles South, with Mr Deering in his Fiat. Deering is the man that gave us the land for our new garden - He is of the International Harvester Co, Chicago. Perhaps the Bartons know them.

Mr F is not very strong yet and gets pretty tired. He is going to leave day after tomorrow - Sunday -

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

Washington, D. C.,

I took 4 photos today of some interesting fruits going to hammer away. I'm beginning to get a nice coll'n of photos.

Rec'd a nice letter from Mrs F S Earle today urging me to come over to Cuba. I want to go for some time yet, if I go at all.

I'm going to be very comfortable here I will get off cheaper than in Washington, tho I expect my living will cost me about \$40 a month.

We are eating Guatemalan avocados now, the first one of the season. They are going to ripen here 6 weeks to 2 months earlier than in Cal. We have 3 or 4 seedlings in bearing this yr. I think So Fla is going wild over Guatemalans because they ripen during the season when the tourists are here and will bring high prices. Collins of Miami tried to get Cullen to propagate several thousand for him to plant out but Cullen couldn't handle so many this yr.

Mr F and I have had Indian Curry 3 times in the last 2 days. We make it right here. I have to do all the dishwashing! Lovingly  
L. W. Sitt

Miami, Fla., Jan. 28, 1915. Thurs.

Dear Folks:

I have now entirely recovered from the first pangs of grief incident to being torn away from the Jardin de danse, deprived of the services of an attorney, and left alone here in the laboratory, and feel entirely resigned to my fate. There is just one thing I wont stand for, however, that being scullionry and cooking more than once a day or twice ~~if~~ in an emergency, so I have got a victory over the thing and am going to get dinner and supper intown. I tried getting dinner out here a couple of days and almost got sick for my pains, but I have found a slick place to eat at noon, and the Green Tree has celebrated my arrival by dropping back to its old price of 50 ¢ for dinner at night, so you see everything is just lovely.  $\frac{1}{4}$  was kinder lonesome the first day or two after Mr F left, but I now feel pretty well satisfied with the world, altho the postal service isnt working quite as well as it might.

And I have made another discovery: it pays to eat at the Ryal Palm (as Mrs Ed calls it) even at \$2 per meal. The indigenes see your name in the list of new arrivals published in the Herald or Metrop~~olis~~, and you automatically rise just about 100% in their estimation. Guess I will have to go every week or two.

This is a sample of the work done by this machine. It works allright when I dont go too fast, but then it arter, costing me \$3 a month rental. I had to have a machine

at any price; Bisset wrote that the one I had up at the Ofc and wrote to have sent down here was in use, so I immediately went and hired one, without authority being duly granted by the great and good Govt, and I suppose they may get even by making me pay for it myself, but it will not be without carrying the case to the supreme court.

I think <sup>1</sup> am going to get along fine with Mrs Ed and Ed,-the latter anybody can get along with. I went over and made a call last night, just to show them there was no hard feeling, and took over a can of litchis for them to sample, having bot said can from the genial and gentlemanly proprietor of the Canton Café.

I am going to have a fine opportunity to study here,- in fact I wont have much of an opportunity to do anything else. I dont think there is going to be any chance to trip the light fantastic, and it appears that all the shows which venture this far south are pretty weak. I have just come from hearing the big free concert of J A Coburn's Progressive Minstrels, and have concluded that the world's champeen trombone player missed his calling. I wont go to the show tonight.

This morning I got on a big spasm of housecleaning, and put everything in apple pie order, which it never has been before within my knowledge. Now I am going to keep it so. You watch me. I find Mrs Ed is a very keen observer of one's dress and habits, and tells me all about what the last man wore, and how dirty he kept his kitchen, so I am going to try to forestall her. I know David Bisset's weak points, allright, allright. However, I must say the

more I see of the madam the more I feel that after all she hasnt really a mean spirit, and is not vituperative, but merely has that womanly failing of liking to peddle small talk.

Been getting an awful lot of rain the last 3 days. I hope it will quit soon. The mangos in the garden are not in bloom now, and only a few of the seedlings around the country, so I ought to get out and around more than I am doing. However, all I have to do is to bring in the flowers and then put them under the microscope here . I suspect later on I will have to spend half of each day, or maybe more, at the microscope. I try to get out early, so as to make a good impression. Mrs Ed tells how McMurran, who studied mango blight here, went out in his bath robe for the newspaper at 8am and then went down to bkfst at nine. I usually have finished bkfst and cleaned up and am over in the garden to make the morning rounds by 7 o'clock when the men come to work. I want to keep that up, too. Evenings I have been turning in pretty early. The muse has refused to be awakened recently, and I havent been able to sit in bed writing poetry like Paul does at 1527. However, I am in receipt of two slanderous and insinuating verses from him which will require an answer likewise in verse, so I will have to get busy.

Green coconuts are holding up well. Glad I brot down my machete.

Mrs Ed knows already just how many suits and different ties I have, tho I havent sprung the full dress on her. She is a connoisseur, tho she cant practice much on Ed.

Lovingly,

Wilt

1915

Miami, Friday eve, Jany 29th.

[1915]

Dear Folks:

I have struck the nearest approach to the Cornell Girls which was ever <sup>seen</sup> ~~since~~ south of the District line. In fact, I have beaten the Green Tree Inn at its own game, and I guess Mrs Forsell will have to get along without my company most of the time from now on. I'll tell you how it was: I ate at the Green Tree the other night, and the crowd was pretty big and pretty bourgeois, -just about the kind you meet on the Balloon Route Excursion, superannuated coal dealers from Oshkosh and hardware merchants from Kalamazoo. Therefore, I struck out tonight on a new tack, and picked a winner. Douglass' is the place, the biggest dry goods store in this city, wh has an Italian garden where they serve all three meals. Well sir, they do put up a good feed there, and it wont cost me over 40 cents a shot, either. I only made one misstep: after I had been at the table tonight about 5 mins a lady came in and sat down and immediately began to tell me that she always came here at quarter of six, and always took the same table, because Jenny was such a nice girl, arent you Jenny, and Mrs Collier who runs the place is a domestic science graduate, and Jenny is a college girl herself, and are you a tourist, and isnt it fine to be in the Govt service, I had a nephew I wanted to put in the Govt service, etc etc. Hereafter I go at 6.15, -you watch me.

I put in a long day reading today, all morning on botany and this pm on the geology of south Fla. Tomorrow

morning Ed and I are going up the road 5 mi/ to see a Papaya grove. There wont be a great <sup>deal</sup> doing with the mangos for the next two weeks, but in the meantime I am going to outline a campaign and read up all I can. I never have reached a point before where I felt I knew so little as I do now. You see I am dabbling in theoretical botany, and morphology and all ~~that~~ sort of stuff, and heretofore I have stuck to just common horticulture. This branch of the art is a good thing for experience, and one ought to have a thoro grounding on all sides, but you can bet it is horticulture for me as a career and not systematic botany. People like a good deal better to know how a fruit tastes than to know whether it is drupaceous or pedicellate. But I never could get time in Washn ~~to~~ do the reading and studying I felt I ought to do, and I think for the next 5 or 6 months I am going to have ample time for it. The only thing is, I cant stick at reading all evening after I have been at it most of the day. However, I suspect when I get into the mango work I will be out doors a good deal, and will be able to read evenings and enjoy it. Of course I will have to put in part of the time ~~reading~~ writing poetry, just to please Paul.

Ed came over to see me last night, and swe thrashed out several problems of vital importance to subtropical horticulture. Ed is alright, and I am going to get along with the madam first rate, too; I can feel it in my bones.

I am invited out to dinner Sunday, with a young fellow who has charge of Deering's grounds. Guess he isnt any older than I am.

Enough for this time, but I might just as well write

and line pretty often.

Lovingly  
Wilt



Miami, Sunday Jan. 31, 1915 .

Dear Folks:

Here we are in the midst of one of those tropical evenings, the kind I love: the air just balmy enough to be an elixir of life, and the tropical moon such as tropical moons can only be. All it lacks is Eugenia,--Ah! say no more. Still, I manage to get along pretty well at Bachelor's Hall, and have no desire to make a change or take in a partner.

To return to the order of the day: I arose at 7.30, made my cocoa and toast, togged out in my best, and went in to the Royal Palm and bought a morning Herald, wh I read on the veranda of said Royal Palm and sat there until church time. During this period I kept a careful watch over the door, for scientific purposes only, and failed to register one pretty girl among the whole bunch. But I enjoy sitting on the Royal Palm's veranda, anyway, even if there arent any pretty girls around; it makes me feel as tho I was somebody, and that is a pleasant feeling to have, deieving tho it may be.

I attended church, and then took a bite of lunch in town, after wh I came out to the lab, and invited Mr and Mrs Ed over to see me, wh they did, and we talked until 4 p.m. when I left to go in town and dine with young Sturrock et uxor, who invited me for 5 p.m. dinner. They set up a good generous feed, with 1/2 broiled spring chicken apiece, and I made out well. Stayed there until 7.30 p.m. and then excused myself on the score that I had to come home and write to you. And here I am.

I only wish my ma could have saw me as I strutted down the avenue this morning, with one \$30 Matheson suit, one 6 milreis Rio de Janeiro white vest, with black pin stripe, strictly high life, marca One-Step, and a walking stick in my hand. My, but I cut a wide swath and made the native girls open their eyes. I am afraid Paul has made a blbomin aristocrat out of me, but he has only himself to blame.

I took especial pains to see that my house was in good order when Mrs Ed came over, and she noted the bouquet of roses on my table first thing. She has a keen eye for details, which isnt so bad a thing to have, either.

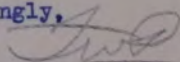
What I want to know is, why doesnt my attorney tend up better, and look after my interests in Washington. Here is a whole week gone by, and no word from him regarding his charge. However, ma, I am afraid he is a bit foxy and sees that too much talk may arouse your suspicions. I'll bet he has had her down to the Jardin de Danse at least twice since I left.

Had a terrible fright this morning. Was walking up the strand, and approached a very attractive young lady walking with her father. As I got near my hat started to blow off and I grabbed it to shove it on again. Young lady thot I was going to salute her, so said "Good morning" very cordially. "Good morning" I renigged, with me best Beau Brummel air. Finis.

This is the Life. Think I am glad I came to Florida after all. Think I may venture over to Finney's Casino some evening before long, just to size it up in case I ever want to take a friend there, which I probably wont.

All quiet along the Miami river.

Lovingly,

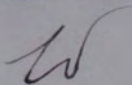


Monday morning:

FOP, thanks for the proceedings of the Nurserymens Assn, and the other papers and sheets from catalogs wh you sent, and all of wh were very interesting to me. <sup>^</sup> wonder who in thunder tied me up with your article in the Rural Press. I had nothing to do with the thing, as you well know, but I suppose somebody up there at Berkeley didnt know one of us from the other and just that he would put down both names so as to have the right one sure.

Pretty warm and humid here today, with strong trade winds blowing, as they do a good deal of the time. Just going in town to get my loonch. Been at the microscope all morning, that is up to now, same being 11 o'clock. People down here begin at 7 in the morning and take their noon hour from 11 to 12, so I try to follow the same system. Mrs Ed kicks because David Bisset insisted on keeping Washington hrs down here, and didnt come over to the garden until 9, when work begins at 7. Darned if I blame her much for kicking, either.

Su seguro servidor



Miami, Fla., Feb 2, 1915.

Dear Folks:

What do you think of an attorneye who writes to ask for <sup>my</sup> calling cards to put in a bouquet of flowers he is going to send his girl on Valentine day? Sacre nom d'un pipe! I suppose it is the only way he can satisfy his conscience for charging up the expense of the bouquet to his client. However, attorneys have no business with consciences.

Well, it is all up with me. Honorable Joseph Hickson came in last night and invited us all for a boat ride. I went along, unsuspectingly, and found it was a big double decker with a crowd of about 30 young folks on board, and dancing on the upper deck. I laid back on the oars and tore up the sod (Mixed metaphor) until 11.30 p.m. when we came ashore. Most of the young folks were of High School age, and some of the girls danced like the Belgians fight, just as tho they meant it, but I got along fairly well. However, I must confess to a certain inability to dance gracefully and perfectly as yet. Hickson's two daughters led the fray, and of course I didnt get away without making a date for a call, and they intimated pretty strongly that I ought to come over to the Casino on Thursday evenings when they all go over to dance. I may invite one of them next week and have a try at it. The youngest girl, Amy, has a steady, but Dorothy, 21, does not seem to have, so I will probably have to confine my attentions to her. They are both nice girls, probably as good as one will find in Miami. This will give me a chance to let off

steam once in a while, when I find my emotions badly in need of expression. However, I have about given up writing poetry. Its too hard work, and I figure the time is better put in on German. By the way, there was a little 10 yr old Belgienne refugee on the boat last night, whom the Hicksons brought, and I talked French to her all evening. She was tout a fait folle over the dance, and made me One Step with her four or five times. My French is punk, and needs practice. Wish I could get more of it.

Got a letter from Dorsett today, in which he puts it up to me strong to make good on this mango job. Says I've got to wrok and study like thunder, and not underestimate the job or overestimate my own experience or observations. Guess he's afraid Shamel's training may have made me overconfident. I'm up against a hard problem, alright, but I'm not going to think about that side of it very much. My time will be put in to better advantage on something else.

Mrs Ed threatens to take me in to a Catholic dance tomorrow evening, but I'm going to squeeze out of it. I shant allow myself more than one or at most two nighst a week away from the laboratory,-just enough to keep me from getting lonesome, and as aforesaid give expression to mymemotions. My old mahster says that the latter is very important, and whatever my old mahster says passes for fact with me.

Ed and I went up to see Cellon today. He took 3 hrs to tell us what dirt the Dept had slipped over on him, and how the Govt funds were all wasted. However, he wants me to tell FOP that he has to change that name California Trapp, as it is misleading, and taking unfair advantage of the

Trapp's reputation. Says if you dont change it he will before he disseminates the variety down here. George B is about as eccentric as they make em, but if the only thing that can injure your feelings is a steam roller running over you, you are pretty liable to get along allright with him. Ed and I both do. By the way, Pa, better address me in care of EDWARD and not Ed Simmonds, as the madame doesnt think it is dignified to be called Ed. However, better still to leave it off entirely, and just say U S Plant Introduction Station.

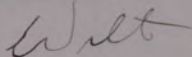
Cellon also wanted me to ask FOP not to fail to send him the sample avocado fruits for which he has deposited money with you. He is very anxious to try some of the California varieties. The only one he has sampled Taft, and he says that is strictly up to the standard, and when Goe B says that you can feel assured that a thing is OK and is going to make its way.

Paul, do you think Maude Kellerman would appreciate a case of asstd Citrus fruits, in token of esteem and reimbursement for the botanical information? That is about all there is in this country at this season. Our garden is quarantined, and we cant send out any avocados from it. What else might I do for her. I think we ought to do something. Say something, as the auctioneer puts it. No, dont hurry to send down MUnsterberg, I havent digested the other Psychology yet.

No more do I need to echo Daudet's sentiments,-

Ah! Washington, Washington! Toujours Washington!

Affectissimo



Miami, Feb. 5, 1915.

Dear Folks:

Havent time to write much, but will take a few lines in town to the PO when I go in to lunch. First of all I must acknowledge the laundry wh you sent and wh was recd some time ago, but which I have always forgotten when I was writing; second, Macmillan's book, wh arrived yesterday. Thanks.

MBP, I wish you would write to me in French often; It is good practice and I need it. Whenever I can get time I will reply na mesma forma, but it takes more time for me write a letter in french than one in English, tho I should blush to say it. I am studying German now, de ves en quando, and want to learn enough while I am down here so I can read botanical works. Think I will be able to do it. Then I will only have Italian left to complete my working knowledge of European languages. I must have them all to be able to work to best advantage.

Going out to call on Pa Hickson et filia, especially the filia, tonight. Wrote some poetry night before last, and think I may not be able to give it up after all; too good practice, and then I cant afford to let Paul get ahead of me in everything. I am finding darn little time for reading or anything else of that sort, tho it doesnt seem to me I get much done. The acquisition of knowledge is a very slow process. You can sign that with my name.

Ma Simmonds says the Catholic dance was fine, but glad I didnt go, as I got more done at home.

Ma, you ask when I am going to come to Calif: If this cruel war is over by fall and I make arrangements to go abroad the first of next yr, I will take my month annual leave at the end of the yr and come home for the holidays. If the war is not over I will probably wait until a year from the coming spring or summer, in the hope of getting a trip at Govt expense. Ça fait beaucoup de difference. I think likely the war will finish by the end of the yr and I will get to go to India.

Glad you are putting some improvements on the place. It is going to be a fine little home. Keep the garden in nice shape, and send the bills to me. By the way, when my insurance notice comes this month, fwā it to me here.

If I had a little money I wanted to invest and didnt know what I wanted to do with it I think I would buy an acre or two up near our garden, and plant it with coconuts and tropical trees, so some day I could build a winter home on it. I begin to think I would rather live here winters than in Calif, not because of the climate, or bayne climate, but because of the fact that this is the Tropics, and Calif isnt. I like to be among real tropical plants, and we have them here. It is as West Indian in character as possible, except the population.

I think I am getting fat on Mrs Swift's grub. Will weigh in before long. Just had a call from another Govt man who has come down for a few weeks, from Corbett's Ofc; I will see him at the Green Tree once in a while. All the Govt men stop there, and I will have to go occasionally so as to get acquainted. but I prefer Douglas meals.



Later: FOP:

Just recd yours of 30th. I am going to send for a copy of Indian Yr Book right away, as there is another book I want to order anyway.

I will get Collins name when I go intown and enclose it in this. Maybe you can do some business with him, but you will have to come down low on price, as I think Cellon is going to grow budded avocados on contract at about \$1 each, or not more than \$1.50. He sells T<sup>app</sup> 12 to 18 ins high at 90 c, larger at 1.20. This matter pf price is going to be a stumbling block to you down here, I am afraid. I do not believe I would use Bisset's name in writing anyone, unless Bisset has spoken to you of the party, as the Govt guys are awful touchy about such things, you know. And I would not want Cellon to know that I had told you to write Collins, as he might complain to the Dept, like Quinn did, and such things make us a lot of trouble. That is one of the bad sides of the Govt service.

You can frank anything to me down here that has any connection with my official work. Some folks are too touchy about that business; as long as it is to be used in work which bears on trop frts there is no excuse for not farnking a thing.

I have already begun to file photos, one copy of everything I take down here, in my new set of filing covers, and am going to build the thing up. I will getyou a photo of a good avocado grove at the first opportunity.

FWP

Feb 6 [1915/1916]

Dear Folks:

I'll add a few lines while Paul is writing you on my typewriter.

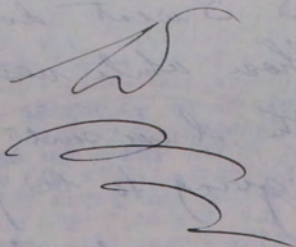
About 10 this morning Maeth's sweet voice announced that there was a box for me down stairs, and I went down to find your big chgmt. Those white nests look fine. I have taken the dress suit to my tailor; he says it isn't going to be perfect but he thinks he can make it over so it will fit me fairly well. Glad to have the separates, gun, et al. I didn't know you had attended to so much correspondence on my behalf. Lots of work for you. I enclose check for charges on this pkg.

Proo à paco I am getting along with my Athyco paper.

Mrs Safford invited us this morning to a dance next Tues eve at Wald Park Seminary where her niece is. Last night we danced at Congressional Club with the Browns. Met some good numbers. Kitty dances

pretty well, but she certainly is as disinter-  
ested as any girl I ever saw. Little  
Martha doesn't act that-away.

Still having a big time. Hoping you  
are the same

A large, stylized handwritten flourish or signature consisting of several sweeping, interconnected loops and curves.

1913  
Miami, Feb 12. Friday.

Dear Folks:

Got a letter from MBP day before yesterday dated Jan 10. Dont known where it has been in the interim. However, letters are always welcome, no matter how old they are. I forgot to look at the postmark on the envelop before I burnt same up; Wilsonian legend, Paul will remark.

All quiet along the Miami. Got a card from MBP this am and letter from FOP from Santa Barbara. I was surely tickled to hear of the big sale that FOP had made up there. \$525 at a whack is a whole lot better than selling a whole bunch of small orders, each of wh has to be packed and hauled to the depot separately. FOP, what you want to aim at is just that sort of biz, sell to folks who are planting orchards, and then when you make a clean-up you make a big one. It makes me wish I was out there with you to look after the growing end of the biz. I believe with you to sell and me to grow ~~the~~ stuff and help you hold down the Fruit Grower's Conventions and horticultural periodicals we could build up some business. However, it is awful handy when business is dull to be sure of your salary, so guess I better stick where I am for the present. But you ought to have a real horticulturist there at the nursery. The dickens of it is, there seem to be none, when it comes to trop frts.

Rode down to Larkin, about 10 m, with Hon Geo B Cellon et uxor day before yesterday. I think Geo had decided he allowed himself to get a little excited the day before, and talked very nice to me this time. Even told me I could made \$500,000 count them dolla~~ts~~ out of the trop frt business if I would only throw up the Govt service/ <sup>He</sup> cants see much in the Govt. Of course it gave me an opportunity to tell him that I didnt care a one cent piece for the money in the business, that what I was after was knowledge, etc, and that seemed to impress him properly.

We are having beastly weather for mangos, cool and rainy, and there is no sign of bloom. I certainly hope it will come on later. Van Hermann writes that there will probably be bloom in Cuba during March. If we dont get any here I will have to go over there, but I think we will get a crop next month. I have been working on my mango paper for Bailey this morning. I am going to try to finish up all my work for him while I am down in Fla this yr, then if I go abroad for 18 mos I wont miss anything.

I send FOP two photos in old Bliss avocado grove by this mail. I've been trying to use up some old films and some of them are spotted, as are these; I got mad yesterday and threw away the remaining 4 packs of same stock. I cant afford to waste my vallyble time that way.

MBP, I'm glad you write your postcards in French, for

several reasons. Keep it up. While I wouldnt accuse anybody of anything, Mrs Ed likes to know about everybody's affairs awful well. However, she seems to have nothing against me as yet, as she even went so far as to express a wish that I could be in chg of the garden while Ed goes to Calif in April and May, but it is out of the question. I wouldnt want to give up the time for the routine work now anyway, and I know the Ofs wouldnt stand for it either.

Took dinner at the Green Tree with Shepherd last night. Had a very substantial meal, tho not very well prepared. It has gone down. Douglass' stills holds up well, however, and as all the pretty girls in Miami congregate there at noon, I shall probably be able to continue going there and enjoying it. Shepherd and I sat around the Halcyon last evening until 8, when I cam home and played over my repertoire on the Victrola and went to bed. My eyes get tired when I work indoors all day, and I havent the inclination to read in the evening, notwithstanding all the good literature I have which ought to be read.

11 oclock has blown, so I will get ready and go in town. Bot a can of litchis, one of water chestnuts and one of bamboox sprouts from my Chinese friend yesterday, and now I will know all about the Chinese canning business. I asked him to get me a can of carambolas in his next shipmt from N Y. He thinks I am a great boy, because I like his heathen fodder.

Lovingly,

Wilt

Cellon is going to sell guatemalan avocados at \$1.50 each, whether 1 or 1000.

Miami, Sat. Feb 13, 1915.

Dear Folks:

The latest monographer of the genus *Lansium* dined off creamed bamboo sprouts last night, drawing in plenty of air with a porcine-like noise at the same time, so as to create as celestial an atmosphere as possible and make the scene realistic. I cant say as the sprouts were anything to write home about, tho they were very palatable, and about as good as ordinary asparagus. The man who told me that bamboo sprouts were as far ahead of asparagus as asparagus is ahead of baled hay, however, put it on too thick.

I have a bill against the editor of the Journal of Heredity, or, proprement dit, Red-Headity, for the sum of 7f50 for the use of my Baghdad costume. You know the wear on those delicate fabrics is something fierce, and I cant afford to have you ~~wash~~ wear out that excellent garment while I am down here struggling with science. Besides, I want the money so I can take Dot down to the Ryal Palm to the dance next Sat night. I dont know yet whether I will be able to wait until two weeks from Sat before I dance again or not, but I am going to stand it off as long as possible.

Just recd a note saying I can claim \$72 refund for the Ry ticket I bot coming back from Calif; this only makes me out \$3, wh almost takes my breath away. I'll put in the claim along with my expense act the end of this month.

Going to take Ed and Mary in town to the movies tonight, then in the morning I am going to church with Shepherd and to the Ryal Palm with ham in the evening. You see I am all booked up 36hrs in advance.

PP: Ma Stoner is certainly peeved at our laundress, aint it? When you go to the Ofs again ask Howell if it will be necessary to disturb the stuff in the drawers of my desk, and if so, pls see that it gets put away somewhere. Also find out if my copy of Hortus Fluminensis has come back from the bindery yet, and is in my bookcase. Ask Howell about it. I simply want to make sure it is safe. They aint no nice girls here, no use looking for them. I've done been to one church bazat, and found none, but will try again when the opportunity arises. Glad Dunlap has got an appintment in the Consular service. Let me know when you learn where he goes. When Suzuki comes to town, get a few cigars for me and have them put on his bill.

Douglas' has added buttermilk to the menu, and that with strawberry shortcake and fish makes a royal trio indeed. Think I'll have to catchem small piece litchi when I go in town again, however; they slide down finely.

Siempre,

*With*

Miami, Thursday Feb 18. [1915]

Dear Folks:

Nothing very exciting to Chronicle today, except that Shepherd and I strolled over to the Ryal Pam after 50 c dinner at the Green Tree last night, and stayed to see the dancing until 10.30. It was pretty good, but I must say the folks at the Palm arent much on dress, that is, the male part of the population. Practically everybody wore Tux, and quite a few tweeds; there were several Miamians there, who like ourselves, had come to enjoy the fun, and one of them wore a full dress suit with a black tie, and danced like he had the locomotor ataxia. The dancing was not on the whole very excellent, and I would willingly take my chances in the crowd, -perhaps will, some night next week. This Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde business is OK; eating at the Green Tree among the low brows, and then getting over to the Palm where I can sit among a few of my equals, without it costing me a one cent piece. Most of the folks at the Palm are brewers and dealers in plumbers supplies, et id omne genus; one fat dub last night, in talking to me, said "what do you call it when people clap to call back an actor" I told him it was "encore".

FOP, I regret to state that the avocado budwood got here in pretty poor shape. It had shrivelled badly somewhere on the way. As it was opened and repacked at Washn I cant say just where the trouble lies, but it got here good and moist and I suspect it must have shrivelled between Calif and Washn.

Got a good letter from MBP yesterday, wh I will try to answer in a day or two/ Shall stay home this evening, and get in a little german and geology. On the whole, they are better assets than the terpsichorean art.

MBP, I didnt send anybody any valentines, as those which I saw here had sentiments entirely too tender and affectionate to suit my taste, and I hadnt time, unfortunately, to compose one of my own, wh I would like to have done. Nothing like being original, you know, and I have opositive proof that poetry runs in the ~~family~~ Popenoe germ plasm, vide Herb's latest outburst. Herb, why dont you head your next one MEN WANTED, like the Recruiting Station signs.

Must run int to Douglass for lunch now.

Lovingly,

Walt

Miami, Sat Feb 20 1915.

Dear Folks:

Things have been coming thick and fast since I last wrote, -a little too fast for the best interests of my work. Yesterday morning Dred and Mrs Small of the N Y Botanic Garden arrived, and are to use one room of the lab as a work room, and will probably get their lunches in my kitchen and use my sitting room for general purposes. The Dr has been down here about 15 yrs collecting plants, coming down for a month or two every winter when there are no mosquitos, and for the last 7 or 8 they have used the lab every winter, nobody else being here. I am afraid their presence will slightly disturb my peace of mind but they will be out collecting a good deal, and I will soon get used to having them around. On the whole I guess it will work out allright.

Then yesterday afternoon A H Ritchie, late of Glasgow and Edinboro, arrived on his way to Jamaica, where he becomes the Colonial Entomologist of H I M govt; he has been in this country 18 months on a Carnegie traveling scholarship. He was directed to Simmonds, but the latter turned him over to me yesterday pm, and we had a good talk, following wh I took him to the Ryal Palm for dinner, and then we went to the movies. He is coming out this morning and I will steer him around today, as Edward and Mrs are going down the line 48 miles with the Small's in the Deering car. Probably I will stay with him tomorrow, and then I will have to return him to Ed and get back to work, tho I will see him evenings, etc, until he leaves Wed. He is a fine young chap, about 30 I should say, praps 27.

Recd several good letters from PP and Pasadena yesterday. FOP, I think in your letters to folks here re avocados you should play up the season more, as that is the important point; these Floridians wont admit that the gaudetamalms are better in quality than the Florida types, but they do like the idea of having avocados in February, and that is the point to work on. Sorry to hear about the Challanage; you see it is still a good deal of a gamble as to the best var, but I sure feel sorry for the folks that are planting Harman. Glad you have sent DF the passiflora fruits. Think he will be much interested. No, I shant break the monotony of life here by many trips around; dont think I shall leave here at all before the last of April, tho I may run up to Palm Beach for a day with Shepherd next week, just to get a free meal at the Royal Ponciana, govt paying the bill.

Have just been over talking with Ed about entertaining Ritchie. We had it all arranged when Mrs butted in. The trouble with her is that she cant mind her own business. She absolutely dictates to poor Ed. Kind Providence deliver me from such a liberal helpmeet.

Yes, Ma, build the fireplace, by all means. What do we care for expenses, -we have lots of them (signed Dr Ryerson)

P T O



PP, you made a vital mistake in sending down that letter from Sister (my sister) as you should have deposited it in the strong box to use as evidence when I sue you for alienation of affections, as I certainly shall. I see you have got her to calling you Paul, and dropped the Mr part. Bully for you. Pls tell me how to sign the hotel register when you take a young lady for dinner, - WP and guest, or what? Send bill with opinion. I am short of paper to start my morning fire with.

Dock's pas ionate appeal for funds to build a cabin read, and contents noted. We will see what we will see. FOP: glad you offerred Hall of San Diego a tree. He is OK.

Well, its 7.30. I must get tow rok, as Ritchie will be out soon. Very little mango bloom bhdwing yet, but I have more than enough to keep me busy with various kinds of work. I would like to have gone to the dawnee at the Ryal Pam tonight, but guess I will have to wait another week.

Lovingly,

Wilt

Feb 25 1915.

Dear Folks:

In talking with Mrs Small I have just learned that our esteemed friend George Forbes, who took French leave of us in Pasadena, may be a 1/2 nephew of Dr Small, and when the Dr comes back tonight I will verify the thing and get particulars of George's whereabouts, so Paul can send him a bill for \$7. Mrs S says Dr's sister (1/2) married a man named Forbes who was a Civil war vet and went to India to plant tea, and that his son Geo has been traveling in this country for some time, so I think I have a clear case.

FOP, when I opened the box and saw "Things Seen in Northern India", why By George I went right up in the air, and says I to myself, By Jove, I am going to like that book, and the first two chapters wh I read in bed last night fully confirmed the opinion. Only it gives me the old wanderlust most horribly, and I can hear the Call of the East right in my ear. Wow! But it is allright.

Recd fine letters from you folks yesterday and one from my atty this am, with a legal opinion for which he wants \$4. However, I should like to add that it ought to be \$5, PP, but I will discount the \$1.

Ritchie, my Scotch friend, is still here, but is not with me today, and I am working on the mangos, when I can get away from Ma Simmonds. I just went f r my mail and got some further particulars on the shortcomings of the Fairchilds, Smalls, and Hugo de Varies, whom Mrs S always calls "old Hugo". However, I get along with Mrs S finely, and really dont mind her at all. I am quite happy here, and now that I see a few mango blooms making their appearance I am going to have plenty to do. Yesterday I copied off my mango article for Bailey, as he wants it next week, and my fingers ate so sore this morning I can hardly touch the machine. I have 24 pp of MS, and it is the latest and last word on mango culture. I have neglected to include the tow and turpentine joke, however, altho I have added a translation of Jumellè's remark "There are those who do not like the mango because it smells of turpentine, an there are others who come to like turpentine because it reminds them of the mango" or words to that effect.

Ritchie has been going thru my literature and notesto post up on trop frats, so he can give Harris pointers when he get& down to Jamaica. Reminds me of the way I went thru Hartless stuff at Saharanpur. I am glad to be able to retun the compliment to one of his colleagues, poor fellow (As Amos always has it)

MBP, just you calm your fears about Dot. There is nothing didding. My attorney renders a verdict in favor of the plaintiff. The fact is, I havent seen her, except to say good morning at Church last Sunday, since 10 days ago, and I probably shall not see her again until I invite her to the Ryal Pam about a week from Sat night. The exchequer is too low to permit of my going this we k, but by next Wed or Sat the March 1st salary will be in the Benk. As I told you before, she isnt the exact sort of a girl I would fall in love with anyway. In the words of my erstwhile friend, Julian Valdez y Hernandez, you pull him out of your head.

Yes, Ma, I am coming home next fall if it takes a leg. I feel obliged to coach Herb in this poetry biz so he will put more sentiment in it. Herb, poetry without sentiment is like ham without eggs. It cant be did. Youve got to have more moonlight, and balmy breezes, and tender sighing, and ruby lips, and golden tresses, and sparkling eyes, and crystal waters et id omne genus. However, I must say I am inordinately proud (whatever that is) of Yarb's poetry and the start he is making on the Chronicle, and I predict before the end of the yr he will be right up next the Ed in Chief. Herb, if you dont land a good job on that paper next yr it will be because our civilization is a failure and the caucasian race is played out.

However, I have it on good authority that Sonny Barton, nee Crampton, took Herb for 6 yrs old. How about, it yHerb.

Paul, my boy, I may be rusting away in innocuous desuetude down here, but I am learning more about mangos than I would be if I tripped the light fantastic at the Palm twice a week, so just forget the latter. Think of yourself, Sir, in addition, having to pay the bills.

Mrs S confided to me this am (strictly sub.rosa) "Really, Mr Popenoe, Edward is an awfully foolish man". "ell, she is the one to find it out, if anybody can. She gave me a glass of loquat jelly to compare with the Calif product I have eaten in the good old days. Loquats dont grow more than 1/2 as large here as in Calif, the same varieties.

Ritchie and I called on Cellon day before yest. Cellon was glad to hear that you were going to send him the set of sample fruits, and also that you were considering changing the name of the Calif Trapp. He says give it the best name you can possible find, but let it be one word (the latter part of that sentiment is my own.)

Lovingly,

Will

Miami, March 2, 1915.

Dear Folks:

Mr Popenoe presents his compliments to Mr Popenoe, his attorney, and begs leave to intimate that there is a balance due the party of the first part of \$6.00, U S Cy, account six (6) phonograph records cracked in the post due to incompetent and careless packing. A check will be appreciated. However, I can still use the records, and get lots of solace out of La Golondrina, which conjures up visions of Ma Browne's strawberry shortcake and her darter's liquid eyes.

However, it will pay the party of the second part to take a little more care in packing records next time.

The deed is did, and Dot never even uttered a whimper of objection. Saturday night; at half after eight; to the Royal Palm.

FOP: I return herewith letter from Julia Rpgers; there is no use trying to grow the Durian Mangosteen and Rambutan; I dunno what the Salah and the Chickor are, as much as I regret to say it.

Mrs Simmonds got after Mrs Small last night for burn~~ing~~ so much electric juice in their room here in the lab; the Doc often works until 10 pm, and burns the whole of a 16 candle power globe all the time. Ma just simply cannot keep her nose out of things. Now what does it matter to her if Small raises the light bill \$5 or even 30 cents for one month.

Last night Mrs Small and I made up a freezer of avocado ice cream, slickest thing you ever seed. Took equal parts of

mashed avocado pulp and milk, with a little sugar. Next time I will use a little more milk, as it would be just as good. It is surely a rich bait, and one that would tickle the palate of my attorney. Surinam cherries are getting ripe and I am going to make a freezer of sherbert the last of the week. I am leading the quiet life this week, ~~trying to~~ make up for lost time and saving my mazuma to blow in Sat night. Mrs Ed says I am too liberal with my coin, principally because I set Ritchie up to a Ryal Pam dinner. However, I am looking forward to that dance pretty keenly, and shall appreciate the chance to wear my dress suit. I shant wear a black tie with it, eyther, like some of the hayseeds at the Palm do.

FOP, I am returning the letter re Passiflora, having copied it and sent one copy to DF. My files are growing apace.

I most heartily appreciate the efforts of my attorney to look afterb my fiancee, but Maw, did you get on to that phrasè in his letter, -"she is certainly one of the easiest girls to dance with", etc. Something deep in that.

Nothing more to say this time, and am busy.

Lovingly,

Witt

1915

Miami, March 6th. Saturday.

Dear Folks:

I have just heard from Reasoner that the No. 11 mangos are in bloom over at Oneco, so I have decided to start for there tomorrow, and spend three days or so watching them and collecting some material for microscopic study later on. I hate to think of Boarding with Mrs Collier and Willie for three days, a la crema de chip-beef and sliced guavas, tin cow, but I guess a man who has went down the Rio Sac Francisco can stand it.

I am feeling bully, yet I have put in more honest work this week than I have in a long time. I have been giving considerable attention on the side to studying the art of writing botanical descriptions of plants, and have made good headway. I figure that it will be important for me, when exploring to make botanical notes on plants so as to assist in identifying them. I should have done this in Brazil, but didnt have time, not to speak of sufficient knowledge of the subject. I suspect from now on I will have to give most of my time to mangos, but I am working all I can on other subjects. If I stay down here in Fla all summer I think I will make a lot of headway in several lines which have been weak in the past.

I said I am feeling bully; perhaps I had best explain that this is the evening Dot and I make our debut at the Royal Palm. Verbum sap. I can hear the orchestra playing a dreamy waltz already.

Simmonds is getting quite excited over his approaching departure for Calif. He leaves about April 1, probably. I have told him all about what a lot of wonders he will see at Altadena, including Billy Baxter and Doc Barrett, and you will find him an easy man to show around, as he doesnt expect much from anybody. I want you to give him a good cherimoya to eat, if you can find one, and show him the mangos at Hollywood and Santa Ana if possible. FOP wont need to go around with him, but if you can spare one of the men a day or two to show Ed the Holkywood cherimoyas and avocados, etc, it will fix him up allright, and then he ought to hang around the W I G a day or two seeing how you do it.

Say, it looks as tho Ed was going to save all 18 of those avocado varieties you sent down. Tell Carter about it. I am going to write Carter as soon as I can get time. FOP, that little picture of Royal, Challenge Taft and Blakeman is a dandy; think it is well worth publishing, as it gives an excellent comparison of the best Calif varieties.

The Small outfit is augmented by a nephew and his new wife, so they make a good deal of a noise around the lab, but luckily I dont mind noise about me. Mrs Ed is quite excited about the way the Doc burns electricity at night, etc. She has talked pretty plain to Mrs S once or twice, and I have to stay ~~off~~ on the fence with great care.

lovingly,

*W. H. H.*

Sunday evening, Feb 28.  
[1915]

Dearest little mother:

I wrote a letter to Paul & that I made a carbon for you, but I found the carbon paper was wrong side up so Paul will have to find the original.

Nothing new to chronicle, except that Ritchie has left and I am alone again, and glad of it. I am going to the other extreme now and prefer being alone to having company. Maybe it is just because I have had so much company these last 10 days. I will not have more time to devote to the cultivation of my emotions, by means such as writing

poetry. I still have one order for a poem  
wh. I have not had time to fill.

Well, in about 9 days more I will be  
23, + lucky as, for I have been telling  
Mrs. Sumner I was that age ever since  
I came down here. She looks upon me  
as the merest kid and I have had to  
put up as good a bluff as possible.

Glad you are going to Dr. Fox's church once  
in a while. I always liked it there and  
always feel more at home there than any  
where else when I come home next fall  
you and I will go there together part of  
the time.

The moon is fine now and I really  
ought to be out walking on the beach  
these balmy evenings, but it is no fun  
walking alone. I can cultivate the  
emotions but a more effectively in other  
ways.

Got a good Panama hat last week  
for \$4 after beating the jaw down from  
\$4.75 which was already marked down from  
\$8 (I don't think). Also got 3 nice shirts  
now I am fixed for spring and until it  
will bring into summer.

See that the Chronicle Reporter  
Keefe well dressed. If he is going to  
make a hit with the Duerettes he



he cant run down at the hills.

Glad the garden is coming on  
so well. Wish I was there  
to help take care of it. After  
all that is the only place to  
live.

Have 2 pretty white rose buds  
in my jar bowl tonight. &  
it makes me think of  
Altadena.

Lots of love, dearest mother, from  
your devoted filius  
Will



Thurs. May 11 1915

My dearest little mother:

I have felt all morning that I just must stop and write to you before I sailed for Key West at 10.45, and I will take a few minutes to do it now.

I got up at 5.45 and was 3 miles out of town at 6.45, where I went to see some litchi trees. I have formed the early rising habit since I came to this part of Florida; at Oneco we had breakfast at 6 a.m.

I guess I haven't written you at all since I got over here. I spent 3 days down at Oneco with Reasoner, putting up with Mrs. Fredenick, whose husband died last fall and I can give you all the details. However she set a most abundant table, with fried ham 3 times daily, and all sorts of old fash-

owned farm dishes, and I made out very well. When I left she only wanted to charge me \$1 a day but I paid her \$1.50. It was more than worth it, and she is hard up.

Reasoner treated me right, - had me up to the house for dinner the first day, and took me out for a good auto ride, showing me all the interesting plants in the country. He and I are very friendly - in fact he wants me to buy some land and move to his neck of the woods.

I found enough interesting material to pay for my trip, and am fairly well satisfied that I came. I will be glad to get back to the lab at Miami tomorrow night, however, as I haven't had any mail this week I did not want to have it forwarded, since it might not have reached here in time. I decided to go back via Key West so as to see what Cuban fruits are in market down there, and also to make a little casual trip to a big ride over to Miami on the train, and the connections are rather uncertain.



Last evening I dined with José Alvarez, proprietor of the Grand Orient Cafe, and had a Cuban dinner which cost the good \$! but carried me right back to La Habana. Ended up with guava jelly & cream cheese which I ate in Latin style; - the rest off the end of my knife, as most latins do. I'm going to try to get a couple of loaves of Cuban guava jelly in Key West; if I succeed I'll send one to F. O. P. for a birth day present, and I'll not tell! Paul wanted me to send him one to carry out to Sister. He's so thoughtful of my interests.

My chief occupation in life now consists in looking forward to a week from tomorrow night, when Dot and I appear at the Royal Palm again. ☺

think Det enjoys the Royal Palm  
immensely, and I know I do. I guess  
the kind of fellows she usually has to  
go with are not habitués of the Royal  
Palm. In fact I don't think she  
had ever been inside the hotel before.  
I get my money's worth out of the deal,  
allright. Won't get to go more than  
2 times more, I don't suppose, as  
they close April 3.

I hardly had time to think of my  
birthday, but when I wrote down March  
9th in my journal I recalled the fact.  
I trust Herb and Bill Barton  
celebrated properly, and turned down  
a glass for me. I'll celebrate when  
I get home next time.

Well, I'll write at greater length from  
Miami after I get my mail.

Your devoted filis  
W. Leon.

1915  
Miami, March 13th. Saturday afternoon.

Dear Folks:

I have just been celebrating my birthday; found a whole stack of mail waiting for me on my arrival last night, and am now going in to get my pkg from the express ofs. That Calif fruit will go well. Will have it for bkfst every day, to augment my toast, cocoa and guava jelly, tho that doesnt need augmentation very badly.

Herb, your book is strictly O.K. That "Things Seen" series are really fine, and you know Japan is one of my specialities. However, I will have to take you to task for thinking THAT I was 22 on the recent occasion; figure up your own age and add 7, then find the answer.

Glad to get MBB's birthday letter, and lots of good news from my attorney. Several of my Altadena friends remembered me, as well. At least I think you can call 2 several. One was Margaret G, and I dont know how she knew it was my birthday. Now of course anyone who knew that Bill Barton and Herb and I had the same birthday had more of an excuse for knowing. Said remembrances consisted in birthday notes.

My attorney is certainly getting to be a big Eugenist; going to write a book, eh? Wish I could spring into the author's class, but the more I think it over the more I feel that I dont want to write my book too soon. I am accumulating more material every year, and dont think I will write the book until I have been over in the Orient again and can bring the thing up to date from that end. I want it to be a work as not only will fill a place as has long been empty, but will hold that place for some time. I am going to be able, I believe, to get out the first real treatise on tropical fruits. Someone may beat me to it, of course, but no one can have the material wh I am going to have after a couple of yrs more, and even the some book should come out before mine, I feel that mine will still be in a class by itself. I bet no one has the bunch of photos wh I will have.

PP, is my Manteau Universel safe and free from moths? I wouldnt have it moth eaten for f 35 plus \$5 duty. Say, Schimper is certainly a beaut. I'm almost glad I got it, even at that price. That book is worth having, and will be very much worth while to me. You better buy the Tree Book and keep it there for our tramps in the Md woods, if I ever get back to Washn again.

We had the peerless Anna Pavlowa and her troupe on the boat from Tampa to Key West, and the troupe gave a free performance in the evening, but Anna didnt dance. I sat next to her for an hour, just like Andy Evans and Teddy.

PP, you are a good brother, not to speak of attorney, so I sent you 2 avocados this am; Ed doesnt know it, and if I can get 2 more next week I will keep you supplied, but they are getting very low. Thanks for the white clothes, wh will keep me in Dot's good graces a while longer.

Mrs Simmonds told me last night that she asked Dot last Sunday about the Dance and Dot refused to divulge anything. That Dot is a wise girl! However, I find it better to tell Mrs Simmonds about all such little things as this, -where I am going in the evening, etc, as she is dead sure to find out anyway, and if you tell her in advance she isnt as libale to make a story of it all tell all the neighbors and Govt officials as if you were intimate with her and let her in on all your deals. She asked me if I was going to any more of those Ryal Palm dances and I told her that I was booked for one next Sat night. No use trying to hide anything from her, for it cant be hid.

Liberty Bailey and I are getting very intimate. Not only did he take all my mango dope, hook, bait and sinker, but is going to use a big photo of a bearing mango tree I sent him as a halftone inset. Then he wrote to know if I could tell him anything about nutmegs, wh I regret I cannot. I guess I can get a job with Liberty if I dont get a raise in the F S P I this yr. Say, Paul if they put Groves and Mendy on at anything like \$1400 I will consider they are getting in on a soft snap. Neither of them have the least bit of horticultural experience you know. I dont see how David Bisset is going to take the exam, if he goes to California on April 2 with Dorsett, as the latter writes me.

FOE, I enclose a clipping from the Post, an interview with C S Vrooman. I am heartily in accord with his ideas, tho I think some of our scientists will procliam them rank heresy.

MBP, tomorrow morning when I am at the Ryal Palm and have a little more time I will write you a letter, Inshaallah.

Lovingly,

Wilt



March 14 1915  
Sunday.

Dearest mother:

I came down here to write a few letters before going to church and then to dine with the Seminoles. I tried to get them to dine with me in town but as usual they backed out. However, I am keeping my credit good. I brought Mrs. B. a Cuban fan wh I got in Key West, and will give them a few of the walnuts and almonds in the box you sent. The dried fruit goes finely. Nothing like California fruit after all.

Paul has sent me 2 light



suits, 1 duck and 1 skantung, and I expect  
by next Sunday it will be plenty warm  
enough to wear them. Today I am wearing  
my Matheson brown. I am pretty well fixed  
for clothes and wont have to buy much this  
summer. I will have to lay away my  
Foreman and Clark until next fall however  
as it is too heavy for this climate from now on.

Your story of Mlle's naïve question re  
my whereabouts me fait rire. Elle sait  
assez bien que vous ou je suis. Je  
vins d'écrire une lettre pour lui remercier  
sa lettre pour mon jour de naissance.  
En generale, elle répond à mes lettres une  
semaine environ apres de les avoir reçu,  
et ça me semble tout a fait comme il  
faut. Pas trop tot, mais assez tot  
pour montrer son interese, et me semble.

Mais ce drole de M. Paul, je ne sais  
pas qui est ce qui va faire. Avec tous  
ses discours sur le sujet de le mariage,  
et tous ses serments, il lui faut  
se maria, ou autrement nous pouvons  
dire à lui "Preterre what you preach" bien  
tot. Il est trop sage, trop de scientist.  
Il regard toutes les jeunes filles comme  
specimens, et examine sujet pour l'appli-  
cation de son psychologie pratique.  
Il faut finir de tous cela. Mais je  
suis chagriné de voir que Mr Brown

n'a pas lui invité à dîner  
depuis que j'en suis parti de Washn.  
Ces choses ne doivent pas être ainsi.  
Katherine est presque trop jeune  
pour lui, mais une jeune fille  
très gentille, neanmoins. Mais je  
ne crois pas que Paul à trouvé  
son soul mate encore.

Tout à vous  
Wilt

Mar 19, 1915.

Dear Folks:

After two days without any mail I at last read a letter from Paul this am, enclosing various and sundry articles on various and Sunday subjects, principally the spring fashions for men; I will read them thru and lay in whatever is necessary to keep me right up in the front rank along with my atty.

First, I must acknowledge two books from FO, both of which I am glad to have, and yesterday read two Cherimoyas, one of wh was in bad shape, the other fairly good. Many thanks. Mrs Hohmann, Dr Small's neice, and I made a big freezer of surinam cherry sherbert last night, wh no one liked by me and Mrs H, and she couldnt eat much; I did up a pint in the afternoon and then went to town with the Simmonds to the movies in the evening, comps of Edward, and when I got home finished another pint, with the result that I got up this morning feeling like I was ten years younger and full of ginger. Going to try another avocado ice cream tomorrow, to put me in shape for the Dance at the Ryal Palm.

Mighty interesting letter, that, from Dr Bennet, which I am returning to PP herewith. Guess there have been some exciting times in Busreh.

PP, your appeal to come home May 1st is strong and pntent, but I think the Ofs plans otherwise, and looking at the thing from a business standpoint I will be better off here. I am getting in a lot of studying, and learning a lot of Botany, especially along lines I have been weak on in the past. You know we have never found time to get any studying done in Washn, and as long as I am in the Ofs I dont get much done but a lot of red tape unwound and then wound up again. Later on I will take the matter up with DF and leave it to him to say where I shall spend the early summer. The thing sizes up this way; after the mango flowers are gone, wh will be about May 15, I will either have to go to the lab at Gainesville or come to Washn to take up the microscopic study of my material. I do not know wh place DF will prefer to have me work at, but it may quite possibly be Washn.

I'll admit I'm getting to be something of a recluse down here, but it doesnt worry me a bit, as I will have plenty of time for other things later on, and I feel that this is my opportunity to get posted on a lot of subjects. However, you wait till you see Dot and me at the Ryal Pam tomorrow night.

MBP, I had Paul send you \$125 from my last reimbursement check, not having read you notification that it better be held until April 1 until it was too late. You can hold it out

I wont be able to foward another drift of any size before April 15, so figure ahead. By the way, tell Paul whether to eng this to Aunt Lus estate or not. If it is for personal bills and not for the estate settlement he will want to know it.

PP, if I can sneak over to the garden this am and get another pair of gators I will send them along, positively the last call. The season is hereby officially closed. Can anything else be substituted in the place of the succulent gator?

Edward is making plans to leave about April 3rd for the Pacific Coast, and from now on Mrs Ed and I will be busy routing his trip and coaching him how to eat on the dining car, etc. I am going to lay out his itinerary in so Calif, and when he gets to FOP you can advise him how to get to the various places. I will have him come to Altadena when he gets to L A, first thing, and you can line him out. Ed is the kind that will not strike out much on his own hook, I am afraid, and will need some pushing. You see his wife has always done the striking for him in the past. Ed told her the other night, in my presence " Now you keep quiet, you talk too much anyway" and Mrs Ed explained to me that she didnt know what was the matter with Ed-wahrd lately, he was so cross and cranky and mean.

Dont know what I would do without my little Victrola for solace and companionship. Great stuff.

Lovingly,

Wilt

1915  
Miami, Sunday March 21st.

Dear Folks:

You know your Uncle Wilt always claimed to be a practical horticulturist. Therefore, when I cultivated my emotions last night I irrigated them as well, with a bottle of ginger ale and an orangeade, and then I applied a little nitrogenous fertilizer in the form of a welch rarebit. Result, - I got the finest crop of emotions you ever seed, and one that will last me another 10 days. Gee, but we had a swell time. After the Cabaret dancing got to going full blast you couldn't have pulled Dot away with a fence stretcher, - y yo tampoco. It sure was a swell affair.

To proceed; I dined at home last evening, off 1 qt crema de abacate, Bahian style, and various and sundry California fruit and nut products, comps of MBP, and then spent 1/2 hr vainly trying to tie that dress tie wh PP told me I would have to get. Attorney, if you can give me a mail order course in tying bow ties, send it along. Eventually I gave up in disgooost and put on my old tied to order one. Then I broken one pearl stud putting them in my shirt, a/c not having put on my dress suit often enough lately to keep in practice. Following the successful donning of my clothes, I grasped my old reliable walking stick firmly in my right hand and sallied forth. Inhad to walk up and down the main street to find a auto that suited me, and of course the inhabitants all started at me open-mouthed, and tiny tots blurted forth "Oh! mother, what is that?" After beating down the auto driver from \$3 to \$2 for the job, a trick which I learned from my old master (on whom be prayers and peace) I arrived at Hickson's palatial country home. We got in for the first dance, and stayed till the last one was over and the musicians had put up their instruments. It was the last cabaret dance of the season, a fact which Dot and I both bemoaned very sincerely on the way home. I am going now to investigate the casino over at the beach; the emotions must be kept in a growing state at any price.

However, if Uncle Joe doesnt deliver a meal ticket pretty soon, I shall throw Dot over and try another.

Now, having successfully played Dr Jekyll for a night, I will return to my mangos and gators and be Mr Hyde for another period.

Attorney, please forward an opinion as to the possibility of my being compromised by having taken Dot to three dances and forced to marry her against my will. I am sure MBP will insist that I am. However, MBP, I think Uncle Joe would set me up with 10 acres for avocado growing.

Attorney, the more you talk about coming back to Washn in May the better it sounds, but I dont know whether Dot will stand for it or not. Neither do I know whether it will conform to Our Policies, but it is quite possible that I may do my microscopical work in Washn instead of down here. Nous allons voir. I like it pretty doggone well down here now.

FOP, I was mighty glad to get your letter of March 14, with all the news of the day. I dont think you need to send another batch of avocado budwood, as we will get at least 15 out of the 18 vars you sent before, I think. If we miss any, I will let you know so we can keep the set complete. I am going to write up notes on them soon, so that they can go into the SPD inventory.

Got the Pili nuts OK, first I have ever eaten, and I liked them. Ed says they are allright, too, now if I can only get Geo B Cellon's approval I will be fixed. Think I will photograph a few of them, natrl size. FOP, I've just been looking over my old paper on the Cherimoya in Baker's Journal and it occurs to me that some of those photos we got out in Calif in the early days were not so bad, and I think I will want a few of them in THE book. When I come home next fall we can make up a set and I can file them in my new file. In the meantime, if you will just lay aside any duplicates you happen to come across, if they are good, it will be all to the mustard, as Dot says.

Principal topic of discussion at the Simmonds residence, aside from the shortcomings of the Small outfit (Mrs Ed almost rows with them all the time now, and I have to work hard to maintain my neutrality) is the approaching departure, etc. I told Ed what you said about taking care of him, and he thinks it is great stuff. You must ~~lay~~ <sup>take</sup> care of yourself out, or spend any money showing him around, but you can steer him on to all the good things there, and unless someone does steer him I am afraid he would miss a lot.

Regret to report we are still quarantined, and they find another canker infected tree in our garden nearly every week. For this reason I dont want to send anything from the garden to Calif, but will try to ship you some samples a little later on when things begin to come in season around the country. Surinam cherries wouldnt carry, they are very perishable. Think I can send you some sapodillas before long. After having officially closed the dancing season last night, I dtted the avocado season with a Taylor for bkfst, to counteract the dark brown taste, due to too much rarebit.

Paul, those separates you sent are what I wanted, OK.

Well, I go pack up my dress suit, for I wont have another opportunity to use it here, everything being informal from now on. By the way, my friend who wears a black tie with full dress was there last night. Somebody ought to punch him.

Lovingly,

*Wilt*

March 23, 1915. Tuesday noon.

Dear Folks:

Like to froze last night, -down to 48, after a day of drizzling rain. Rotten weather. I had to ride up the road 3 mi in the afternoon to see Prof Rolfs at his place, having recd a note saying he would be there for the day. We had a good mango meeting, and he showed me the MS of a bulletin "Mangos in Fla" which he is going to publish. I only had time to glance over it, and I dont think it is going to set the world afire or revolutionize mango growing. His photos cant touch some I am holding for future use, either? I am glad to see him put the thing out, as it wont do any harm to have a little mango literature appearing now and then. But when Ed and I get hooked up on this mango propn you are going to see some new wrinkles. We spend most of our time talking mangos, when the Madam will give us a chance. Ed came over for a confab last night, and we had just begun to discuss whether the sap flows up or down in the stem when in came the Mme and we had to quit. Ed remarked to me dolefully this morning that we didnt get to finish our discussion last night.

Fairchild writes that Father Field, a catholic padre, is coming down early in May, and he wants him to stay here in the lab. Suits me to a T, as long as he doesnt try to proselytize me. But Mrs S, good catholic as she is, threatened at first to throw the padre out of the place whenever he arrived, but at last Ed and I persuaded her to let him bunk up with me. She is sore at Fairchild; says she doesnt lack hospitality, and likes to invite people in, but she doesnt want Fairchild to dictate to her whom she shall entertain. I might add that she doesnt want anybody else to dictate to her, anything.

At Ed's earnest solicitation, I have agreed to disburse the garden funds during his absence, and pay off the gang up at the new place. Mrs Ed wouldnt let Steffani, who is 2nd in command at the garden and the logical man, do it. She hates Steffani. Its a hard world.

FOP, I dont want any more letters like that one you sent, wh I return herewith. I thot those separates were comps of the RHS, gratis and post free. We are always getting stung, but I have never got a bill for repairs on that auto I smashed up just before I left home. If he ever shows up, tell him you dont know where I am, -never hear from me any more.

PP, I dont know whether Saffords Guam book is worth \$3 to me or not. When you have a chance, glance thru it and see what there is on trop frts, and if you think it will be of any value, get it. It is scarce, and if there is anything it is, as I rather imagine there is, we ought to nab it wile we have the chanst.

Well, with my big brother covering himself with glory up at Washn I sometimes wonder if I am going to amount to anything anyway, or ever do anything worth while. I often receive insinuations to the effect that I aint, yet I dont

believe I have been accused of promulgating any DDD's (Damnably Despicable Doctrines) as yet. But it is a hard row to hoe, and I sometimes wonder whether I am ever going to be a horticulturist after all.

PP, I suppose you are feeling something like I am over the retirement of the Jardin from business; my sentiments re the Royal Palm are doleful. I know Dot shares em, too. Mrs Simmonds has it all settled now but the date. She told Mrs Hohmann (Doc Small's neice) that wouldnt it be a joke if the Govt were to lose Mr Pope-ence down here, and he went to growing avocados with Hickson, or something like that. I hate to disappoint her, but a brother of the premier exponent of practical eugenics cant make a misstep. However, PP, I will say for your benefit that Dot can trip the light fantastic even better than Sister(my sister) and she paints very well. But if Ma Brown gives me any more slaps in the face by not inviting you out to dinner I shall instruct you to withdraw my claim.

Trust you recd, PP, my last heartfelt testimonial in the shape of 2 gators, mentioned in my last letter. Its all over now, until July. Looks to me as tho I might have to stay right here now until June, unless the money runs out, as it probably will, and we cant carry on the work at the new garden any longer. I dont want to take much of a hand in the affairs of the garden, 1st because I havent time to bother with executive work and 2nd because it would be too drained hard to suit the Madam.

PP, next time you send me any white suits pls include buttons to match. I had to buy some swell pearl ones to go in my ducks, but I got better stuff than Ah Quong furnished us, and the saleslady says they never will break unless you run em thru the mangle. By the way, if you ever run across a nice cravat or two wh would look really swell elegant for me to wear this summer, send em down. They havent the very latest down here, and then my dear brother does have such good taste. (I like your biscuits so much).

Say, PP do you think I am going to support the whole French campaign. I hope C Pellat, our aimable ghesorier, will ne satisfied for a while now. I have to help the English cause now by paying up the RHS. Say, I wonder if it would pay me to join the AAAS, and is it hard to get in?

Whenerv I look at my dress suit hanging on the wall the tears come into my eyes, at the thot that I wont wear it again until I get back to Washington.

Mrs Ed and I are getting Ed instructed re the necessity for changin his collar at least once a week, and removing all extraneous substances from his external auditory apparatus periodically( see Herb) but I bet Poor Ed has a firece time catching his trains and getting the right one, and all that sort of thing. However, Ed is jubilant at the thot of running his own affairs for three months, and looks on life from a different attitude.

Lovingly,

Will



March 24, 1915.

Dear Father:

I am sending you a little birthday remembrance in the form of some mango preserves, which I thought you might like to have on hand for special purposes; while made from seedling mangos, I think the flavor is first rate, and gives a pretty good idea of the fruit. The bottles are small, but will be about right to open when you have some friend out that you want to initiate.

Sapodillas are not ripe yet, and nothing else, but later on I will keep you in mind and see that you get some samples.

Having Officially Closed the Avocado and the Royal Palm season, I herewith close the Birthday season, the next call being Paul's in October.

Your devoted son,

Wilt

March 25th, 1915.

Dearest mother:

Ever since I wrote you last I have been thinking that probably you would come to the conclusion that I was dead gone on Dot, and I would have to write and disillusion you, so I take this opportunity of doing so. Dont fear. There is nothing to it, not even if Mrs Simmonds does think its a go. As I said before, I am a thorough convert to Eugenics and I dont make any false moves. After just having finished Paul's outburst on Heredity vs. Environment, wh is certainly the most radical doctrine I have struck, I am more firmly convinced that ever that I dont want to make any mistakes. I believe Paul is about right in his radical doctrine, after all; he will get jumped on pretty hard by some of the big guns for such talk, but I think his crowd will come out on top in the long run, and I will, I trust, <sup>be</sup> found within the fold among the sheep and not outside with <sup>^</sup>the goats.

Your letter of the past Sat came to hand today, via Paul, you evidently having overlooked the change of address again, but it is just about as prompt, and gives Paul a chance to censor. I am glad Mlle hasnt forgotten you even tho she has forgotten me, as evidenced by nearly two weeks, I believe, since we have had any news, but I suppose a letter may arrive almost any day. That birthday note sort of broke up the establish order of correspondence and I guess I am going to lose out on one letter, in the shuffle. Mais ca n'importe rien. Again I say, you dont need to have any fear that I am going to become

a permanent resident of Miami and member of the Hickson tribe. The fact is, I simply have to have some kind of recreation once in a while, -I spend all my days here in my work, my evenings sitting in the lab either talking with Simmonds or studying, so you cant blame me if I cut loose once every week or ten days and have a real bang up good time, can you?

Seat sale opened this morning for Pavlova, who comes here next week, with her troupe, on her return from Havana, and I went in and got two in the front row of the balcony of the chance that I could find a girl who would go with me. I dont think I will have much difficulty.

Doc Small had to take his wife home two nights ago, as they thot she was coming down with typhoid. He left Mrs Hohmann here to finish drying his plants, and she will stay another week or so. She is an extrained nurse, who was engaged 6 times before she finally married Hohmann, and is now about 40, -just married last yr. She is very jolly and I go in town for dinner with her in the evening, much to the scandal of Mrs Ed. Mrs H set me up a fine dinner in the Lab this noon, one of Deerings men having brot us down a lot of salad stuffs, lettuce, etc, and we had a swell feed. Guess we will do it again, as it beats going into the town. She makes up a freezer of sherbert whenever I want to turn the crank, too. So altogether you see I am getting along swimmingly, tho I wouldnt mind being up in Washn with Paul for a while. Tell Herb if the girls find<sup>e</sup> out who writes those sentimental poems about the blue of Maggie's eyes he will be the most popular young man<sup>e</sup> in school.

Your devoted son

*Will*

I feel another spasm of poetry surging in my bosom. Look out!

1915

Miami, Sat pm, March 27.

Dear Folks:

Another week about closed up, and nothing startling to chronicle, except that W Popenoe, FRHS (Lond) will dine tomorrow chez the Edward Simmondses of Brickell avenue.

PP, much obliged for the papaya MS, and your suggestions. I will make the corrections noted, except in re the plant at Hollywood, and inasmuch as I myself have eaten fruit from that plant, and in fact gone there and swiped fruits when Mrs Friend wasnt home, I feel inclined to stand by that statement.

PP, I am ready to start in with you on the campaign. I was out at Uncle Joe's grove today, and dropped into the house to confer with Dot on the Pavlowa proposition, and I had my mind fully made up to say yes if Uncle Joe or uxer inquired if I shouldnt come out to dinner tomorrow, but neither showed up, and therefore, be it resolved, that we start a campaign of education to make the parents of eligible young ladies more attentive to the matter of supplying the inner man of their proposed or intended fiances. However, Dot tumbled to the Pavlowa proposition without a whimper, and I am looking forward to a good time.

Think I will have to inquire at the Ryal Palm for mail Monday, before it closes up; one or two letters it seems to me ought to be here, and as I have written on Ryal Palm stationery some of my friends may have replied there, tho it is not likely; the probability is that I have been forgotten.

That was a fine letter from MBs Cantine, MBP, and I send it on to Paul herewith. I do hope they come via California on their return to this country. Glad you had a good time at San Diego; I dont like to be chasing around here in high sassiety and feel that you folks dont have any pleasures. You must blow in a little mazuma on a good time once in a while; life is too short to put it all in on hard work. If you dont believe it, ask Herb.

Paul, I trust you noted in the letter from Burns which you forwarded me that he starts off " I am much obliged by your letter". I am vindicated. Howell and Stuntz said that wasnt good English, but if William Burns, D.Sc. (Edinboro, nee Glasgow) uses it, why it is good enough for us bally Americans.

Getting warm here, and I guess summer has come at last. Am thinking seriously of opening the white duck season tomorrow, - Officially, of course. Paul and I always do everything Officially.

I have purchased 3 copies of Everyman's Library, cloth bdg, "Naturalist in Niagara," by Belt, Darwin's "Voyage of the Beagle" and Captain Cook's Voyages of Discovery. Good cheap reading. When Mrs Rohmann and Edward are gone I will have plenty of time to read evenings, as I cant be expected to entertain Mrs Simmonds by listening to her every night, tho I shall do so a couple of times a week, and take her to the movies on Sat nights when Dot and I arent dawncing. I am in hot water all the time now, Mrs Hohmann and the Madam are at almost open warfare and I am hanging onto the fence for dear life. Will be glad when it is all over, tho Mrs H is still putting up good dinners in the lab, and I have saved about \$2 on meals this week, as I eat so much at noon all I need at night is a Malted Milk Choc. And by the way, speaking of the latter, I have jollied the soda dispenser until I get mine made in a saturated solution of malted milk; I tell him he makes the best in town, and always ask him to put me up one to beat the kind he gave me last night, etc, and I am getting em so rich now I can hardly digest em.

Young fellow from the Ofs of good roads has come down to superintend the building of the road into our new garden. I suspect I may find him good company and spend some of my time with him. Now that I am to be appointed paymaster for the workmen while Ed is away it looks as tho I would pretty surely be here until about June 30, and if I dont get over to Cuba before then I shall knock off a couple of weeks and go when Ed gets back/ The public welfare demands that I get some of that guava jelly, marca Segundo Pavo Real.

The town is quieting down awfully fast. After the 1st there wont be anything doing here. I weep to think of the Palm closing; doggone it, but I will miss my high life. Mrs Simmonds told Mrs H that "Mr Pope-noe is the nicest young man the govt ever sent down here, but he is an awful sport". She cant stand the Royal Palm pace. I tried to get the Missus and Ed to take dinner with me there tomorrow noon, a farewell affair, but she wouldnt go, -said she hadnt clothes for the occasion. Ed didnt voice any preference, as usual.

Young fellow who is a quarantine inspector on the canker fight came around after having seen the public announcement of the civil service exam Allen and Menderson are going to take, and wanted me to advise him what books to get so he could coach up for it. He doesnt know the thing is already doped out. I tried to discourage him, but couldnt do it. He doesnt stand a show, as he isnt qualified along any of the lines mentioned.

Well, I would like to be in Washn with PP tonight, but it cant be did.

Lovingly,

Will

That ad. of Colkins place fits  
it on pretty thick Spinless Luther again!

1915  
Miami, Meh 30.

Dear Folks:

Morning mail brings me letters from Calif and DC, so I am happy. Will write a short reply and then start up to the new garden as soon as tiffin, where I want to be on hand to see that Ed gets the rows straight in our new mango orchard wh he is planting today. I saw his lines of stakes the other day and the wind blew the line when he was setting some of them, so that his rows were out of gee.

TOP, as soon as mango bloom is over I will have plenty of time, and will also have Bailey's work practically done. If I stay down here until July 1st, as I feel pretty sure I will, I will outline a trop fruit book and write up all I can of it, and then lay it away until I want to revise it and publish it. Good idea/ Pls send me, direct, at the Garden, Miami, about 3 or 4 good budsicks each of Blakeman, Montezuma, and Puebla (13) wh are all we have lost. I will put them in and complete our set. Will hunt you up the best guava jelly receipt I can find immediately. When I see Cellon I will tell him his avocados are coming soon, and know it will please him. His Nutmeg, a Guatemalan var from Hawaii, is setting fruit.

PP, I am not in chg of the garden while Ed is gone, but only in charge of the financial end; Ed, however, is leaving instructions with Steffani that he is to refer any important visitors or important letters to me. I think Ed wantd d to leave the whole thing in my hands, but I thot it better to have just as little to do with it as possible, because Stef is the logical man to act in chg, and has a hot temper, and the madam would be a source of irritation also; therefore I foresaw possible friction if I tried to be the whole cheese.

Paul, please tell my dear sister Gretchen that I want her to pick me out two of the nicest cravats she can find, chic, dernier cri, to wear with white dux, and collect from you at not over \$1 per cada uno. Isnt that sweet of Gretchen to be so thoughtful of my welfare? Her regards are accepted con much gusto, tho I am used to something stronger, and I herewith authorize you, as my attorney, to return whatever compliments the occasion calls for.

My dear Paul, when you insinuate about painting it just rolls off like water from a duck's back. The social standing of the Hickson family in this community is not such as to tolerate any such despicable actions on the part of any member of the tribe. I will send back your pearl buttons if you have any use for them, as I bot 6 new ones, so as to have enough, before yours came.

Sunday I went over to the Peoples Congregational Church, at the far end of town, where the low brows live. About 7 or 8 ffamilies present, with all the children, and a few dogs wh had to be chased out before the sermon. Young lady saw me singing vociferously and immediately invite me to come up in the choir, so I went, and occupied a front seat, only hembre among 6 females. Cant stump me that way.

I am just living in anticipation now, - anticipation of that big night tonight - Anna Pavlowa. Siempre sigue  
with

Miami, 1st April 1915.

Dear Folks:

This is the day we celebrate: FOP because it is his birthday, and me because it is the day I officially assume charge of the funds of the United States Plant Introduction Garden. I am just now going in town to buy a new ice box and pay the telephone bill; it takes a really big man to do such things, you understand, and I hope you are properly impressed with my importance. Ed does not leave until Sat pm, but we started with the 1st of the month so as to keep accounts straight.

Warming up to beat the band, and I ventured out today for the first time (down town) without a coat. This method has two advantages, 1st it is cooler, and 2nd it preserves my gabardine suit for future wear. I shall have to put it on to go down to dinner tonight, however. Had to fight mosquitos in my room last night, and am going to rig up my net tomorrow. Never more will I travel in the tropics without a net; just as well go without a bottle of snake bite cure.

Just as I was starting back from town this noon a bally blighter ran into me (according to his story I ran into him, but it doesnt matter, the fact remains that we collided) and I had my front wheel smashed to smithereens. Bang goes \$1.50. Awful glad it is the Govt's hike, and not mine.

Well, Dot and I took in Pavlova allright, and it was a pretty good show, but the theatre was terribly stuffy and hot. Worst I have ever struck. We stayed thru, however. When we got there at 8 we found it didnt begin until 9, so went over and sat on the Ryal Pam porch for an hour, just as a sort of farewell performance. The Palm is now closed, - this morning. My next appearance in polite society will be at the Miami Beach Casino, next Tuesday evening, when Julian Hawthorne, dancing instructor, gives his weekly Society dance. Dot says it is chic.

Altho I like to see summer come on, as it means fruits, I dont relish the idea of fighting insects from now on, and having to force onself to work in the heat. However, it is better here than in washn, in this latter respect.

Ed has 13 linen handkerchiefs and 4 suits of underwear and 2 prs of pajamas to start with. I'll tell you about the rest of his outfit next time, - the madam hasnt enlightened me yet, but doubtless will.

From now on I will have to ride up to the new garden every morning, not especially because of the garden, but primarily to carry on some mango expts across the road at Rolfs place. Lots of good exercise. I think, however, that I will start out early, and then when I get home stay under

cover during the heat of the day.

Have just finished Sapodilla for Bailey, -my 17th article. FOP, in thinking over the book propn, I see it thusly: There are just about 1 dozen books wh I have on my shelf wh I could not get along without, and there are just about a dozen hundred others wh I do not consider it worth my while to purchase. Now I want might to be the 13th of that dozen; in other words, when I finally get that book out I want to have it so full of boiled down, accurate information that it will be absolutely indispensable to every tropical horticulturist. For this reason, I am not going to get it out until the time is ripe, and I can produce a work that will have permanent value, and above all be accurate. Scientists soon get to know how accurate a man is, and how much to discount his statements; some of the profesh have a bad rep in this connexion, and everyone who knows discounts everything they say; others, like Ed Andre, are known to be almost infallible, and whatever they say is taken without question.

I am going to have absolutely all I can attend to for the next month, and then things will probably slow down, as the work at the new garden will be about done, and the mango firs about gone. I will be able to get in a lot more time then on study.

Paul, you ought to see the realistic scene that Dot has painted, Krakatoa in eruption, and going full blast. She has done some very fair flowers, and just as soon as mangos are ripe I shall start her in to painting specimens for me. Dot is pretty good company, but not quite as sympatica as Gretchen; she doesnt look up at you with those big, admiring eyes and speak with a quiver in her voice, but I can get along without toomuch emotionalism, as long as there is plenty of dancing thrown in to make up what is lacking along other liqes.

Hon Perry Green has just been the recipient of three good as new neckties, wh I discarded in anticipation of those that Paul and Gretchen are going to give me. (Pls note that last verb).

Heavy mail from Altadena this morning, and I note with pleasure that Thyrsa is going East. Hoping you are the same,

Lovingly

Wilt.



Miami, Sap Apr 3 1915.

Dear Folks:

Terrible excitement in Miami today, and Ed has just got a shave and a haircut both at the same time, an unheard of performance, but so is going to California an unheard of performance. I went over last night to see Ed's outfit, and he put on his new \$37 suit and Walkover shoes MND John B Stetson to show me how they looked. Incidentally the Madam told him he would have to wear garters (her language for garters) and as Ed didnt know how they should be put on I obligingly pulled up my sock while he examined the adjustment of the mechanism. Then this morning I took Ed in town and helped hi, buy his ticket, a tube of Colgates shaving cream, and other important things; now I go over to a farewell luncheon given in his honor, covers being set for 3p Ed the Missus and your humble servant.

Now all these things may sound inconsequential to you, but I assure you they are very important just now to the staff of the Plant Introduction Garden.

I have to go up to the new garden this afternoon and pay off my men. Starting in early you see. Yesterday I went up there, as I will have to every day from now on, act work at Rolfs, and it started to rain hard; I waited from 9 to 11 for it to stop, and then rode home through it, 4 miles. And I am here to tell you that the waterproffed garment isnt made, barring my manteau universel (before Paul allowed the moths to eat it up) which will absolutely prove itself impermeable a l'eau, if you put it to the test. I had on a gabardine coat and duxbak trousers, both of them guaranteed by the Mrs tobe waterproof, and whn I got to the lab I was wet clear thru. Had to take off my clothes and build a fire to dry em out.

I have a 5 lb carton of guava jelly left on my hands; orderd it for Mrs H, and now she finds she hasnt room to carry it (Jarn the fickleness of women, anyhow) so I will either have to keep it until my own is gone or send it out to FOP. I am willing to send it prepaid; do you want it? It is C O Richardson's best, and Rich knows how.

Just read good letter from Paul, ene one from MBP, in wh she says she liked my most recent effusion. Dont know whether I am going to write any more poetry or not; think I will leave it to Herb most of the time/ His birthday sonnet was a gennywine chef d'oeuvre. Wish I could do as well.

Dont know how I will be able to pass all my evenings now; it is pretty long from 5/30 to 9.30, and I was not sorry as a rule to break in for an hr and talk with Ed. I will take the Mme in town once a week, if she will go, wh I am not sure of, and then with my evening chez la dancee, wh I hope and expect to maintain, as long as Dot stays in Miami and doesnt get a handsomer fellow, I ought to eke out a miserable and forlorn existence, to say the least. I am going to tackle German again with renewed (?) zeal. Have been getting very little time to it lately, account the rush of other affairs.

Think tomorrow I will go back and worship with the neo-papists, as my voice has scarcely recovered from my experience in the choir a week ago.

As the weather grows warmer my appetite grows weaker, and I rather believe one meal a day in town will do me before much longer. I am going to brace up my own culinary dept soon. I think sherbert will be indicated very frequently from now on, when I can spare the time to make it. Last night I rigged up my mosquito net and hung it over the bed in case of emergencies, but didnt have any occasion to use it, tho I will have to do so very soon.

If Ed doesnt have one deuce of a time keeping his affairs straight and buying his tickets and catching his trains, then my name is not Wilson Popenoe. The poor fellow has never even had to think for himself, not having been allowed to, since he was married fifteen yrs ago. The M<sup>r</sup> even writes out his checks for him and he puts his John Hancock at the bottom. You will have to steer him around in so Cal, telling him where to go and how to get there, or he will never see anything. He is coming out to the W I C as soon as he lands in L. A. I think he will be there the 14th or 15th inst.

I am getting some encouraging results in my mango work, which makes it a little easier to do. Have had a hard time getting the pollen togerminate, but it is doing well now; I think the weather has been too cold for it until recently, but I didnt know what the trouble was.

Sorry I havent any more avocados to send Maude Kellerman; probably I will be able to remember her when the new crop comes on in July. PP, I am keeping an eye out for something more to send you, but there is practically nothing but Citrus right now. Will bear the subject in mind until something does show up.

Must go over to tiffin now.

Siempre sigue

Will

Miami, Monday April 5, 1915.

Dear Folks:

There is no joy in <sup>has been severed</sup> Mudville. The one tie that bound me to this mundane sphere, and I dont know whether to drown myself in the mud flats off the south end of the laboratory or go back to Washn and seek solace at Ontario Road, but the Jardin de Danse is closed so there is no use of my taking the latter course. The sorrowful, the sad, the doleful, the pathetic is that Dot leaves tonight for Long Branch to be gone all summer. However, Uncle Joe did me pretty well yesterday, stopping by at 8 pm, taking me and Mrs S out for a ride, Dot driving the car with me as assistant, and then we dropped Mrs S out and I went out to the Hickson mansion for supper, following wh Dot and I drove in town to hear the concert. But just to think: going away the day before the dance at Miami Beach, and just when I was getting her trained so she showed periodic outbursts of Gretchen-like sentiment.

However, there is a bright side to everything, and I always try to find it; in this case I suppose it is the fact that I will save \$3 on auto hire tomorrow night, and a week from tomorrow night, and so ad infinitum. Allah is great.

Saturday evening Mrs S and this humble one took in the Hippodrome, comme a l'ordinaire. I suppose it will be our regular Sat night performance. I have about decided I wont try to hunt up another girl to dance with for a while, but will see if I can stick it out without giving any expression to my emotions barring poetry. What says my attorney? I could never never find another such nifty little dancer as Dot, anyway.

Had another cold snap here, down to 43, and hasnt warmed up again yet, but probably will today or tomorrow. Most unusual weather.

Have been living high off my Calif dried fruit lately, having taken to stewing it, a la MBP, instead of eating it au naturel. The prunes and cots go fine; dr cots when stewed are next best thing to fr cots. Inthink when my supply is gone I will interview my friend at the Miami Grocery, who worked in Pasadena 8 yrs for the Sunset Phone Co, and knows all about the Popence Bros hairraising exploits in Arabia, via the Star, and see if I can get some more 40-50 prunes.

Attended Church yesterday chez the neo-papists, and had a rather enjoyable service, but I rather begin to believe I will go back to the Presb or Congl, where they dont burn candles on the altar. My honorable ancestors having come to America to get away from just such things, I dont think it behooves me to go back to them at this late day.

Later: Just recd the morning mail, containing letters from Alt and Washn, the former of which I herewith pass on to PP. Also recd a communication from the Secy of the Am Assn for Labor Assn asking me in I am satisfied with the winter's effort to deal with the problem of unemployment. I am.

There are several letters from the Ofs re accounts and garden affairs, and I begin to suspect the details of administration may take more of my time than I calculated on. However, it is in a good cause. I have to administer the oath of office to Frank Primus and resubmit about 15 vouchers which were turned in wrong on Simmonds last acct. Simmonds and I agreed that Steffani would handle the routine garden correspondence, but this am the Madam intimated that she would turn over to me any letters that required answering; she opens all the garden mail. Of course I couldnt demur or do anything else than agree.

Glad to see Mary Helen Shirer is distinguishing herself at Washburn. If Hampton would only shave off his mustache the family would be entitled to respect all round. Got a good letter from Parkinson wh I will send Paul and he can fwd to Altadena.

Ma, I note that Mrs Bartlett is still on the map, but I guess Lucille has given me up as bad job. She gave me every opportunity to "say something" when I was there last time but I refused to come across without consulting my attorney. I havent heard anything from her since I left Calif, and can turn my entire attention to standing off my other intimate acquaintances. Fortunately, my attorney is looking after one case for me. By the way, how is Sister (our sister, dear) getting along? I refer to Katherine, not Helen.

PP, I will try your formula for hot choc. If there is any virtue in that grand old beverage of the Nahuatl race, otherwise known as the Aztecs, I am going to discover it, as I make out about half the time on chocolate or chocolate products, with a maximum of malted milk and a minimum of other stuff thrown in. Glad to know my salary is in the bank. Wont have much use for it unless I am so unfortunate as to meet another soul mate, and one that dances well.

POP, I enclose some data re guava jelly wh will probably give you all the data available, and I think it is pretty reliable stuff. IF you can interest anyone in commercial jelly making this dope may be of use. I can interview the jelly makers here if necessary, and get further advice.

Must go forth and look out for the mangoes.

Lovingly,

Will

Miami, Wednesday April 7.

Dear Folks:

Just time to dash off a short one before I rush in to the Italian Garden. Recd good letters from Alt this a m wh I will hereby pass on to Paul.

Have just finished reading proof on Loquat, Jaboticaba, Lucuma and Litchi for Bailey; have a full page with one illustration on 3 of the 4.

Glad to know the mango presairves got there OK. Let me know when I can do anything else for you.

I have started out on a campaign of economy, due to the fact that I have \$100 life insu to pay in August, a trip home to make, and no girl to dance with. Everything favorable, you see. Am going to keep the screws on from now henceforth. I would hunt up another girl to dance with, but I find it is a little bit hard for me to hold myself down on the dancing proposition, so I am going to swear off for a little while, just to see if I can do it. Maybe I will yet rue the day that I learned. I havnt yet fully recovered from the effect of Dot's departure, am suffer periodically from heart trouble, but I guess I am gradually overcoming it. MBP, no doubt you are somewhat relieved to find that Dot has went, tho I have often reassured you that there was rien a craindre. But she was a peachy little dancer, neanmcins.

Yes, Paul must certainly get acquainted with the Mlle, and I commission him as my lawfully appointed agent to make a thorough eugenic investigation into the family history and prepare a report on the subject. Chg same to my account, unless it is already overdrawn.

Paul, my boy, if you havent bot me those gravats I guess you neednt bother about it, as I wont have any use for them now. Its a sad tale, mates.

Herb, my boy, I am much obliged by your two letters, and I regret to note that you two have fallen for the wiles on one of the gentler sex. If yon Coffeen lassie is a sister of Eleanor Coffeen (an you can find out) she is OK, as the latter was once in my latin class at PHS, tho she doesnt know it, probably: I guess you too have tumbled for dancing about as badly as I have, and you will have to hold back unless you want to land where I am. By the way, let me advise you to allow the folks down at HS to walk over you just about as much as they please. Now I dont suppose Paul will agree with me in that, but it has always been my policy to make myself as useful as possible and not ask or expect to dictate too much, and I find that it is a pretty good way to get along in the world, and in the end, if you have any ability it will be recognized and you will get credit for it.

I think I have several acquaintances who would scarcely have admitted, when I used to wheel plants up to the Altadena PO in a wheelbarrow, that in 3 yrs I would be an Agr Explorer of the U S Govt, but a fact remains a fact, and one gets along just as well not to hustle too much for authority or look too carefully to the dignity of his position. In this great democratic country of ours the best man wins, according to the principles of heredity, and you neednt be in any hurry to hold the reins.

Herb, you leave *Sus guiniensis* alone; you are not cut out for a stock breeder, witness you experience with *Caper domesticus*, and Pa would just have to feed em.

Paul, if I hold myself in check from now until July 1, I shall expect you to provide a dancing partner at least once a week when I return to Washington.

Mrs S found that Ed had gone off and left his segars, and that she would find them to him at Jax. I suggested that he could easily buy some more. "Oh, but he might never think of that" she replied. Last night I took her in to the movies, and on the way home she confided that "really, Mr Pope-noe, Edwahr is the poorest company than ever was". Too bad, Poor Edwahr. I'll bet he is enjoying life now as never before in 17 years. However, the Madam brought me over a bunch of roses last night, to show there was no hard feeling, and I think I am going to get along just first class. Of course, she isnt quite as good company as Dot, but then--

Just recd a birthday card from Knowles. Guess he has mixed up mine and FOP's.

So far I am managing to hold down the administration of the Plant Introduction Garden OK, and look for a continuance of the same. Think I shall call on Geo B Cellon tomorrow. Went out to the Hickson grove yesterday, as well as to the new garden, where I have to make a trip a day. Guess I rarely get off with less than 12 miles of bkie riding a day, and sometimes double it, or nearly so.

Dr Cots and peaches still holding firm. Funny, tho, isnt it, how some folks wont learn things even by repeated and expensive experiences. I have often found that it didnt pay to batch it, but I had to find it out again. I have just returned to the fold and am chowing at Douglas regular, after about 5 days of getting 2 or 3 meals a day in the lab. I am pleased to report that my stomach is gradually getting back into shape again.

Hoping yours is the same

Travelling,

Wilt

1914  
Miami, Sat evening-4pm, that is, April 10/

Dear Folks:

In spite of my reputation as a profuse writer, I fear Paul is going to outstrip me, for I have recd two from him since I wrote you last. But the fact is, this job is just keeping me everlastingly standing on my head; I am sure busy. But I like it that way, and the faster the 1st of July rolls round the better satisfied I will be, provided I accomplish something in the meantime.

This morning I arose at 6, as usual, breakfasted off Calif dired cots and my regular fusil, then rode up to the new gdn, tended to my mango experiments, came back, got up my pay roll, went to the bank and drew \$167, took lunch, and went back to the new garden. Henry Bethel greeted me as I went in the gate, with a "dis is de day, Capn, I've been waiting for dis day eber since last Saturday". I want you to understand I am now officially designated as Capn, since I took the payroll in hand. Well, Moses Role and Gabriel Bain and 8 other Nassau boys were paid off, much to their satisfaction, and things cleaned up for another week. Our work is going on finely, and we are going to have a big showing by the end of June.

I guess I have covered just about 20 miles on my wheel today; it is 8 to the new gdn and back.

Tonight I will take the Missus in to the movies, in order to keep my stand in. I can scarcely realize this week has gone; it has simply flew, as they say down here. Since I quit boarding myself and went back to Douglas I have been able to get a lot more work done, and quit regretting Dot's departure, to boot. Strange what a difference a man's innards make in his mental attitude on things in general.

Say, Paul, tell me one thing (as we say in Portuguese): When do you expect to be back in Washn, after going West? I want to fix it up so I will be there when you are, and if I dont get back before you go away, I will try to work it to stay here and in Cuba until about the time you come back. My plan now is to stay here until July 1st, when Ed returns, then if I can get Mr F to agree, go to Cuba for a month, and then return here for a little while and thence to Washn, about the latter part of August, par example; how would that suit you? I dont think I will go to Calif before the end of Sept or perhaps a little later.

Those cravats havent arrived yet, and I feel obliged to invest 50 cents in a wash tie to wear with my dux tomorrow. You better hurry Gretch up a bit.

Awfully glad to see Dunlap is consul at Stavanger, Norway; hope he will land in the tropics somewhere later on, so I can call on him in my travels.

Paul, what am I going to do about Franceschi's MS for which he wants me to find a publisher? You have seen part of it, havent you? I dont think it would be possible to find a publisher here in the US who would take it on royalty.

That was a nice layout the Pan American Bulletin gave my jabolicaba article. I'll try to catch them again on something. I occasionally wonder what has become of my (our) Brazilian bulletin MS, and whenever I think about it I get so mad I have

to leave my chair and walk up and down the room three or four times before my pulse returns to normal. I often think I will write and ask DF what has become of it, and then I recall the way Stuntz used to take pleasure in seeing me worry about the fate of that bulletin, and I decide that I simply wont say a darn thing about it, and let it go to the dogs. But I dont propose to get caught again. I will have a pretty frank talk with somebody before I kill myself writing any more bulletins.

I am surely the real original recluse nowadays, and will probably stay so. Mrs S said today that she bet when Effie arrived in June she would cut Dot out, but I told her Effie didnt dance, so it was all off. Ah, ~~soixante-dix~~ cette chere Dot, avec ses grands yeux bleus, etc.

I officially opened the pineapple season today, though the strawberry shortcake season is not yet officially closed. Paul, after remaining a member of your anti-tipping club ever since my arrival in Miami, I have at last been forced to resign; I didnt give any tips at Douglas and got in bad with all the girls, so they would hardly wait on me; then last week I changed my table, got another girl (who strongly reminds me of Margaret Gilbert) and commenced doling out 10 c a day blackmail. Now I get very thick butters, two kinds of rolls, and she watches my glass like a hawk. I guess it pays, but I hated to give in.

POP, dont send me any more farm papers unless there is something especial in them, as I havent time to read the things I have here; glad to see the Cultivator with the sapodilla article, and also the Sunday times with the avocado dope.

I called on Geo B Cellon day before yesterday, and had a big medicine talk. Geo B and I are as thick as two thieves. He even took me out in his grove and showed me some patch buds he had put on an old tree, -mango. This is an almost unheard of proceeding, with a Govt man. He never speaks of Govt scientists without using profane language, frequent and painful and free.

Got word from Ed that he made his connections all right and got his tickets OK in Jax. He seemed to appreciate it very much when I assisted him in getting his tickets and berths reserved and gave him an outline of the trip, telling him just when he would get to each place, and where to stop, etc. Ed is all right.

Believe we are going to have some mangos this season; if we do I shall not forget you, my dear attorney, even tho you have fallen down on my obligations on Ontario road. (Our obligations, dear). By the way, if you want to run up to Long Branch for a week end, I think Dot's friends would take you in; I will transfer my standing invitation to you at any time.

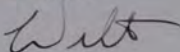
I am about to compose a poem (when I get time) entitled "O Solitude Where are Thy Charms?" (Echo answers Where?).

Weather is getting such that I think I can stand two shower baths per diem.

It hardly seems possible that April is 1/3 gone already. Every day brings me that much nearer to Ontario Road, where my attorney will probably meet me at the door and tell me Miss Brown cannot see anyone today. Attorneys are allright in their places, but I am finding mine a useless luxury.

Hoping you are the same,

Lovingly,





Miami, Fla., April 14, 1915.

Dear Folks:

The original recluse crawled out of his shell for a long enough period last night to attend the grande soiree of the Peoples Congl Church, but in calm and deliberate retrospection this a m I have about decided I might as well have stayed at home, and shant take any more such chances; I went upon urgent invitation of M Arthur Handley, fonctionnaire in the Plant Introduction Garden; it was held at the residence of M Ritter (no relation to other parties of a similar name). There were about 30 crackers there, and a pretty low brow crowd, take em all around, with all due respect to the intelligence of my countrymen. The girls were of the type which remarks "Get offen me, you great big ol fat cow! Doggone yuh!" However, two Georgia blondes with melasses taffy hair and faces which would not only stop a clock but cause it run around backwards extended an urgent invitation to me to come to the Woddmen's dance Thurs eve. I fear I cant afford to injure Paul's dignity by associating with the W O W. After the show was over I came home with Miss Emma, otherwise Emma Warrenner, 4 yrs over from Liverpool, who ran the affair, and leanned that they made \$4.50 from the silver collection wh was for the purpose of paying for the new piano; as Handley and I together contributed \$1.25 of that, the other 28 didnt chip in very heavily. Miss Warrenner (hereinafter called Emma, -that for my attorney's benefit lives on a houseboat just off the fish houses, and I brought her down and helped her in a skiff, then merrily hied myself homeward just as the Sir Knight and Lady Maccabees were closing up shop. This is th Life, -nix. Wish Dot haant left me in the lurch.

Now, my dear attorney, it is perfectly inconsequential to me whether you prefer to follow the obsolete classification of the Vertebrata and called the common or garden goat Capra hirtus or not; I am at perfect peace with all zoologists; that is I care infinitely nothing for any of them, BUT I do feel grieved to see any member of the grand old Popenoe family fall so low as to leave an l out of Amaryllidaceae. Gee, I hope DF doesnt find that out, he would fire you sure.

My boy, dont talk to me about cultivating the emotions. Haint I done tole you that I got a bumper crop already? The only trouble is, we are having difficulty with marketing problems and I cant dispose of my surplus. Wait till I get back to Washn, and I will hold you to your dance-partner propn.

Gee, but its fierce to have your hopes knocked in the head this way, by a thoughtless and prejudiced attorney who tries to render you an opinion on a certain party without havine ever seen said party or any of said party's near relatives. Ma, I guess it is all off, and I will have to let my attorney pick me out a good eugenic mate.

I am afraid I am taking some big chances. Upset the established order of things this a m by switching off from rye

am awaiting with interest a report from the Dept of the Interior.

Paul, Allen is a better saver than you or I, if he can lay much aside on \$60 a mo. But then, lack at the way he has been living. He couldn't incur much expense out there at Yarrow, and he refuses to cultivate his emotions by coming into Washn very often and taking in the Jardin or anything of that kind. I don't think either he or Mendy need worry about the exams; while DF couldn't railroad them thru, I don't think the questions will be made very difficult, in fact I think they will find them much easier than they anticipate, on the whole.

Must go over to the garden now, as it is 6.50. Will finish this before I go in town at noon.

11 am: Must came back from Prof Rolfs, where I assisted in officially opening the FREE pineapple season, having been allowed to consume one which the rats had gnawed around the base. Then went over to get my mail, found there wa'n't none, and had to listen for 20 min to the Missus tell me about a tablecloth which Mrs Fairchild sent her 4 yrs ago, and wh she didnt like, and says Mrs F didnt like it either, but had it in the house and had to get rid of it so sent it down as a present. Truly, this is a hard world, for some folks.

Dept of the Interior reports that cinnamon rolls at 6 am are strictly en regle, and I will guide myself accordingly.

Mrs Rolfs is coming down soon after May 1, and I suppose the girls will come as soon as school is out, but it wont do me any good for they dont approve of the Terpsichorean art.

Mighty glad to get POP's Easter letter. It was a dandy. Just got two cracking good photos of the custard apple (*A. reticulata* Linn) and a dandy of the papaya fruit, wh I have soaked down for the book. That is going to be a great book, some day. I suppose Paul will have written and published 6 when I finally get mine out. About salaries, if there are any given in the BPI this coming July I think I ought to be in for one. We know I was recommended for one last yr, and didnt get it, and if there should be any given in the Ofs this yr and I was left out I would think it rather peculiar.

*raises in*  
Ma, Platonic friendship is a great thing, alright, but for your sake I suppose it is just as well Dot left town, as you will sleep better o' nights. Nothing doing, however, as my attorney (revised and correct spelling) rendered an unfavorable opinion, wh was substantiated by Dun's and Bradstreets. Dot keeps me well supplied with souvenir pcards, but that is a harmless amusement.

Now for Douglas and poquito loonchy, as Doc Bowman has it. Lovingly,

Walt

Miami, Apr 24 1915/ Sat evening.

Dear Folks:

At last something has happened, and as there was quite a grist of mail this a.m. in addition, I cannot resist the temptation to write.

Van Hermann et uxore blew in this morning; Van and I had a big medicine talk this afternoon, and I tried to get them for dinner, but Van was invited out by Deering's supt, and as Deering is just about to buy 15 carloads of plants from Van, thru said supt, Van takes great pains to be sociable.

However, Van says he thinks I have something of interest in one of my new mango doctrines, wh Paul and I have just doped out, viz., that the proportion of perfect to staminate flrs controls the productiveness of a variety (is that enough for the Altadana contingent) and he brought me some data on the same lines wh he had his mozo at the station do for him. Van says if I come over there in July he will have the Govt furnish me a boy to travel around with me, so I can learn the langwidge better and get shet of carrying a camera; I havent heard from DF that I can go yet, so dont set too much store by it. Van is OK. He is coming back here next Tuesday, and I will try to trot him around a little more, as he did me very well last yr, and threaten to do so again.

Ma, dont fret about my welfare. I did have rather a hard time of it the first of this week, but the Mme sweetened up a good deal today, and I guess we will keep things on a peaceful basis allright. In fact we will have to, for I simply refuse to be insulted or take offense at anything, and therefore there cant be a fight. She laid down the law to me pretty strongly twice and I can see jealously cropping out all the time, but I dont allow myself to take any notice of it.

The Mme came home from town tonight bursting with joy, and thinks she has done me the finest turn ever, for which I give her great credit. It appears she met Dot's sister Amy on the street (hold your breath, Ma), and told Amy how much I had missed dancing since Dot went away, and I assume that she asked Amy if she wouldnt go to the dance with me to take Dots place. Anyway, I have my orders to call on Amy next time I am out to Uncle Joes and fix up a date, as Amy said Harry wouldnt mind, Harry being the steady. I'll bet Amy has had a good laugh out of it already, and I will have a rather embarrassing job when I go out there, but you never saw a Popenoe flinch when duty called him, and you may expect to see me tripping the light fantastic again before long. Now Ma, I cant marry both of them, and dont intend to marry either, so if I should go to a dnace with Amy, dont think it all over but the shouting and the announcements. As afore said, we psychologists do these things in a purely matter of fact way.

My goodness, but I had to hustle some today. Went to the garden at 7, came back here at 1<sup>0</sup> and found Van, had to leave them at 11 to go up and pay off, came back here again at 1.30

and had powwow with Van, then after he left had to get off an important letter to Washn, after which I quit and went to Douglas and had my strawberry shortcake, and began to take life easy again, as per my custom. Tomorrow I think I will throw on a lot of style and go in to church, then perhaps sit around the lab in the afternoon if nothing more exciting shows up. Maybe Hickson will come around to take us out riding, bringing Amy this time instead of Dot. Whew! I guess the Madam has got me in for it.

I thought my attorney's aspersions re the pedigree of the Barton family would get a rise out of mother; she is just as solicitous of her client's welfare, and energetic in the discharge of her duties, as is our Washington correspondent. May the best man win. Amy has the floor, in the meantime.

Glad to get FOP's letter, telling all about the big visit of E Simmonds. He's a great Simmonds, isn't he?

It really is too bad that gink is going to put out an avocado book; I don't imagine he knows anything about the subject anyway, but you want to see that he quotes Popenoe often enough. I would like to have been in on the very ground floor, but after all such works as his won't count for much, and won't last very long. When we do get there we want to land a reference work, and one that will be used as a textbook at Cornell and the Miami Business College.

Later: Just returned from paying a short call on the Mme, and on getting further particulars I find that I am practically booked to take Amy to a dance next Monday evening, tho I did not even know there was a dance that day; but the Mme had seen a notis of it in the pyper, and simply went ahead as she would have done if it had been Edwahr and arranged the thing for me. However, Amy said she wasn't sure she could go, so I may get out.

I am invited to take dinner with the Mme tomorrow, so I guess she is willing to bury the hatchet.

PP, thanks for check for \$22. Have got all my bills paid up which were contracted when I was leading the Miami younger social set, and find I am living very cheaply now. Shall keep on doing so, in order to have plenty of mazuma to make a big splurge when I get out to Calif again. If I go over to Cuba it will cost me a little personally too, but probably not more than it does here, as the Govt will pay my living expenses.

*Ken* Sheer up, PP, you may yet get your canoe painted. For all I ~~am~~ DF may be writing me to make tracks for Washn on June 30th. Yep, you are right, this is the sort of a place to get work done, provided you have a sufficient number of books to fall back on. I am pretty well heeled now, and if I don't unearth something out of this mango business it will be a downright shame. I wish you could come down here some time for a vacation trip; perhaps you will be able to some day. The fare isn't very high, - neither the rr or the gastronomic, unless you live at Douglas as I do.

Lovingly  
*Wilt*

FOP: I do not think you are quite correct in saying that we have a lot of thin skinned avocados here in Fla which we do not ship, but ship the thick skinned ones instead. While a good many of the seedlings are considerably thinner skinned, perhaps, than the Trapp, yet they are all of the So American type and do not exhibit the marked distinction into thick skinned and soft skinned wh we find between the Mex and Guatemalan types. I think there may be some very thin skinned ones in Cuba, but I havent seen them. Youbargument is strictly OK, however, and this is a minor point which is not of any consequence, as it does not affect the argument.

I have not seen the fungus which causes the avocados to rot at the tip here in Fla, that is, the same thing as occurs on Ganter and Harman. I see Spinks blames this to the fact that the oil in the fruit gravitates to the lower end, and thus causes this to soften; I want to warn you re this. I dont have any idea you will believe it anyway, but it is against all the principles of plant morphology which I know anything about, and if it actually happens it is a marvel. I suspect it is just a hallucination. Fawcett, you know, could not tell what the trouble was caused by, when he examined the Ganter, but thought the fungus was only secondary. I suspect that it may be due to the final increase in size of the body of the fruit when it has become fully ripe, which the skin is unable to accomodate because of having become fully matured and incapable of expansion. You know in many fruits there is a great increase in bulk just before the fruit is fully ripe, and the skin in this case being thin and delicate it would almost unavoidably split. Of course I cannot say why it should do it in 2 vars and not in the others, but we may find it does do it in a good many others.

The idea is, then that the fruit cracks from some physiological condition, and the fungus then has the opportunity to enter, and soon discolors the fruit, making it unsaleable. I have seen Harmans wh were badly cracked but showed no fungus. Fawcett says the fungus is an *Alternaria*.

Miami, Sunday April 25-  
1915

Dearest little mother:

I can't resist the temptation to turn off the Victrola and have a little Sunday evening chat with you. This is the only time of the week when I can sit down and deliberately write a letter, and it is at this time, when everything is quiet and not even German or Psychology on my mind, that my thoughts always travel Altadena-ward even more than they do during the rest of the week.

It seems to be human nature

never to be entirely satisfied, doesn't it?  
When I sit back and reflect - as I don't  
very often do, as you know all too well, -  
on my pleasant surroundings here, I realize  
that after all I couldn't really ask for  
anything better - tropical plants, plenty of  
books, and the Victrola. When I first came  
the lab. seemed very quiet; the Smalls  
arrived, and I thought I would enjoy  
having someone around, but I am like  
Paul and have an inordinate fondness  
for having things just exactly my own  
way, and I was very glad to be  
left here alone again. I get so much  
more done when I am alone, and  
don't feel that I am frittering away  
time in idle talk. I can never seem  
to find all the time for reading that  
I would like, but I have done more  
of it since I came down here than I  
have in the past 2 years, and I am  
trying to read things worth while. I  
am coming more and more to feel the need  
of a broader acquaintance with the natural  
sciences - I wish I had taken even more  
of them in school, yet I am convinced  
that school is not the place for me,  
and I have very faint hopes of ever  
putting in any more time at college,  
unless it might be a year abroad.

However, that matter will take care of itself.

I'll admit that it has been rather lonesome here at times, yet I am afraid I have allowed myself to think about it too much, and perhaps have wasted too much sympathy on myself. In travel, with constantly changing scenery and foreign people to observe and study, I have never had the slightest feeling of lonesomeness, but it is quite a different thing to live by oneself so far out of the world as we are here. Yet it is foolish to think of being lonesome, and it, when what I want is all



my time to read and study?

I guess, however, that one night a week in town would do me any harm, and I think I will go to the Presbyterian Sunday School next Sunday. I went to Church there this morning, and one of the young men cornered me on the way out and asked me to come. I might go to Christian Endeavor, but it means another trip in town in the evening, and I am usually pretty tired on Sunday; in addition, Paul says the C. E. is nothing but a matrimonial agency anyway, and I am not in need of anything of that kind. My trouble seems to be in standing off

my solicitous relatives and friends who think they have "just the right one" for me. When I came down here Paul tried to get me to ask Katherine B. if I couldn't write to her, but I refused to bite. I don't need many female correspondents.

I see where I am up against a tough job when I interview Amy Hickson, but I am going to treat the whole thing as a joke and I expect she will too. She ~~thinks~~ really went a little too far but I can't criticize her for it when she did it with my pleasure at heart. Just to reassure you I'll tell you that Amy is going away in a very few weeks, any-  
way - and to boot may be engaged, for all I know.

Why doesn't Paul pick out a girl for himself, instead of devoting all his time to my interests? I've got plenty of time, but he's either got to come to the scratch pretty soon or stop preaching eugenics, hasn't he? With all Washington to select from I should think he ought easily to find one to suit. I wish I was there to paint the canvas for

him. I'll do it when I get them.  
I do hope the Cantines will  
come your way. If they are  
anywhere near my route home  
next fall I will stop off a  
day to see them myself.

Guess I'll turn on the Sic  
again and finish up the rest  
of my records. There are several  
wh often remind me of our dances  
chez les Boston.

Take good care of yourself, dearest  
mitchel, and don't forget that I  
love you more every day.

Votre fils devoué  
W. Iron

Tuesday morning, April 27, 1915.

Dear Folks:

At last I am cured! Allahu Akbar! See enclosed for particulars.

Well, I had to face Amy yesterday afternoon, and explain to her just how it was, and as I thot, she was going to the dance with Harry, as she does to all of them, but she played the victrola for me a bit and then told me to come to the dance anyway, and she would see that I met some of the girls. Following this we adjourned to Mrs Hickson's pink tea, where there were 2 Belgian ladies, and we parley-wood a bit, and I put away a liberal allowance of cake, and then came home. In the vening I went to the dance, got 6 dances altogether, but most of the girls were awfully heavy and clumsy, I thot (id est, not like Dot) and I only really enjoyed the one I had with Amy, who has the well developed knack that runs in the family, and is a fine dancer. She is muy sympatica, and very jolly, quite a contrast to Dot, who is rather reserved and not a bit inclined to be confidential. However, I have removed my hat from the ring. Selah.

I brot Mrs S home a note from Mrs Hickson inviting her to a picnic at the Beach Thursday; after reading it Mrs S remarked in her gennywine Irish brogae "Divil a bit do I care for their picnics". She went go.

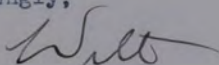
Recd find letters from home this A.M., and one from Paul. Glad to known Simmonds visit came off so well. I am sure he will appreciate what you did for him.

By the way, my atty is responsible for two facts: I was the only gink there last night who carried a stick, and had the loudest cravat in the room. See how I have been ruined by my attorney. I think I will drop the stick habit until next winter when the nothern sports come down, -there is not one in town now.

I have heard from DE to the effect that I can go to Cuba for a couple of weeks in July, if the best interests of the taxpayers demand it. They do. Furthermore, I will string that two weeks out over the better part of a month if I can. He didnt way a thing about coming back to Washington so I guess I am going to stay right here for some little time yet, -probably thru the mango season.

This is all I have time for today. More later.

Lovingly,



MBP: Doc cant injure my chances in Altadena by appearing in polite society in any but the most proper habiliments. Kindly see, therefore, that he utilizes the enclosed slight token of esteem to purchase a suit that will make him look simply swell elegant when he trips the light fantastic with Nancy in the evenings. It is money that I have save by Dot having left town, and I figure that I couldnt put it to any better use. If he can get a suit at \$10 that is good enough, OK, but he better pay \$15 if necessary to get the realy thing. Then if he wants a hat bad enough he can scrape up \$2 out of his own pocket, perhaps.

W

Miami, April 29, 1915.

Dear Folks:

First, I have to thank my attorney for sending down my cancelled checks and balance, but regret to state that I am worse confused than ever and dont know how much I have in bank. In the first place, two checks are still out, one wh I sent to FOP for \$5.85 to pay express on my R H S separates, and another for \$10 cash wh I think I may never have cashed. However, I shall go right on spending money just as tho nothing had happened.

Second, I am persuaded that a scientific life may lead a man to such a state of mind that he hates to see anybody coming down the walk. I have occasion to remark this, just having spent half an hour (I mean an hour and a half) talking to two pauvres indigenes, and practically knocked out my afternoons work, as it has now begun to rain. You know they always show the old scientists as shutting themselves up in a lab and allowing no one to come near them. That's the way I sometimes would like to be, -not always.

Third, I think when I finish the study of geology I will slip in the study of climatology in its place, if my atty can get me a cheap book wh explains all about the weather and how it is made. Want to know just how to account for what Ed calls a 'urricane.

Fourth, I think I will pay a call on the Hickson family, P<sub>1</sub> generation, next Sunday, to show em theres no hard feeling.

I still feel entirely cured of the danci<sup>g</sup> habit, and look for no recurrence of the malady. Guess I will stay cured until I get back to Washn, where my atty can pick me out a good eugenic dancing partner.

My dear Atty, dont get to mixing your eugenics with soodo botany; drawing analogies like that of a high degree of vegetative vigor being detrimental to reproductive vigor. Its too much like the analogies E Simmonds draws; he always has some theory to account for plant phenomena, -likens them to horses, or steam engines, or something of that sort. Such sort of reasoning wont land you in the scientific 400, along with me and Geo B Cellon.

By the way, in your buttered popcorn outbreak you forgot to include the word H O T. Please correct the error.

PP, I had a nice letter from Mendy not long ago. I think he is a very well brought up and is going to be a most agreeable man to have in the Ofs, -better even than SCS.

I fear your client wont want the room very much this summer

if he stays in Fla and Cuba until the end of Sept. I suspect you are getting ready to make me pay for the room rent while you are in California. Am I not right?

Will send up a shipment of dillies very soon, but only a few frts to start with, so you can see whether you are going to be good for a lot. They are cheap and plentiful, says the Yongy Bongy Bo.

This a m I was up at 5.30, and had done a days work by 9 O'clock, when the employe~~s~~ of the BFI and A GA and other benevolent institutions were walking leisurely into the Ofs at Washn. As it is raining outside now, I think I'll knock off, after putting up another set of pollen cultures, and pursue my researches in psychology. Thats a fascinating study. I think it may help me to fathom the workings of the Madam's mind and keep her in check, too. By George, but I could have a good big fight for just about two words, if I wanted it. Yesterday pm I wanted to telephone to Coccanut Grove, and found there was 15 cents toll; she wasnt going to let me do it, but I told her if the Dept refused to pay the toll I would stand for it myself, and went ahead. We get along allright, but it is just because I dont take her too seriously.

By the way, Paul, when Ed Simmonds strike~~s~~ Washn I wish you would take him up the Press Cloob for lunch once; I know you wont enjoy him particularly, yet a scientist like you ought to find anybody of interest, and I think Ed would sort of appreciate the honor, and Mrs Ed would like to have the opportunity to tell how Edwahr~~d~~ dines at the Press Club when he is in Washn. He will be there a couple of weeks, and you will probably get an opportunity some day when you are out at the Ofs and find him there. Dont go out of your way for it.

Sister Amy says an honest confession is good for the soul (good catholic doctrine) so I am here to say that I am not a bit sorry I am going to stay down here all summer. If there was one other real scientist here, like PP, I would enjoy it more, as two heads are better than one, as PHD always remarks, but lacking the two heads I will fall back on my library and expect to brace up my weak sides a good deal before the season is over. Then wherever I go next yr I will be much better prepared.

Well, I will quit and go back to work a bit, -just a bit. A man that begins at \$30 can afford to quit at 3 p.m., especially when there is no one to watch him.

But before I cease, -I wish to concur in my atty's opinion that you cant get a good article under three ha'pence. I thot when Douglas put his buttermilk in big glasses I was going to be just so much ahead, but I forget to figure on his adding enough water to the buttermilk to make up for the difference in the size of the glass.

Lovingly,

Will

- 1915  
Miami, Sat Evening, May 1st [1915]

Dear Folks:

Dillies are ripe,  
Dillies are ripe,  
Come, give the attorney some!

Thus warbled the poet more than 2000 years ago, and he was none of your spring fever poets, either, but the real genuine vegetarian article.

I would suggest to my attorney that the 5 dillies sent per today's post as a sample might be duly tested, and if he will then let me know how many he requires, I will cause inquiries to be made to see if a sufficient quantity can be obtained to meet his demands. There are only about 2000 on the tree, and nobody eats them, so dont be bashful. I might add that you want to keep a dilly on the shelf until it yields to the pressure of the thumb like a ripe peach, then come-se oru.

By the way attorney, please pick out 40 to 50 of our very best Arabian scenes, including Algeria, of subjects wh will interest a mixed audience of the most limited intellct, and forward same to me by post, within 3 days after the rec of this letter. I want the map of Arabia, too. I am booked to deliver a lecture before the Peoples Congl Church, at 10 centavos cada uno, to help pay for our new pianny, I m an pie-anny. Fit me up in good shape, pls, you know about what is needed.

Went to a sociable last night, at urgent request of A. Handley; been kicking myself considerably today for having lost the opportunity to read another chapter in Psychology and gained nothing but a disagreeable taste on my palate. The crowd belonged to the Casey jat most all the way thru, and played Spin the Platter and all the other time-honored games which said jat usually indulges in, except that they cut out the osculation.

I'm going to dispense with the services of my atty. Dont see any use in keeping him longer. Here he's had nigh onto 4 mos to get me a meal at 2803 and hasnt succeeded, and then I step in alone and unaided and ring down an invitation from Mrs Hickson to stop in for supper whenever I am out in their neighborhood. To clinch the bargain they are coming around tomorrow after tiffin to take me over to the beach for the afternoon in the little Overland.

When Thyrsa read the song of the exiled Californian she remarked "Isnt he smart!" (How do I know that? Mein Kleiner finger hat mir's gesagt).

Awfully glad you have at last got our things down from Greenacre to Pine Lodge. And I second the motion, that we are never, no NEVER, going to move out of Pine Lodge, no matter what happens. We can shut out the neighbors with plenty of bamboo screens and such like, and only admit on ticket signed



in ink (not Printers') by FOP.

Beastly warm today, and I have to keep my innards well filled up with water to equalize the transpiration. However, I suppose our Washn correspondent will say I have nothing on him.

Glad to see Doc is going to run for Commr of Pubns, and hope he can land the job. If he does, however, he will have to buck up and learn to use the typewriter without turning his carbons inside out and hit the right letter at least one time in 3. He will also have to learn to make a good bluff at public speaking, wh doesnt run in the Popenoe germ plasm as much as journalism, altho I suppose Paul would say it does, there being an ample abundance of everything good in the Popenoe germ plasm.

I am jess natcherally so full of poetry nowadays that it runs out of my ears. Here's the latest, the very latest:

Perhaps I am particular  
Or even cranky; I'll admit  
That when it comes to dancing, I  
Would just as soon stay out of it  
If I must drag around pell-mell  
Fifine, Celeste and Gabrielle.

For pure unmitigated bliss  
My idea of the dance is this:  
The Royal Palm, with Just One Girl;  
A waltz amidst the dizzy whirl;  
A quiet corner, tete-a-tete;  
What difference if the hour be late?  
A one-step at the cabaret,  
While negro minstrels sing and play.  
With such surroundings, seems to me  
I could dance through all eternity!

And with that I will call a halt until next time.

Lovingly,

Miami, Monday May 3. [1915]

Dear Folks:

You see, my dear atty, I wasnt so premature after all in my poem re the official opening of the shortcake season chez Ma Browne, was I? Tell Ma, de mon part, that I enjoyed that shortcake immensely, just as much, in fact, as if I had been there in propria persona, anything that my attorney does for me having exactly the same effect, with me, as tho I had done it myself. And wasnt it sweet of that dear sister to think of poor little Wilt wearing away his heart and his epidermis down in Florida with the hot weather on. Ah, but that touches me, I can tell you!

Well, the only news down here is that Uncle Joe drove us over to the beach yesterday at 4, and Amy and I sat on the sand an hour an exchanged confidences, during which I found out that she will be 19 this month and likes poetry and doesnt object to my calling her by her first name (doing pretty well, aint it, atty) and then we went out to Hickon's palatial residence, where Amy had to go over to Grandpas, where she lives, to cook supper for Harry, and Mrs H put us up a cold bite wh tasted so English that I was poignantly reminded of the Mokta and would hardly eat. Mrs H hasnt been over but 4 yrs, and has a high disdain for American institutions, with the result that I almost got into a warm argument with her, since I allow no bally Britisher to run down America. Uncle Joe brot me home at 10.30, and voila tout. I wish Amy hadnt quite so many beaux, I might have a chance to take her to a dance, but I wont try to butt in as there is too much competition, and it wouldnt do to stir up any jealousy in the family, anyway.

I was tickled to hear about Allen's exam. Just what I surmised. Those things are always something off a frost, I imagine. Well, it wont do the boys any harm to have studied hard, anyway, the knowledge will come in useful.

Atty, I might mention that you may have to wait ten days for those dillies to get mellow, and in addition, if you show em to anybody, remember they came from Miami, but not from this garden, wh is quarantined, see?

Atty, your order is booked, and I'll see that Jose Gonzalez, our popular one price tailor, antigua J. Collado, 14 Calle San Miguel, puts you up 2 good ones, Norfolk.

Beastly warm down here, I have to consume about a gallon of water a day to equalize the transpiration.

PP: I bet you wont know me when I get back. I am having so much communion with myself and getting so thoroly steeped in the erotical that I think I will be able to hold my own with you.

Louisy Wilt

Miami, Fla., May 5, 1915.

Wilson to his beloved relatives,  
Health and Greetings!

Know then, that I have naught to chronicle of importance, except that I called on the Sulzners last night, and went to the movies with them, seeing the Last Days of Pompeii. They are 3, Mr and Mrs and Ruth, age about 27 or 28, and come the nearest to being our kind of folks of anybody I have met in Miami. I think I would enjoy them immensely if they were going to be here all summer, but they will probably leave this month. They invited me to call a long time ago, but I havent got around to it on account of being so busy.

And in this connexion I have one on my atty, that will make his blood boil, not to mention his gall bladder burst. Mr Sulzner guessed my age at 35! (Not 25, but 35). I laughed uproariously, of course, and he explained that he realized I didnt look nearly that old but thot I must be, judging from the experience I had had, etc. When I told him I was 23 he was almost incredulous. I might add that Sister Amy thought I was 25 or 26, when we got to guessing ages last Sunday. So you see that while Paul is taken for a minor in the eyes of the law, I can pass as a man of the world. I can hear my atty rising up to remark that clean living will certainly tell!

This morning I got the last payroll from the garden and will pay off tomorrow; our road is now done. I have an account for 702 dollars during April. By the way, Paul, I am going to use some of my own money to pay bills here during May and then get it repaid by the Govt, so my bank acct will be considerably smaller than it was a few days ago, and I wont be able to draw much this month, not until the 15th at least, but just as soon as I get reimbursed, or the 15th May comes, I can supply any and all comers. I have scarcely spent anything for my personal edification the last two weeks, beyond my meals, and am going to keep it up this month, if possible, and then blow myself over in Cuba. There is nothing to spend it on, anyway, since Amy wont go to the dance with me.

Just recd find letter from MBP telling all about the new Pine Lodge. I'll bet it looks just like Greenacre inside, -Amelie says it does, anyway, and my Aunt Sally says so too. It will be mighty enjoyable to get into our own surroundings again when I come home next fall. It really doesnt matter much where ones house is, just so long as its interior is expressive of one's own personality and there is not too much pink glassware around, -the kind with the frilled edges and white flowers on the outside.

Ruth Sulzner put up a date pudding that was hot stuff, and is going to invite me in soon to sample a fresh one, -they only had a scrap left last night, and asked me to sample it, as a connoisseur on dates, i.e., Phoenix dactylifera, L., and not the

By the way, I thot last Sunday I had better be preparing my defense for the breach of promise suit, so I told Uncle Joe that I expected to travel for five, count them five, years yet. I could see a shiver pass over ~~the~~ frame and heard a sigh escape his lips as I said it. Dont suppose I will get invited out to any more meals now. Uncle J cant support Dot 5 yrs more.

FOP, it certainly is a dirty shame, as Mrs S says, that our dear friend Killick is going to butcher the avocado so. We will simply have to stand for it, until such time as we can come out with a book that will be recognized by the people who Know as an authoritative work. But dont give Killick too many good photos that HAVE NOT been published already; of those that we have used in print he can just as well have all he wants, but any good ones that we havent published we ought to hold back for our own use. I am going to cut loose some day, when I get my scientific education completed and am a past master of psychology, and write a real jennywine book, you know.

Well, the mango flrs are nearly gone, and PP we are getting it where the chicken got the ackxe. It looks just now as tho we would have to revise our entire system. I am going to wait a week or so more for my experiments to mature and then I will let you know what comes out. There is just one point now on which I am banking; the No.11 flrs wh I have emasculated seem to be setting, and it may be that this var, like the navel orange is entirely independent of pollination for setting fruit. I am trying it on ~~one~~ other vars as well; the hand pollinations so far do not look promising, but it is too early to make a definite statement. I am up against a real proposition, and no ~~make~~ mistake. I may have to go back to Washn with my tail between my legs this summer, but I have put my money on this one last hope and will see what comes out of it. Of course I have found out a good many things about the mango, but unless I discover the secret I wont be able to claim a complete victory.

Ma, look out what you do with our letters. You may land me in court. Whatever else you dont do, pls change the names of all female parties mentioned therein before publication. I have been worried ever since I learned that Gretch had absconded with one of them for fear it contained some incriminating statements. But say, Ma, dont you think Gretch is working pretty hard? Let Paul tell us about Platonic friendship again; he said it failed with me, didnt he? Let him look to his own safety.

I hearily exude my life every time I ride up to the new garden, and 3 skeeters got inside my net last night and were caught this morning, their diminutive bellies inflated or rather distended to the maximum.

What have the Irises done this spring, Ma, i.e., the border around the front flower bed? Are they going to make a solid border this summer?

Maimi now boasts 3 Jitney busses, but they have misconstrued the word and think it means 10 cents.

Lovingly,  
*W. Will*

Miami, Thurs evening, May 6. [1915]

Dear Folks:

Wow, but she's warm, and the sweat trickling down my chin as I write. I wouldn't sell my shower bath for 50 cents, if I couldn't get another just like it for 48.

Recd letter from MBP today saying Doc had been outfitted from head to foot like a little gentleman which he isn't but ought to be. No doubt you have recd my contribution toward this end (dressing, not making him a little gentleman) ere this, and I leave it to you to fight it ~~out~~ out as to what to do with the money.

On figuring up my accts I find I have a lot more money than I will need here, so can send a remittance at any time you need, up to \$75 at least. Let me know; don't all speak at once, but somebody say something!

Tomorrow evening I render an expert opinion on Ruth Sulzner's date pudding, and afterwards play 500 with them and some friends they want me to meet. Met them at luncheon yesterday chez Douglas. Mr S remarked apropos de rien "You're 35, allright" and then later "An old head on young shoulders". I guess he takes me seriously, a thing which no one should ever do.

You will see by the enclosed note that I have evidently struck a responsive chord in E N Reasoner. You will recall that I told you after the first time I met him that he didn't seem to warm up much. He seems to have come thru now, allright. I like to make friends like that. I have decided that there are just two things worth living for, anyhow, -viz., friends and the opportunity to work. That's the first results of my new system of philosophy which I am now practising.

Got a letter from DF yesterday to which he added a footnote "I am extremely pleased at the definiteness of your observations". Cheered me up a good deal, not that I need any cheering up, being the very embodiment of cheerfulness itself, but it makes one feel good to get a word like that from the boss occasionally.

PP, when I go to Cuba I am going to bring back a liberal collection of Spanish songs to teach you. I'll get Melanie Earle to teach them to me. Maybe I'll get her to teach me the danzon, too, and then we can teach it to the Schmidts. You wont need to sing Caraboo any more, provided I ever get back to Washington.

I did Bro Douglas an injustice. Buttermilk now passes the Babcock test, and is still served in tall glasses. Whenever I say buttermilk to my waitress she laughs. I know a good many people in Miami stores and on the streets now. Met SBBliss and had a long talk yesterday.

He is thinking of going out to California before long.

Did I tell you that it was hot? Dont let's have any misunderstanding on that score.

Atty, when you get tired of waiting for those Dillies to get soft let me know and I will send up some ripe ones. Two wh I put on my shelf ten days ago havent budged.

Rolfs sent down the MS of his mango bulletin for me to criticize. Nothing startling in it, nothing that will really add anything to what we already know. Mrs Rolfs, Effie and Clerissy are coming down on the 15th for the summer. I see my finish, when the Madam gets to scheming so as to bring me and Effie together. Nothing doing, however, The Sulzners are going next Sunday and sister Amy on the 21st, so you see I will soon be alone, or just as bad as that.

Everything going along just boo-full, and thats about all there is to chronicle.

Lovingly,

Witt

Miami, Saturday May 8th. [1953]

Dear Folks:

The perusal of a letter from my attorney<sup>ry</sup> received yesterday resulted in a conative mental process which in turn subjected the bicyclists along Biscayne Drive this morning to the sad ordeal of seeing a young man riding along with his head lifted up, reciting these verses:

Attorney dear  
I'm glad to hear  
That you enjoy the Dilly.

So take some more,  
Have three or four!  
To say No would be silly;

Yes, worse than silly that would be,  
And do you know the reason?  
Tis 'cause the dillies cost you nought  
And wont be long in season.

And suiting the word to the action, or vice versa, I will hie me forth and pluck several of those luscious dillies which depend from every bough, and despatch them gratis and post free by return of courier to Rhode Island avenue, Northwest.

Yesterday afternoon I was peacefully grinding our a letter to my poor colleague Amos Hartless, and surveying that Blakeman avocado with thoughtful contemplation, when in walked those two invincible avocadoists, E V Blackman and S B Bliss. I immediately trotted out my bottle of Robin Hood vinegar, reduced to legal strent, the bottle says, and a little salt, and we proceeded to pass judgement. The fruit was spoiled around the seed, but good in the neck, and was certainly High Class. Bliss, who has always been a staunch advocate of the Trapp, refused to admit that it was really better than the latter, but Blackman says it is far superior in richness, and I KNOW it is. Following the avocado ceremony, I treated them to a can of Kwong Me Hong's canned Litchis, wh neither of them had ever tasted before, and told them how we would be growing them in Dade Co inside of ten years, and then we adjourned in Blackman's rickety little Ford to Larkins, 10 mi below here, to look at a grove. Blackman is sort of a slouchy old mossback, who thinks there is nothing like calomel as a fungicide, but seems to be entirely harmless. On the way back we were accosted by a lad of about 7, who wanted a ride. He was going home from school in Larkins. He rode with us about 3 miles, and then said he would get off at the next corner. When he dismounted I said "Well, my boy, I suppose you havent far to walk now, have you?" "Oh, No, Sár" he replied. "How far is it?" I asked. "About 4 miles."

Last night I attended the date pudding ceremony chez the Sulzners, and it was a great affair. The pudding was streectly

O.K. They had two other girls in for dinner, and a third came in later, and we all played 500, at which I got hopelessly set in the hole, a/c my natural inability to play cards, a trait wh runs in the Popenoe germ plasm? I must say, however, that the Sulzners young friends are simply allright, not a little bit of allright, but a lot; the two sisters live about two blocks from the Lab, have just moved in, their padre running a private sanatorium of some sort. They were born out in China and have unpronounceable names which I assume are a product of the Ming Tu dynasty. Both have been to Cornell and are great friends of the Doc Webbers. I judge them to be about 20 and 22, and the younger one has the most bewitching pair of brown eyes I have met in Miami. We shut up shop at 4 bells in the evening watch, and I took the girls home. Ruth Sulzner framed up a deal for us to go over to the beach next Tuesday afternoon, so I will declare a legal half holiday and go my length. As long as Little Brown Eyes is along I couldnt refuse.

PP, lantern slides not recd but will probably come today. Dont know yet when the talk is to come off, but hope it will be next Fri or Sat, so I can get it outn my system. Yes, we will get some more next year when we have more money (Put that in the index expargatorius).

My rush season ~~is~~ pretty well over, and from now on I will take it rather easy, quite easy in fact, as it is hot and sultry. I am going to have a lot of microscopical work to ~~do~~ do later on, but dont want to suggest it to DF until after I go over to Cuba, for fear he will say I better come back to Washn and start right in, and leave Cuba out. I'd just as soon ~~not~~ stay right here all summer and see the fruits ripen, especially since I know that Brown Eyes is going to be right on the ground.

Attorney, you flatter my poetical efforts. Dont do it again, or I will get so conceited I will want to do nothing but write poetry all the time. I'm getting like the Arabs already, - can hardly say anything without speaking in verse. Most of my gems I have composed, or at least started, while riding up to the new garden on my bike. It occupies my mind while covering 4 miles of dusty road in a hot sun.

Forgot to mention that Dr Lyons, of Toothpowder Fame, was also at Sulzner's last night .

Paul, pls advise re condition of dillies on arrival, so I will know how to pick them for shpmt. Gosh, there are a lot on that tree. Can send you a carload if you will allow it to be consigned C O D.

Lovingly,

Will



Miami, Sunday evening  
May 9 1915

Darling mother:

I missed out on my Sunday evening letter last week, on account of being out at the Hickson's for dinner, but I don't think I can let the opportunity slip by this time.

I have just come back from spending the day up at Prof. Simpson's, 3 miles above town. It was sort of a picnic, 24 there, most of them interested in plants. I had a good time talking with Prof. Simpson and Dr. Gifford; there were two or three young ladies there, but they weren't quite my kind, and I didn't enjoy them much. I'm afraid I didn't make quite enough of an effort to be agreeable, in fact,

but it is hard for me to talk to girls with whom I have no interests whatever in common. I wish it weren't. Some girls I can talk to on first acquaintances and enjoy it; with others I can hardly force myself to keep up a conversation half the time.

This has been a warm and quiet week. Nothing but the routine work, except my evenings with the Sulzners. They are pretty nearly our kind of folks, - the nearest to it I have found in Miami. It was nice in Mrs Sulzner to help me get acquainted with some of the girls here too, - girls that she knew I would enjoy. I met her in Douglas yesterday at lunch and remarked "I want to tell you that I think your young friends are very charming." "Then you must call on them and get better acquainted" she replied. I assured her I would, and as a direct result of that conversation I dreamt last night that I did so, and met the girls parents. You see as a psychologist I am able to connect these things up.

I don't think I shall cultivate the Hecksons quite so assiduously in the future. While they are allright, they aren't just our kind. You see Paul has pretty nearly made a snob of

me! It isn't quite that bad, I hope, but if I lived here I would want to number among my intimate friends only those with whom I had a good deal in common. I can be good friends with the Hicksons or anybody else and yet not be running tack and fust all the time.

The Madam has been very docile this past week; it almost seems in fact as if she had been making an effort to be agreeable, and not once has she flared up as she did the week before. It makes my existence much more agreeable. You said in one of your recent letters you hoped my patience would not be taxed to the breaking

point. No fear. As a psychologist  
I look at the affair from a fairly  
analytical viewpoint and will never  
come to the point where I will  
sever friendly relations. If they should  
ever be broken it would be entirely  
a one sided affair. I think the  
Madam herself sometimes regrets her  
rash words. Last Saturday at 2  
pm she gave me the worst tongue-  
lashing I have had; I took it, and  
merely stated calmly what I had done  
and what I proposed to do in  
regard to the work. I came back  
at 5 pm, invited her into Doug-  
lar for supper and movies after-  
wards, and she went!

I think Paul is entirely too  
energetic in looking after my  
interests at 2803, but with

Katherine leaving there on June 3 am  
afraid nothing will happen. While she's  
a nice girl, I don't think she is quite  
emotional enough for a psychologist any-  
way.

I'm looking forward to a lullay time over  
at the beach Tuesday afternoon. I have  
been among young folks so little these  
last 4 months that I sort of feel ill at  
ease when I go out in polite society  
now. I can go to a social with  
the hoi polloi, and do my share but  
when I feel that I am among my equals  
I am rather embarrassed at first.

It won't be long now until Paul  
will be with you. I think you'll find  
he has changed a good deal in the  
last 2 yrs. He is even more a man  
of the word than he was then, has  
no lack of poise and savoir faire, and  
is the furthest boy, just like he  
always was. Dear old Paul - I'd like to  
be out on the Potomac with him in  
the canoe tonight!

The only kick I have coming down here  
is that I can't accomplish half the  
things I want to. It just seems  
as though I never would learn the

things I want to know. Whenever  
I am not working or studying my  
conscience hounds me, yet it seems  
as tho I can't stick at it all  
the time. I don't get much  
done esemngs. - usually I am out  
1 or 2 a week and then when  
you take 1 hr out of each of the  
remaining ones, I go to bed at 9  
or 9.30 ~~th~~ only I save about a  
hour for reading, and my days  
are always full.

Well, good night, Dearest  
mother. Don't let Herb put on  
too much side. your devoted filio  
W. I. Ison.

Miami, Tuesday noon, May 11. [1915]

Dear Folks:

Just got back from the new garden, when I found a good letter from MBP and HFP and a fine book on Psychology from my dear attorney. Thanks very many, atty. Just what I wanted. I think your book is so nice. I will soon be one of our best little psychologists, speaking for Miami.

Pretty nearly had to lick the county commissioners this morning. Some gink who is building roads for them got an idea he wanted the sand we had screened out in the county gravel pit and started in to haul it. We were using it for our wall. When I jumped into the fight the fellow that was stealing it tried to intimate that I had no authority to act and had better call out some of my superiors, but I soon put him straight. I have got a paper tucked away down in the bottom of my desk wh transfers to me all ~~any~~ powers which were formerly vested in E Simmonds, esquire, and if it ever comes to a show down I will just spring it. I didnt want the Madam to know I had that, altho Simmonds knew it, but she thot I had no authority from Washn to do anything more than sign vouchers. However, Steffani gave the thing away a day or two ago, and I fear it may make trouble for me yet. The Madam told Steffani not to take anything offn me, as I wasnt anybody anyway, and had no authority whatever over anybody or anything. Such is life. Very interesting material for a practical psychologist.

When I came back I also found a telephone call waiting for me, and on calling up 254 R 5 a delightful feminine voice informed me that this was Miss Jerimiassen, and that Ruth Sulzner would meet us at the library at 2 pm with the auto to take us over to the beach. Therefore, I take 3 hrs annual leave, unbeknownst to anybody ~~but~~ the Madam, and escort those 4 charmante young ladies to the bathing pool. Paul, what will you give me for a 1/2 interest in the job? Yes, thats the name, Jerimiassen. Sounds rather Seandinavian, but I havnt yet obtained the family genealogy, tho as the brother of one of our best little practical eugenists I shall soon do so. A man with the name of Popence cant be surprised at any outlandish names, however.

This humble one started in<sup>t</sup> to write a pome last night, but failed to awake the muse, and turned his attention to geology instead, and then finished up with a few pages of Chas Darwin innthe Beagle. Herb, I am going to send my Geology on to you, as I have now finished with it. It is almost too elementary for a Popence, but wont be bad to start with. You must read it thru, and dont forget to memorize the eras, periods and epochs and learn the characteristics of each.

Got in a good solid hour on Deutsch last night. MBB, I will write aunt Marbha at once.

No more today. Mas tarde.

lovingly

Walt

Miami, Wed May 12, 1915.

Dear Folks:

While I'm waiting for my culture media to cool I'll write a few lines, then put up my pollen cultures and hasten in to take my tiffin chez Douglas.

Well, if Pa Browne says we cant blame the Germans for blowing up the Lusitania, that settles it. I guess in that case I wont volunteer to go over and help lick them.

I breathe a sigh of relief to see that my faithful attorney has at last come to his senses, and refuses to be done down when it comes to buying flowers for me to send to Ma Browne. Atty, next time you are out in the woods, pick her a nice bunch of *Kalmia latifolia*; its just as pretty as carnations, and a whole lot cheaper.

In reply to insolent question No. 2144, advanced my my attorney in his most recent epistle, I would reply that Dot solemnly swears and asseverates that she is 22, or rather Amy swears and asseverates it for her. I should say that Dot was 22; as far as I am concerned, I want to have you understand, Dot is now defunct, her demise having taken place on April 5, ult., or proximo passado, according to which langwidge you speak.

I beg to report that we had a bully time at the beach yesterday afternoon, and jumped the breakers in galore, as well as spending an hour in the pool. The water certainly is fine down here.

My progress is slow but exceedingly sure. I will call on the Jerimissens Friday evening. Before asking them to the dance I like to go to the house and let their Ma look me over, as I believe it is the decent thing to do. If she reports "All's well!" then we'll say "On with the dance, let joy be unrefined!" PP, they, meaning Little Blue Eyes and Little Brown Eyes, were raised on the island of Hainan, off the coast of Tonkin, but have been over in this country ten yrs, wh I assume to have been about half their lifetimes. Further particulars later.

Paul, doesnt it bore you horribly to have to take out such girls as those you speak of, whose feet belong to the church. I can hardly keep from expressing my disgooost when I get caught in a like predicament.

My next poetical efforts shall be directed to the subject of the charms of solitude, on which I consider myself capable, and I trust I do not say this egotistically, to speak with authority and from ripe experience.

Yes, this certainly has got to stop. Doc cant be wearing any undershirts if I know anything about it. Absolute waste of money. Thats all.

Lovingly

Wilt



Miami, Fla., May 15, 1916.

Dear Folks:

There's something rotten in the Post Office Dept, sure. Yesterday a whole day passed without my receiving a bill from my attorney for services rendered, a Pretty PC from Dot, or anything else whatsoever, express or implied. I am just waiting now for the morning mail to come in, and hope to fare better today.

Lemme see; I guess I havent written for two or three days, mirabile dictu. Dont know as I have done much of import since then, except to re-edit my Solitude, wh I herewith enclose in revised version for Paul to send on to Pasadena. Dont know what subject I will tackle next. All suggestions will be welcomed and promptly attended to.

No, bien chere mere, I did NOT send Dot a copy of that touchin' poem wh you referred to in your last. Ne vous derangez pas.

But I would give ten dollars, genuine U S Currency, if I could get real sick right now and have to go to the hospital. Mebbe I will have my appendicitis cut out anyway, just to be on the safe side. To proceed: Last night I called on the Misses Jerimiasen at the Sunnyoaks Sanitarium, and we played 500 and ate fudge until 10/20 p.m. They have a nice big house wh Mrs J is running as sort of a private hospital, and the lower floor is fixed up very tastefully, with lots of choice Chinese curio and good books (not sixpenny screamers or ha'penny howlers) and a general atmosphere of refinement (I hear my attorney snort in chagrin). Mrs J is tres agreeable, and did not try to sit with us all evening, either. Just before I left I axed em if they dawnced, and they allowed as how they did, then I axed em if they cared to go over to Collins' Casino, and they allowed as how they did, so I tossed up a nickel to decide whether Petits Yeux Bleus or Pequenos Ojos Morenos would go next Tuesday, and Yeux Bleus lost out, so Ojos Morenos and I will trip the light fantastic next Tuesday chez Collins, Inshaallah. Bet it will make Dot's gall bladder burst when Amy writes her about it. However, I have decided to eschew the society of Fifine, Celesta and Gabrielle (the feminine of Tom Dick and Harry, my own composition) and cleave to my own jat henceforth, in so far as is consistent with the American spirit of True Democracy.

PP, do you want me to return The Great Society or not? I am almost thru it. I have found it very edifying, but I dont quite agree with him on one thing: He makes it an excuse for war that we have to give expression to all the mental dispositions, otherwise a baulked disposition will be the result, and this has a debilitating effect. Anger and Hatred being two dispositions he thinks we have to express them from time to time. I dont believe it, but I do agree with him in regard to expressing most of the other emotions, especially,- (Blanks to be filled in by my attorney in legal form)

Miami, Sunday afternoon, May 16. [1915]

Dear Folks:

I dined chez Mme Simmonds at 1; came home at 1.30 and took up a reclining position on my bed for the purpose of reading Darwin in the Beagle, and when I came to just now I found it 3.30. That was a good snooze, and I felt the need of it. A fellow leading such a strenuous life as I must have a wee nap now and then to hold him together. I dont exactly know how to explain that word "strenuous", since my only strenuousness consists in riding up and down Biscayne Drive on my bike three or four times every day, but it sounds good, anyway.

I have not recovered from the chagrin incident to receiving that nasty letter from my attorney saying he failed to derive any measure of satisfaction from eating my dillies. I had just been thinking how I would keep him supplied all summer, and whenever I went over and looked at those 1999 still hanging on the tree I chortled with joy. However, I shall have to try him on something else, as soon as there is anything else in season.

Well, last night I took the Mme in to the movies. I spent my time criticizing the plots from a psychological standpoint, with the result that I found every one to be a false psychology. Then we had a sundae chez John Seybold and on the way home I got the harrowing details of several late divorce cases, and finally got to bed at 10. This is The Life. But just wait until I get over to the Isla de Cooba.

Got a letter from Dorsett at Chico yesterday, in wh he said they were starting East on the 15th, so I think Simmonds will be here by June 5th or thereabouts. He didnt expect to get back until the 30th. Dorsett said Simmonds got mixed up at Sta Barbara, went up the coast line, and missed out on Fresno. He also said he would like to see me, but didnt suppose he would do so until fall, wh looks as tho I was booked to stay here considerably quite a long while yet. Every time I hear anything about it, my departure from Miami grows more distant. However, I have set the absolute maximum in my own mind at Sept 30. I shall certainly not stay here longer than that, unless something extraordinary happens. I think if Simmonds should suddenly break down in health or something of that sort that I could land the job of Supt of the Garden without much of a fight, temporarily at least. But I dont think I want it, for there is no use in getting tied down here or anywhere else. I can see my only salvation is to Keep Moving, otherwise Paul will pick me out a nice congenial female companion, purely eugenic, and it will be all over but the wailing.

This morning I attended preaching at the People's, sitting in the back row with Bros Ritter, the two Handleys, and Andersen, Bro Ritter spending most of the time sharpening his knife on the edge of the seat. It wasnt very exciting; I will

have to get my excitement in some other way. Tomorrow pm I attend a reception at the Sunnyside Sanatorium, 4 to 6, to formally, I mean Officially, of course, open said institution. I dont care much what the excuse is. However, I think when I exhaust my present supply of good literature I can borrow all I want, equally good, from the Jeremiassens, provided I dont treat one of the girls better than the other and thereby stir up trouble for myself. Ma, you ought to be thankful that there are two of them, for I cant marry both and the chances of my marrying neither are thereby increased, as I look at it. Anyway, if I follow up my present intention of taking one to the dance this week, the other next week, and so ad infinitum, there ought to be no kick coming from anybody, barring Dot.

I sometimes think that I wouldnt mind being up in Washn to go out canoeing on the Potomac with Our Sister, provided Paul would chaperone us, and Sis would fry the bacon, but I guess I wouldnt be any happier there than here. However, Paul, when you officially open the Cherry pie season, Think of Me, and dont do it chez Reeves. I also sometimes think that my old mahster would have done much better if he hadnt taught me to cultivate the emotions, as I not only waste a beastly lot of time writing poetry nowadays, but I dont see as I am any better off for having so many emotions. But of course, if my old mahster says it is allright, I will go right ahead as I have been doing, and the blood be on his head.

As you will note, there is a great dearth of material for letter writing, aside from paper, down here in Miami, and I never have much to say. It is precisely for the simple reason that nothing happens to write about, and I either have to fill up my sheet with slush, or what is worse, pseudo-poetry. I will spare you the latter agony this time.

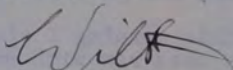
Blew myself yesterday on a 4-bit necktie. I certainly havent bot much in clothes since I came down here, -that has been one virtue of living in Miami. And yet when I want to throw on a little dog, I think Incan do as as well as any young gent in town, with my orange tie and white dux, wh Mrs S says I mustnt wear any more as they are too expensive to wash. I dont have to wear my good clothes very often, but when I do, I have good ones to wear.

The more I think about that Cuban trip the more I relish the idea, and the more I think that I will have to string it out to 4 weeks if I can get DF to agree.

Guess I might just as well quit this, I dont seem to have anything to say.

Hoping you are the same

Affectissimo



Miami, Tuesday May 18, 1915.

Dear Folks:

Yesterday at 4.30 pm this victim of an unscrupulous attorney made one at the formal opening of Sunnyside Sanitarium. My room is picked out, and I will leave instructions with Mme Simmonds to the effect that I am to be sent to it in case anyone picks me up on the street, hors de combat. Anyhow, as Mrs S always puts it, we had some nice punch, and cakes and bonbons, and I met several of the Miami social set, including the city librarian, who urgently invited me to call on her, adding as an afterthought, "You know I have a daughter, too", with a very meaning look. However, I explained to her that I came down here to study and had really felt obliged to deny myself along social lines as much as possible.

Lemme see, did I tell you that the Rolfs, mere et filles, arrived yesterday? Effie, - ce chere Effie, - showed me all her graduation presents, including a book "My College Career", in which I found a liberal section to be devoted to "Proms Dances Hops". When I remarked upon the fact she promptly replied "I shall fill that section full of kodak views". Nothing doing there, but I am quite content. I cant do much for the Rolfs, - they mean well, and have good hearts, but are awfully bourgeoisie and not at all strong on ~~st~~looks. This morning when I stopped in to see my mango expts at Rolfs I found them all packing pines and Effie pared one with her own hands for me to eat. How that must touch my attorney's heart!

bBy the way, Atty, do you want some pines? They're very nice today.

I will soon be thru my german grammar, and on June 1 am going to switch over to Spanish, but maybe I told you that before.

I'm sure I havent told you, however, that Mrs Jeremiasson told me I must come over often, as she felt that there was a strong bond of sympathy between us; I presume she had reference to my interest in things Oriental, but she might more properly have referred to other and more potent factors. Mrs J was born in Swizzland, as Anny Dunnun has it, and her husband, the Dr, was a Dane. Judging from their library I take it he was a medical ~~m~~issionary; they lived in Hainan 13 yrs.

Anyway (apologies to Mrs S) Little Brown Eyes says she will be ready to go to that dawnce tonight at 8 pm. Oh Joy, Oh Bliss, Oh Rapture. Next week I will take Blue Eyes, and so ad infinitum, or until my atty gets out an injunction.

I got to speculating as to the future, and decided that by the time I got back from Cooba my panama wouldnt do to wear for best, so I bot a 3.50 stiff straw at 1.75 today to wear on Sundays and legal holidays. My only reason for deserting J B Stetson and his sombrero was that yesterday morning I wore it while riding in a hot sun 3 hrs and it affected my ~~ment~~ mental functions deleteriously.

Another important item: The wash-hand bowl in my room refused to drain properly, and upon investigation I found it

had become clogged due to my carelessness in washing my razor in the bowl as I shaved. You see, the stiff bristles from my beard soon accumulated and interfered with the free passage of waste.

My gabardines are giving excellent service and haven't faded noticeably. I think I will have the next suit unlined, however if I am going to wear it in Los Tropices.

I forgot to mention previously that on the last two Sundays I have made up a freezer of soursop sherbet, wh is certainly the greatest thing out. We get our soursops here from Nassau. I have also discovered how to make pina fria exactly as they do in Habana, and I do not see anything to prevent my living in continual bliss as long as the pineapples hold out. Wish I had my atty here to fill him up oncet. However, as long as he is living on Sister's and Gretchen's cooking I dont suppose he would stoop to look at pina fria or anything else. Whats this we hear about Sis not being a good cook? And her ma the champeen shortcake maker of the 8th congressional district! It cant be due to any inherent defect in the germ plasm, atty.

Guess I will go up to Pam Beach for a day or two just as soon as Simmonds gets back. Got a little money I must dispose of before the end of the Physical Year, as Mrs S always calls it.

Ma, I wear eye glasses all the time now, when I am not wearing amber lenses. Reason, I broke my others. After getting used to the I-glasses I find they stay on pretty well, tho they are a little more of a nuisance than the others.

Well, thats all for today.

Lovingly,

Wilt

Miami, Fla., May 20. Thursday afternoon

Dear Folks:

I didnt intend to write today, but as a letter has just came (sic) from mother which I feel obliged to transmit to Paul with the least possible delay, inasmuch as it contains items of import to Sister, I'll do the needful, so as to get as much as possible out of the postage stamp. Furthermore, I have a pome to send on, wh Paul can criticise, and ~~fix~~ after he has had a copy struck in bronze to hang in the library of congress, and has asked for Gretchen's opinion, he can send it on to Pasadena to be put in the archives for posterity.

Well the news is, that one E D Vosbury, of the Ofs of Horticulture, dropped in last night, and invited me down to the San Carlos for supper. He is a new man, been in the BPI a yr, grad from Cornell last yr. Down here on pineapple transportation work. He went to Homestead today, but will be back to morrow and may stay here 4 or 5 days, during wh time I will probably have to show him around a bit. Maybe if he is here next Tuesday evening I'll induce Little Brown Eyes to go with him to the dance, and then we'll have two couples, and switch back and forth, making it considerably easier on my attorney's conscience than when I insist on dancing the whole evening with Brown Eyes.

FOP, your account of the bgi ahucate convention sounded awfully good to me. Made me think of old times. I would like to have been there to get in a word edgewise. I hate to see all those fellows putting out avocado publications out there, but I guess it cant be helped. I would certainly have urged DF to let me write something on the subject long ago except that I knew he would hate to say no and yet really didnt dare to let me, after what Swingle and Cook had said on the subject. However, we'll be in at the finish, and when I do get one out it will be much broader in its scope than any of the California fellows or anyone else can write, because of the wide experience I am getting, -Calif, Fla, Cuba and Brazil all ahucate countries.

In re ahucate, my advice to you is stay with it! Some day I'll get Bro Lake in the corner and tell him the Am Pom Society has got to get on the band waggon (very English, that orthography) and quit saying avocado, or rather avocad.

That was certainly a high analysis, -33% oil. Great thing, this avocado.

MBP, I am well fixed financially now and can come across at any time, so dont hesitate to speak up. If you dont get it somebody else will. Think of that, think of that.

Dawgoned if I aint enjoying life nowadays. With the work at the new garden out of the way, and the mango flowering season over, I am hardly busy enough to keep me on the jump, and I get enough recreation to balance things up pretty well. I could stay down here indefinitely at this pace, were it not for the feeling that my attorney needs my assistance in Washington.

My waitress at Douglas, who is about 30 and married, said said to me this noon "Marie says you'll like that fish, there arent any bones in it." "And who is Marie, pray?" I asked. "She's the cook, and she knows you but you dont know her" was the answer; then she went on to say "Do you know what we all call you out in the kitchen? We call you Oar Boy?" They better get Pa Sulzner, facetiously referred to by my atty as Boob, to put them straight, hadnt they? However, they are all pretty good friends of mine down there, and Mrs Henderson, who runs it, is allright, - so ate they all, all allright.

Paul, in your ultra-Websterian diction do you say eyether or eether. Let me know which is preferable, and I will use it. Now that I am associating with folks who can speak English I am getting very particular of my diction, as befits the bro of one of our best little eugenics lecturers.

Herewith halftone wh Bailey is going to use with my papaya article; send it on home, PP. He is also going to use a drawing of a cut frt, from one of my photos. Old Bailey is treating me allright, I tell you.

I met Effie and Clarissy of the street last night. Also Ma Rolfs. Effie is excessivment sympathique, but not quite the kind of sympathy I am used to, as Chas Steins would say. The family is a species of joke, to my mind, but they mean well, have good hearts, and make excellent mango presairves, so they have their uses in the world after all.

I am having quite a time trying ~~whatix~~ to decide what subject to choose for my next pome. So many problems.

Hoping you are the same

Siempre sigue

Wilt

Miami, Sat May 22, 1915.

Dear Folks:

Being in receipt of a letter from my atty in which he indicates that KB is wavering in her opinion as to the advisability of my dancing with Petits Yeux Bleus a whole evening without intermission, I wasted no time but went over last night to get the matter straight. However, the problem has been somewhat lessened by the proposed abandonment of Collins dances, and I have been told the other Casino is low-brow and we wont go. BUT, Yeux Bleus says if I hear of any dances in town where there is going to be a minimum of one other couple present, she will consent to accompany me; she didnt specify that the other couple be personally known to me, the idea being that we didnt want to dance entirely alone, as Ojos Morenos and I did chez Collins last Tues, -tho I blush to admit it. I have not confessed before, but there were only about 4 couples there, and about half the dances we held the floor alone; they turned down the lights very low in order to save electricity, and we sure had a great time. Now, atty, ask Gretch if I am already compromised and whether it is worth while for me to come back to Washington at all.

To my further advantage, I learned last night that Yeux Bleux speaks French with a delightful accent, that being her mother's native tongue (she was raised in Geneva); but what is more important and considerably less agreeable is that they didnt say anything about that supper sometime soon. I will stand off and give them a whole week now to come thru, and if nothing happens I will take the case in hand myself.

Atty, I have a copy of Bailey's 3rd vol. The publishers sent one to me, by mistake; I ordered it to Washn but Bailey evidently gave them the wrong address. I asked Bailey to send them to me as they come out and chg them to my account. I had 3 articles in that one, and I think they all show up pretty well. Bailey just writes to say that Macademia will be the 1st art in the next vol. and wants an illustration; if there are any, 'e shall 'ave them.

PP, it seems to me if they can afford to pay \$1440 to am man for the sole purpose of assisting S Stutz in avoiding some of his onerous duties, they can also afford to raise all the Agrl Explorers to \$2000 on June 30 proximo futuro. Nous allons voir.

I have it! That last paragraph in Paul's last letter gives me the subject for my next pome; Platonic friendship! Watch daily papers for announcement.

Looking for Vosbury here today, and will invite him out here to the lab for the night, if he shows up. Have an engagement to go to Collins avocado grove at 2 pm, wh SB Bliss kindly put over for me: Collins or Pancoast is going to take us over, I guess. SB knows all the old timers and big guns here, and I shall cleave to him as long as he takes me in tow.

Ask Gretchen how I am running any risks of breach of promise suits as long as I maintain an attitude of absolute neutrality between Olhos Azures and Kleine Braune Augen? If one sues, the other will be damned, and the case will be ridiculous, ipso facto.



This weather is strictly tropical, -just exactly 4 degrees variation in 24 hrs. It runs about 78 to 82, or perhaps 80 to 84 here at the garden. It is sort of getting under my skin, and these last few days I havent felt much like working. Maybe I will getbused to it soon; I might just as well if I am going to Cuba this summer.

Sister Amy is going to Long Branch tomorrow. Miami is getting pretty badly depopulated. However, we can get along without hef allright, since we have to.

See here, atty, I dont like the looks of this business, -viz., your taking Gretchen out in my canoe so blooming often. And by the way, which one of the sisters go you take along, Mildred or the other?

There certainly isnt much to write about down here, but I suppose the same is more or less true anywhere at this season of the yr.

Therefore I will halt, and subscribe myself,

Su Seguro Servidor

Got a photo of Charlotte yesterday, -a new one, which is the best I have seen of her. She really looks handsome in it.

Miami, Florida, Sunday May 23. (115)

Dear Folks:

I'll just write a few lines this evening to have them ready to mail tomorrow afternoon, after perhaps adding a few more, if I get back in time. I may go off with Vosbury all day, however, and have to mail this in the morning. He has been here with me since last night; we took a ride out into the country this morning, had dinner with Mrs Simmonds, and this pm I took him in to show him the Royal Palm grounds. It was the first time I had been to the Palm since it closed April 1, and it brought back touchants souvenirs to walk up and down between the Washingtonia robustas, and look in thru the windows of the Grill. But the "mill has gone to decay, Ben Bolt" and grass is now growing in the walks and there is a general air of abandonment around the place. It is quite different from the Royal Palm of last March. I must say I had some good times at that old place last winter. My attorney has got my tastes so high that I am not content to enjoy the pleasures of the common masses any more; I dont get any satisfaction whatever out of the movies nowadays, nor do I believe I would particularly enjoy going on an excursion down the bay with the cash girls and their steadies; it takes something really high-life to satisfy my wants nowadays. I can only blame my attorney for it.

By the way atty, for goodness sake tell me, and by return of courier, whether it is out of style to wear a straw hat with the bow on the back. My new one is that way; I wore it over to the Mme's this noon, and she promptly noticed it, and said that it wasnt wide enough in the brim for me, and that the bow ought to be on the side. Now as to the brim, I got the widest there was in stock, but they arent making them wide this season. If, however, mine is a hold over from last yr and bows on the back are not in style now I shall have to cease wearing it for best immediately. A prompt reply will be appreciated.

Mrs S entertained Vosbury with an interesting account of my girls, beginning with Dot, continuing with Amy and the two Rolfs, and ending with the Jeremiassens. I rather tremble to think what DF will hear when he gets down next winter, I am afraid he will put me down as an awful queener, for the Madam doesnt overlook any details, but as long as I can prove to DF that I am still a free moral agent, unhindered and unencumbered, I guess he cant fire me for running around with the girls a wee bit now and then. The Mme thinks I am an awful sport; but it is merely because I insist on doing a thing as nearly right as I can, and dont go half way on anything. Dont you think I am correct in this, atty? Would you want your client to take his girl to the dance on the jitney bus?

And by the way, jitney busses have sprung up in Miami like mushrooms; the town is full of them, and I suppose we will soon have a bus drivers union. I dont patronize them any.

FOP, your remarks re sticking up for my rights NEXT TIME duly read and noted. I guess you are right. I have been contemplating what I would tell DF regarding my experiences down here. The Ofs knows pretty well what the status is, but none of these men have ever had to go thru a long siege of it like I

have this yr. Dorsett, Bisset and DF have all had spats with the Mme when they have been here and seen some of her outbursts of temper, and DF told me that I was up against a tough proposition when I came down, but he rather underestimated the failings of the Mme in talking to me. I think I shall tell him that I made a great effort to carry out his wishes, and was determined to have peace at any price, but that I would much prefer not to have to go thru it again as it is too hard on the nerves. I dont want DF to think, however, that he can give me any job I cant handle, and altho he may not realize it, this job down here is just about as difficult a one as could be picked out in the USA. Lately things have gone allright, but it is not nice to have things said behind your back to the other men in the garden, nor is it nice to be called down very offensively to your face, but it is abouut over now and I probably wont have to do it again. I am going to write DF and Dorsett personal letters when Simmonds comes back, just to give them an account of what has been done here while I was in charge, and I will say a few words on the subject, but make it mild. I dont say it egotistically, but I do think that any man who can run this garden with Simmonds awgy and the Mme here, really deserves a little credit. Steffani is absolutely on my side, and has expressed himself very positively on the square way in which I have dealt with him. I have left the running of the old garden, except financial affiars to him, and he appreciates the fact; he told the Madam that I had absolutely authority to step in and take it out of his hands if I wanted to, but that he knew I wouldnt do it. I told him very frankly just how I felt, and that I never had expected to interfere in his work and never would, and he appreciates it and will never give me any trouble, altho he has a rather peppery temper and has had rather frequent spats with Simmonds. I have run the work at the new garden solely, and feel that on the whole I have so far looked after things justas well as Simmonds could have done, with very few exceptions.

In other words, my conscience is pretty clear all around, and I will turn back the reins to Simmonds with the feeling that I have done about all any young man could be expected to do in such a position, and I do claim, that when it comes to keeping one's temper and taking nasty things off the Madam I have stood a little more than most fellows would, just because I knew she couldnt hurt me and was going to show DF that I could do it.

Vosbury will here stay until Tuesday morning. I rather enjoy a little company again.

Dont forget about that straw hat, atty. <sup>1</sup>f you dont know the facts, ask Gretchen.

Lovingly,

Will

1915  
Miami, Fla. Tuesday am, May 25.

Dear Folks:

Alas, poor Yorick! His name was Wilson. Yesterday Vosbury and I went in to Rolfs to see the pines, and of course we had to drop in to the house to get a drop of ice water, Mrs R insisting upon it, so we met those chere girls, and of course Effie inquired pointedly if I ever went over to the beach, etc, with the result that I committed myself to take 'em over some day, if Ma Rolfs would chaperone the party. Somebody knock me in the head, quick! However, I didnt set any date, and will stand 'em off as long as possible.

But attorneye, while you are lazily molling in OUR canoe on the Potomac, with Gretchen in the bow, think, O think, of you poor client, trotting Effie and Clarissy over to the beach, with the mercury at 92 degrees of Fahrenheit!

Yesterday Vosbury and I covered a lot of territory; made the new garden in the morning, Rolfs and Deerings, and in the pm Coconut Grove, where we had a big medicine talk and a Bryan highball with John Gifford, D.Oec. and then swiped a lot of fruits for Vosbury to send up to his old Prof at Cornell to show the pomology class: Vosbury is going to leave at noon today to go down the keys. When he came I was feeling a bit weak in the knees and had about made up my mind that I was coming down with something horrid, and would certainly have to go to the hospital, but I guess it was only mental depression and I now feel as fit as possible, and shall take hold of things with new vigor. Mental stagnation is not dangerous, but sometimes very annoying.

However, it may disconcert my atty to learn that Collin's advertise a Big Dance at the Casino tonight, and Thyra, hereinbefore referred to as Little Blue Eyes (no relation to Thyroid or any other parties of a similar name) says she will go.

But what may disconcert my atty even more, and I hope it does, is the news that I am just in redeipt of a most beautiful photograph from Altadena. Tell me, bien chere mere, is she really 1/2 as pretty as that?

John Gifford, D.Oec., lent me a stereopticon, or rather the remains of one, and I shall see if I cant fix it up to use at the Peoples. I think after I try my slides on them I may tackle something a little higher in tone, if the slides seem to take well.

I am soaking up botany just like a sponge; Mr Tracy, late of Jubbulpur, tells me this morning that the Carissa belongs to the cranberry family, and Vosbury informs me that the correct name of the common or California fan palm is *Palmas Washingtoniana*. That last is a gem. Simmonds always speaks of *Magnifica indiae*, and the antlers of the flower.

That article<sup>s</sup> in the Trib re the jaboticaba had a very familiar sound; mighty few words were changed from their position as originally published in the J of H. Its all to the good, - creates interest.

May have to increase my allowance of shower baths from 3 to 4 per day, if this weather keeps up. And my attorney has had the effrontery to insinuate, in past times, that I dont wash often enough. What shall I do? Spend the day in the tub?

Forgot to say that when I went to get my mail this am the Mme remarked "I see you have a photograph there?" using a rather inquisitive tone, as indicated. "Yes" I replied, using as unconcerned a tone as it is possible to command. How could I have said less, without saying nothing at all? I bet she is itching to know who it is.

Well, I am not particularly busy nowadays, but I will try to keep on absorbing knowledge as much as possible until July 1st, and then I will have a good warm month's work in Cuba, and probably a very enjoyable one. Then I will have another warm but fairly easy one here, and then Sing Ho! for the permanent headquarters of the legal profession at Washington. And then Sing Ho! again for the permanent headquarters of good grub chez Ma, -not Ma Browne, attorney; I am in perfect concurrence with my paternal relative in such matters, and prefer to have nothing whatever to do with anyone who is connected with a Representative who votes against the Hobson amendment. Following this principle I shall have to cut the Hickson/s too, as I find Unk Joe has 60 barrels of grape fruit juice he is trying frantically to convert into a potable beverage. All Dade Co han tank up on 60 bbls. Nothing like that in the Jeremiasen family.

I would send my atty 1/2 doz of select Casimiroa edulis, but I am afraid of receiving another highly offensive pome if I do. Hereafter I shall weigh the matter carefully and be sure the specimens are such as to produce a favorable impression.

Bean getting up at 5.30 lately. The Red Bugs, nee Chiggers, have arrive and are doing business wholesale and retail. I will have to go to bed 1 hr earlier now, to get the same amount of sleep as formerly, it requiring exactly 1 hr to put the red bugs to sleep before I can follow suit. If there is one thing that causes me to look forward with displeasure to the next 3 mos, it is the thought of red buds, sand flies et skeeters. May their ancestors burn.

Lovingly,

Witt

For the benefit of my atty, I wish to state unequivocally that the Sable Lorcha was not represented to me good literature, express or implied, but a thriller pure and simple, and some other folks are just as competent to judge good literature, perhaps, as his Nibs, see?

1915  
Miami, Wednesday May 26.

Dear Folks:

I promised to loan the Rolfs my ice cream freezer; took it up there this a.m. at 7.05 and when I stopped in on my return from the new garden at 7.35 they had it full of pineapple sherbet, made from pure pineapple juice which had been allowed to ferment over night and was thoroughly spiked? Looks pretty bad for Methodists. I managed to put down two plates, tho it cut the mucous membrane of my throat.

Vosbury hit it off pretty well; he remarked as we left Rolfs the other day "Those girls will be a great help to their mother." In other words, they wont be much of a help to anyone else, because its awfully hard to find a real nice, real nice man.

Attorney, Simpson's book, as I understand it, is on tropical horticulture, ornamental primarily. I havent seen it but can ask him to show me the MS if you want me to. I think it is primarily a resume of his experience with various tropical plants here in So Fla. It would probably be a pretty good thing, tho I do not know how generally applicable.

Had to go out to see Unk Joe this a.m., to take him some bulletins on wine making. He recd me with open arms and set up two kinds of citrus juice, unfermented, and urged me to come again soon. I have just come back from there, obtained my mail and a lecture from Mme to the effect that I am too extravagant with my laundry and ought to go to Dan Hardy's Casino where the dancing is free instead of paying 50 ¢ at Collins. I know I am going to get a terrible black eye from the Mme on the score of being a sport when DF next comes down here. It makes me darned tired, for even the DF knows enough to discount most things she says, gossip has a certain effect even upon the mind which is determined not to believe what it hears.

Anyhow, Thyra and I had a good time last night, and out of deference to my atty I allowed her to dance with Art Pancoast. Art is coming over here to see me today; I would like to get acquainted with him, as he is one of the leaders in the better social set here, and is a nice fellow to boot. There was a very small crowd out last night, but we met a friend of Art's and their two girls, and it made it sufficiently diversified to satisfy my atty, I think.

PP, if you will tell me where to send Mendy some dillies, I will do the needful. I understood you to say he was going to go home until he got his appointment.

Allright, atty, hereafter it is eether, to agree with the pronounciation of Yvonne, formerly called Little Brown Eyes. By the way, I think Yvonne is un poco mas sympatica than Thyra, and as my attorney would put it, if there is just one thing that we must have, c'est de la sympathie, enfin.

Well, with Vosbury gone I shall try to settle down once more to the accumulation of merit. I must say, Solitude is the thing after all is said and done. However, I feel myself becoming a confirmed crank on several subjects. Hoping you are the same

Miami, May 29. Saturday morning.

[1915]

Dear Folks:

First you must know that there is nothing to write about today, and second that I have just come back from the new garden and Rolfs, where I consumed a pint of ade made from the Florida rough lemon, and can feel the rivets corroding in my insides as a result. That chere Effie didnt give me a chance to get away, -came out into the grove to meet me, and then of course the lemonade was waiting, and I must come up, etc. What can a fellow do? as says the ancient ditty.

Atty, I told you I was booked for a lecture on horticulture before the women's club June 8th. I have been planning to take along specimens of all the less common tropical fruits, and talk a little about each of them, their uses in their native homes and elsewhere, and how we might and ought to use them here. Mrs Pancoast warned me not to shoot over their heads, and it seemed to me this was about the only phase of the subject which would particularly appeal to the women folks, but I would like your suggestions, as one of our best little Ciceros, as to how much ground I might profitably cover. I dont think I will make it over 25 or 30 mins at the outside.

In re this European war, I am beginning to feel that if the French could be let out easy, without losing anything, I would like to see England get a good sound thrashing. How about it, atty? Dont you think it would do the bally bounders good?

Just had a letter from Knowles, to inform me, I suppose that he is now Editor of the Journal of Agr. They'll have a live publication next yr, wont they? He seems to feel quite confident of himself, as usual.

I am enclosing a verse wh I dashed off last night between two spells of reading, in order to wake me up. I dont take much credit to myself for it. Send it home, PP.

Much obliged to my atty for his verdict on straw hats. I shall wear mine with a clear conscience now, having been vindicated by the highest authority in the land. I am about to readppt the cane habit, not because I want to throw on dog, but because I find it is an excellent way to force oneself to stand up straight, and with all the bike riding I am doing I fear I am getting pulled over. I guess if I explain my reasons to the girls they will stand for it, allright. I know Dot would, anyway.

I am going to give those Jeremiassens just 24 hrs more to come thru, and if they dont say something I am going over there tomorrow afternoon and see what is the matter. Somebody must have countermanded that invitation given by cette petite Yvonne. I dont allow anybody to stand in my way when it comes to getting a free meal, however. Hoping you are the same,

Wilt

Miami, Monday evening May 31. [115]

Dear Folks:

The extraordinary, the remarkable, the noteworthy, the important is that I have just returned from an all days session chez Collins Casino, with Thyra and Yvonne. Oh, Joy. Joy was no name for it. We swam a little, played cards a little, and danced a little, not to mention putting down a liberal quota of sandwiches and a generous allotment of cake which cette chere Yvonne put up. But say, those are some girls, as my attorney would say. They are the best company I have struck in Miami. I will have to retract my former statement, however, and now affirm that I think Thrura is un poco mas sympatica of the two, as well as being the best dancer by a considerable bit.

We went on the 9 a.m. bus; like girls, they were late in getting started, and we found the bus had left when we got to the office of Miami Beach Co. I dropped in to ask Mr Pancoast when the next one went, and he said all o'clock, but added that he would jump in his car and overtake the bus for us, which he did, and for which Allah reward him. We came back at 6 p.m. Would that there were a few legal holidays in June, as I remarked to the girls on the way home. However, I added that I thought it might benefit the public interests if I would take an afternoon off occasionally and go over for a swim, and they signified a willingness to be a party to the crime.

Got home at 7 pm, and found two letters from my atty, who is himself something of an epistulator, even if he is outclassed by his Miami client. However, I can see that I had best hasten home if I want to have any property left in Washington with all my clothes and a thermos bottle and my oatmeal bowl & one it looks as though I would have to go into insolvency.

Paul, I hereby authorize you to state unqualifiedly to Gretchen and all other interested parties that I am going to stand up straight.

The millennium is about to arrive, if Mrs Sweet has come thru with that dinner. It touches my heart to think of that. I wish it touched my stomach instead.

My dear Herbert, while I dont like to disaggree with your illustrious brother on any matters affecting the world and its contents, yet I never did take much stock in this fisticuff business myself, and I seem to get along pretty well without it. I think you are a little bit inclined toward pugnacity anyway, provided the object of said pugnacity is a chap considerably smaller than yourself and somewhat puny and sickly, and for these and other reasons I want to advise you to eschew the manly art of self defense insofar as its practical application is concerned, -eschew the manly art my boy, and cleave to the principle of keeping a civil tongue in your head, and you wont have any occasion to defend your honor with your fists, at least not very often. I dont object to seeing you take boxing lessons, or practicing with the gloves, as it quickens the eye, cools the judgment, and cures chaps, tetter and chilblains, but I'm doggoned if I take much stock in this proposition of putting up a



a question of defending your honor, or Hersé, I would say jump in, and fight like the very deuce, but on general principles, and knowing your tendencies, I would say CUT IT OUT.

Mother dear, not all the mangos of Dade county or anything else equally potent can keep me away from California this year, and dont you forget it. And besides, I dont know yet but what I may be able to go out at Uncle Sam's expense, tho I dont really think it likely. But I go, and dont you forget it.

Well, I've got to jump in tomorrow and get some work done. The last week was considerably broken up by visitors coming in. C A Read, the nut man, who arrived Sat pm, wanted to see Coconuts, and wanted to know what to do today. Having in mind this little jaunt to the beach with the girls, I had no hesitation in recommending a trip to Key West as the one thing that would fulfil Read's requirements, and shipped him off last night. He came here Saturday noon, said he wanted to see the garden, and then sat down for in the lab for two hrs and talked Dept news and policies. I finally got him out for a little ramble around the garden, and then it began to rain. I told him the best time to get photos was between 6 and 8 a.m., and if he would come out Sunday morning early we would make the rounds of the garden and get just what he wanted. He showed up at 9. We went to church, and after dinner he took a nap, then we walked down and looked over the plants in the Royal Palm grounds. I decided about this time that it would do him just about as much good to go down to Key West as anything I knew of. When I strike a hustler, I am willing to go my length to show him around and help him out, but I havent much patience with a man who wastes 3/4 of his time in a place like Miami, where there is so infinitely much to see, and when he only has 48 hours to see it all.

Found an envelop of papers from FOP here tonight, wh I will peruse tomorrow. It surely is hot and sticky here tonight, and commonly is these days.

Atty, I will cause inquiries to be made concerning C. edulis, and determine if they have reached the proper stage of maturation. I think they have. I fear the rose apples didnt reach you in shape to be of much use, but I want to have ~~in~~ you personally familiar with the fruits of all these tropical things, so you can talk at least with a modicum of intelligence when questioned concerning them.

Well, I'll go to bed now and dream about what a good time I had today, and perhaps even see my attorney drifting down the Potomac in our canoe, with another in my accustomed place.

Lovingly,

Wilt

M.B.S. It looks to me as tho Gretchen was making a desperate effort to land Paul.

Miami, June 1st, 1915.

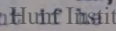
Dear Folks:

Just recd a letter from MBP re Baxter, wh I herewith pass on to Paul, and I want to hasten to reply to MBP to the effect that I had a note from Baxter about a week ago, but he didnt say anything about his troubles except to hint that all wasnt going well, and as I had heard the same thing from Knowles and was rather anxious to know what was the matter I wrote him and told him ~~what his trouble~~ that I would like to know what the trouble was; I did not know whether he had a personal grievance or whether things werent going well with the gardens, but I felt pretty sure he was personally sore. I said nothing in the letter to encourage him in the belief that I would back him up, of course, and if he writes me now and states his case I shall talk to him awfully straight. After all that we have done for Baxter he has no cause to complain, except that he is only about 1/2 a man, and hardly to be held accountable for all he does. I certainly shall cut him off awfully short after what MBP writes me. *See over.*

But to get down to more edifying subjects, - I am glad MBP thinks I am developing a philosophic turn of mind. I really begin to feel that my stay here has been one of the most valuable periods of my life, for the reason that I have been sorely tried, to use the old expression, and not only sorely tried once, but a good deal of the time until about May 10th, and I have been gradually learning to keep my temper and not take things so seriously. I think that my experiences here, coupled with my study of psychology, are going to stand me in very good stead in the future.

MBP, I will not visit with the Jeremiassens too much, but figure I will make it once or twice a week, probably the latter. They are the kind that dont run after boys very much, and dont urge you come again soon, and all that sort of bunk, but they have made me feel very free to come over whenever I wished to, and altho they may not enjoy my company as much as I do theirs, yet I think with the comparative scarcity of real nice men in Miami they wont be bored if I trot em in to the movies, over to the Beach, or something of that sort every week.

My atty has once more showed his boundless generosity by sending me down 3 little wonder records, one of wh was cracked but still worked. MBP, what do you think of this for a selection "A Little Love, A Little Kiss"; "Down on the Farm", and "Pigeon Walk"? Would you ever dream that your eldest would fall so low? However, atty, those records are great, and I am sure tickled to have them.

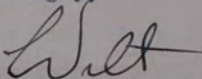
Ma, there is no need for Paul to show his hand, and he could-  
Digitized by  Hort Institute of Botanical Documentation  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA  
got it. So there.

I dont say she is going to keep it permanently, but unless Paul wants to break her heart he better make her let go right now. Vide my last pome on Platonic Love, which is the outcome of my own bitter experience and should guide those young and innocent youths such as Paul who havent yet arrived at years of discretion. I just have a hunch that Gretchen is pretty badly gone on Paul.

You've been having more than your share of trouble out there in California lately, with Carter and Baxter both acting nawsty. Lets forget it, and start over again now. Just think how happy I ought to be over that \$25 I saved by that fellow whose auto I smashed up having forgotten to send in his bill. MBP, I'm going to make you a present of that \$25.

Well, I am enjoying life more right now than I have since I came down here. I feel downright happy, -not rushed to death with work, have a few good friends (two to be exact, one with blue eyes and one with brown) and am in excellent health. There is only one cloud on my horizon, and that is next Sunday, when I have to go to the beach with Effie and Clarissy. I passed by their house this morning, and saw Effie out in front, so I speeded up my wheel like I was going for the doctor and looked straight-ahead, after calling out good morning.

Lovingly,



NB: I would not advise my attorney to select this as one of the letters he is going to show to Gretchen. Am I right, MBP?

Mother: On reading your letter over again, it occurs to me that the letter Baxter told you he had written me must have been a later one than the one I referred to above. If it comes, I will not answer it, but there was nothing said about the trouble in the one I referred to.

I AM JUST ROLLING IN GOOD CLOTHES. In fact, Mrs Simmonds can hardly stand it because I sport up so much on Sundays. I may buy another duck suit or two over in Cuba, but beyond that and a few shirst and collars I couldnt possibly use another thing before going back to Washh, when I will have to lay in a stock on latest styles to keep Paul from feeling ashamed of my appearance. You know Paul.

*I showed Thure & Gonne my Solitude and  
Exp'd California and they affirmed they  
were at Pittsburg, PA*

Miami, June 2nd. Wed evening. [1915]

Dear Folks:

I have reached the sudden conclusion that not only the public interests, but also the private interests of my attorney demand that I act at once. My attorney is hereby empowered to petition for habeas corpus proceedings, and I warn him if he doesn't get prompt action I am gone, and Sister, Brown Eyes or ~~now~~ <sup>no</sup> one else will have a look in.

In other words I have just returned from Rolfs, where I consumed two pineapples on the spot and brought two more home, and where Effie professed to feel poignant regret at the news that I am going to Cuba July 1st, and where we completed the details for next Sunday's excursion to the Beach. I say "we" out of politeness. However, I have it on Clarissy's word that 9 acres of the Rolfs farm goes with each of the girls, and that property is bound to rise in value within the next 75 or 80 yrs. Paul, please ask Gretchen what I had better do about it.

Well, nothing new to chronicle today, I guess, except that it has rained about 6 inches since I last wrote, and I have kept within the laboratory most of the time, reading Coulter's book on Plant Breeding and writing up my mango results. We are looking for Simmonds back next Sunday or Monday, and I am planning to run up to Pam Beach just as soon as I get my spiel out of the way, the 8th. I will figure up how much money I have left on my letter and stay away until it is spent; probably 3 or 4 days.

I scarcely know what to think. The Madam has been so extremely docile lately that I fear something must be wrong. I hope it is not one of those proverbial calms before the storm, but I'll be charitable and think that she just naturally wants to be decent. Haven't had a bit of trouble in two or three weeks, maybe more than that.

It grieves me painfully to learn that Gretchen cannot manage Paul; in fact, the combination of her forces and those of our illustrious friend Dr Groves are said to be of no avail. That boy Paul always was a headstrong cuss, anyway.

Had a good letter from FOP today; I surely am surprised to learn that Solano only runs 4% fat. That is fearfully low. I guess this business of getting all the varieties analysed is an excellent stunt.

I get a letter from Liberty Hyde nearly every day now, it seems to me. I am glad FOP likes my 3 articles in the 3rd vol. I think I will have twice that many in the 4th, and several of them fairly long.

Attorney, I could stand three or four more of those Little Wonder Records someday, if you can find suitable titles, such as "That Skillybaloo Rag" or "Hokey Pokey Fox Trot" or something like that, real sentimental, as the girls down in McCrory's 5 and 10 cent emporium would say.

Well, I'm going to go out and see what the cook has for supper; decided to eat at home tonight, account wet roads. I had my gabardines splashed with mud by a passing truck on the way back from the garden just now and bang goes four bits to the Biscayne Steam Cleaning co.

To whom it May Concern: There's nothing to this business of getting your own affairs.

Always yours

Will

Miami, June 3rd, 1915.

Dear Folks:

My young life is blighted, my hopes nipped in the bud. Just when I thought I was getting to be a genuine applied psychologist, dont I have to go and slip up on the thing, and find myself this morning with shooting pains in my pocketbook and a dark brown taste in my mouth. To proceed:

I was reclining on my bed atv7 pm hier soir when in walks M. Arthur Handley, late of Bruges, and presents an urgent invitation for me to attend a box social chez the People's Congl Churchh. I immediately instituted an elaborate set of inhibitory processes but all, Yes all, of them failed, and therein lies the keynote to my present remorse. So I went with M. Arthur, and watched carefully to see whatgirls brought in what boxes, as is befitting, and finally got things sifted down to two boxes, one of wh I knew belonged to Anna Sue, but couldnt tell which. After we had played Winkum, Ring around a Rosy, Last Couple Out, et al, the boxes were auctioned off; I held back for a long time waiting for the bidding to get slacker, and finally when the first of the two possible Anna Sue boxes came up I picked it up at \$1.05 (hence the shooting pains), and ate supper with the only girl in the house who wasnt absolutely repulsive in appearance, tho my conscience hurts me to say such a cruel thing. But while Anna Sue may be allright per se, she isnt quite the sort of girl I am ased to, as Chas Stoins would say, and if she cant put up any better grub than that I will keep my \$1.05 in my pocket the next time. There was nought but ham sandwiches, social tea biscuits, a couple of slices of pie alleged to be peach style, and- confound it, -Bananas; sacre nom d'une salade, how I hate bananas in a box of that kind! Their aroma reminds me poignantly of the days when I used to ride on the Free Reclining Chair Cars furnished by the SP, and sit behind a family of immigrants who were dining off cold chicken, doughnuts, and bananas.

So I ha' sworn a solemn oath never to be tempted or cajoled into spending my evenings at the People's again, and by the help of Munsterberg and Henry James, I'll keep my word! I am going to seek solace and balm tonight in the companionship of She of the Blue and She of the Brown, provided I can make a date. Ma foi! But what a contrast there is between those petites anges and the congregation of the Peoples!

Didnt I tell you I was affraid it was the calm before the storm? The storm pretty nearly broke yesterday morning, but Iystayed it off with only a few lightning flashes and claps of ominous thunder. The trouble was that somebody called up in the morning and asked for "Mr Popenoe, who was in charge of the garden". This made the madam's gall bladder burst synchronously in 5 different places, and she told the man that Mr Steffani and not Mr Popenoe was in charge of the garden, and that the latter was not here. Then she went out and told Steffani that she was troubled all the time by people calling up and wanting me, that she wasnt going to be bothered by them, etc. She didnt say anything about it to me, but when I went over for the mail

I saw she was mad, and she lit into me about my accounts, - the same old story. I took it for a while, and then sneaked out. I didnt pay her my regular evening call last night, for when I went over in the afternoon for the mail I could see by her face that she had been brooding over the thing all day and was just ready to go off at the touch of the trigger.

Had a good letter from the attorney this morning, and also my daily from L H Bailey, requesting a note on the marang, *Artocarpus odoratissimus*, quick. He shall have it this pm.

PP, I'm glad the rose apples got to you in good enough shape to give you an idea of the fruit. While, I am here this summer I will, try to see that you get a look at nearly all these tropical fruits wh you havent already seen. I am not at all surprised that Simmonds dodged you; he is very reticent and rather ill at ease when dragged out in polite society, I think, and I suspect he was just naturally a little bit afraid of the proposition. But it was not necessary that you take him; I merely wanted him to feel that the Popenoes all aroud were doing their best to be friendly; the folks treated him right in Calif, and he will feel that we all like him. What recent poem of mine do you refer to, when you say my work is improving? Perhaps CHP is correct in saying that my Feijoa article smacks of commercialism; I wrote it in the good old days when I was a West Indian Gardener; I dont believe my recent stuff can be criticised on the same score, as I have a more scientific and disinterested attitude of mind nowadays. I am awfully tickled and gratified to know that DF thinks my mango dope sounds reasonable. I havent heard from him about it yet, but will probably get a letter soon. Of course I am very anxious to come out on top in this game and make some real discoveries. If that Indian yearbook has come you might care to look at it, and then take it home if you want to; dont send it down here. Thanks for the books read yesterday, I now have about enough until I get back from Cooba, unless you strike something cheap and good on philosophy or logic.

I have had no word whatever from Baxter regarding his troubles, and shall simply ignore any further communications from him, if they come. Awfully glad to hear of the big avocado sales; that listens sweet.

Well, this is not such a bad world after all/ my horizon is darkened by only one cloud, but that is a black one; think, O think, of me disporting myself in the surf next Sunday with Effie. O Tempora, O Moses!

Well, I shall go in to take my tiffin now; and then come back and finish up Bailey's job, and then go to the new garden and investigate the present status of the pineapple crop chez Rolfs. Allah is merciful.

Hoping you are the same

Lovingly,

Wilt

1915  
Miami, Saturday noon, June 5th.

Dear Folks:

Effie only gave me 7 pineapples last night, but I dont really hold it against her, since the limiting factor was not her lack of generosity but the capacity of my bike basket. Wish I had my attorney here to assist in their consumption.

However, Dies irae, dies illa is tomorrow. I will be glad when it is over, and sincerely grateful am I that this is not leap year. Last night Effie asked if she couldnt ride down with me, as she was just starting for town, so I had the pleasure of her company. She came out to see Mrs S this morning.

Well, the big news is that Edwahrđ blew in at 12.10 last night, looking like a new man. His cheeks and also his abdomen have filled out, until it hurts him to button his trousers. No doubt the trip has done him a world of good, and I believe Dorsetts preachments have also served to broaden his horizon considerably. He has given me all the news from Calif and Washn. He thinks Shamel is a great fellow, and regrets that he didnt have a chance to accept Paul's invitation to lunch.

Also read a letter from Dorsett this morning, wh was very friendly in tone. He ends up by saying "I have read your letter to Mr Fairchild regarding your views on the mango as a result of your work this season. Its awfully interesting but there are a few things it seems to me your theory does not explain but I havent studied the matter enough to know." Knowing his ultra-conservatism this is about what I would expect. However, inasmuch as I went out of my way to explain in that letter that I was not stating any theories but merely giving an account of my observations, I hardly know what he refers to. Simmonds seems to think DF was quite interested in the letter, and says that DF finds in some old rusty German tome that the same belief as mine was advanced, namely in the apogamy of the mango; I rather hope this is true than otherwise, for inasmuch as I didnt know anything about it, I will still get the credit if my observations are correct, and yet have this German Johnny to back me up. I am awaiting with interest a letter from Mr F on the subject. I do not blame Dorsett or anyone else for refusing to accept my conclusions without further evidence, for they are so radical I will not do so myself, but I am merely stating what I have seen, and will try to prove the thing fully another season.

Attorney dear: I have just read a card from Ruth Sulzner, daughter of your friend Chas F ditto, nee Boob, who is stopping at Pontanet Courts, Washn. Now I dont ask this, but if you feel so inclined I think Ruth would appreciate a dall very much, and as I am under obligations to Mrs S for introducing me to The Girls (Blue and Brown) as also for several other favors, it would be a very proper thing for you to do, it seems to me. Dont know how you may look at it, but I just offer it as a suggestion.

Well, to get back to really important subjects: I stepped out last evening for an hour and called on The Girls, finding them both pretty well occupied with a youngster whose mother was in the hospital, but we chatted for an hr and it served to *Clarify*

my brain and induce a very contented frame of mind. Those girls are most certainly allright, and so far I think I can confidently say I have maintained strict neutrality of the Wilsonian (Woodrow, bot Frederick) types. I'm going to declare a legal half holiday some afternoon next week and take em over to the beach again.

In fact I felt so good when I came home last night, that emotion just flowed out of me like molasses out of a bung hole, and I sat down and after lifting up my head composed the enclosed chef d'oeuvre in the record time of 1 hr. 25 min.

Yes, attorney, I suppose every ackerbauforscher O 2 know a little Zootechmy, just like he ought to know a little Hebrew, and I will read anything you send down. Reading is my long suit these days. I have been loafing like sin these last two weeks, but I put up a strong tale to Ed about how enervating the climate is and how badly I need a rest, and he calculated as how I did look rather thin. I am getting to be a regular Govt guy.

By the way, Paul, if the Sulzners are keeping house it would surely pay you to call, for Ruth is the queen of all date pudding makers, and you being one of our best little datologists ought to sample the article.

Well, I really feel as tho my troubles were over, and I will look forward to a pleasant summer. Dorsett may come down about the end of this month or in July, in which latter case I may not see him.

Lovingly,

Wilt

To prove to you that I am getting to be an awful loafer I will add that I have adopted the Latin American custom of taking a siesta during the heat of the day. I snooze from 1 to 2.30 or thereabouts, - but I wouldn't want Mrs Summons to find it out.

Just as I came out the door Mrs S called to me & invited me over for supper. Guess we are going to buy the hatchet.



Miami, June 9th, 1915.

Dear Folks:

I'll admit I am somewhat hard hearted, and can turn a deaf ear to any ordinary plea, but when my attorney writes me in verse to request some white sapotes, then my icy heart melts like Sierra snows in June, and I herewith enclose bill of costs for a shipment dispatched this morning. This sapote is not a particularly good one, but it is the only one we have ripe at this time; later on, when our better tree gets ripe, I will send up a few more, if PP is still in Washington.

Well, I got up this morning, made a botanical description of *Lucuma nervosa*, read my mail, wh consisted of a single item, the said pome from PP re white sapotes, and now it is 9.30, and beginning to get hot. I will write a few more letters, perhaps work a bit on my mango notes, and then go in to take my tiffin. My rotund restaurantuse, Mrs Henderson, told me at the lecture yesterday that she had just left Douglas, the crowd being so small at this time of yr Douglas had decided he couldnt afford to keep her. Of course I wept copiously. Guess I will stay with the Italian Garden as long as Marie continues to domineer the kitchen, however.

Well, it pays to keep in ~~the~~ <sup>with</sup> the society editors, alright. I enclose clipping from the morning Herald, in wh you will see that Alice treated me pretty well. Alice being about 22 and good looking, no doubt likes to get in strong with the young men of similar age and condition (thats not egotism). However, she got me in bad by stating that I was in charge of the garden; this has been the Madams greatest kick recently, she having the idea that I was trying to give the impression abroad that I was now in chg here. I am going to write Dorsett a letter on this matter and explain things to him, since he is sure to hear when he comes down that I had it put in all the papers that I was now in charge of this garden, and told everybody the same. I think this is one thing that I had better forestall, as it is the thing that would most likely be credited; it is hard for the older men to avoid feeling that we younger chaps ~~don't~~ want to get all the notoriety and authority we can.

Steffani and family came over last night, and I played em the Pigeon Walk, et al, and afterwards amused them with stereopticon views of Arabia. Big night.

Well, I have decided to go to Palm Beach tomorrow, and get away from the scene of my troubles for a couple of days. I'll probably write from there next time. Think I will come back here Sat., however as my money is running low and if I stay over Sunday it may overdraw my authorization.

PP, your check was returned, as noted. Dont do anything of that kind again; you take big risks in sending checks to me. My bank acct is fat now; have 50 down here and \$175 in Washn. Think of that. Think of that. Guess I'll run off and get married. Cant think of any other way to spend the money.

**The Gables**AMONG THE PALMS  
OPEN THE YEAR ROUND  
N. B. MCGRIFF & CO., PROPRIETORS

West Palm Beach, Florida.

June 11<sup>th</sup>

1915

Dear Talks:

Friday Morning.

Had to get up yesterday morning at 4:30 to catch the train, and got here at 8. Lots of niggers and wheel chairs in evidence but everything is dead. I went over to the Royal Poinciana grounds yesterday afternoon and rode up the beach about 2 miles, along the Lake Worth water front. There are a whole lot of fine winter homes there which I had never seen before and some very fine gardens - about the best display of tropical stuff in Florida. It reminded me of Orange Grove avenue but the homes are not so fine. There were quite

a lot of mosquitos about.

I went to see the parent Mulgoba mango at Galie's place in the morning and was surprised to find it had 165 fruits on it. There are hardly any Mulgobas down our way.

I'm going on down to Fort Lauderdale this morning and will return to Miami either tonight or tomorrow night. I think after this change I can settle down to work again and stay with it until July 1. I have already mapped out some work I want to do, and I think with this change to clear the cobwebs out of my brain I will be able to do more after I get back. I fear I was beginning to get sort of stale. I am going to take off one after-

now a week and go over to the  
Beach, provided they will go,  
and I guess they will.

Its real tropical weather now,  
about 85 by day and 80 by night, or  
perhaps 80 and 75.

I saw John B Beach. He has a new  
secret process of grafting avocados &  
won't tell anything about it - just  
like Allon. These southerners have  
a very different spirit from our folks  
out West - if a man gets anything  
good he wants to keep it all to him-  
self. It reacts to their own detriment  
in the end, as witness the Calif.  
Citrus exchange & other cooperative  
ideas wh have put Calif so far  
ahead of Fla.

Lovingly  
W. S. W.

Miami, Saturday June 12. [1915]

Déar Folks:

With that admirable thoughtfulness which has always characterised him, my attorney, whose boundless generosity need not be mentioned since it is well known to you all, has just sent me four more of those ten cent phonograph records. Come again, attorney. I'm sorry you couldn't get "Sprinkle me with kisses if you want my love to grow" but inasmuch as I am devoting most of my time to ecological studies nowadays it might be just as well if you would send me "The Honeysuckle and the Bee"; in this latter we have an excellent example of an entomophilous species. And just to show you what excellent, what refined taste my attorney has in music as in everything else, I may mention that one of the selections he sent me is labelled "Pass the Pickles; Tango". Wish I was a high brow guy like that. Herb, do you think there is any hope for you and me? Another one is "California and You", which brings back touchants souvenirs, and is well calculated to stimulate the lachrymal glands.

And here we go again! Little Pipp has got em! The Popenoe family is gone right now, and that's all there is to it. This biz of cultivating the emotions may be alright for some, but here's three perfectly good young men who have been ruined by it, and arent worth two cents for anything now but the writing of pseudo-poetry. However, Pipp:

It behooves me as your elder brother, and consequently more experienced in the ways of the world, to offer you some counsel on this delicate subject. I think you are started off along precisely the right lines, speaking by and large, but there are certain phases of the subject which will require particular emphasis. You are exactly right in your remark that loud and voluble queening does not pay; it is exactly the thing that stamps one as a low brow, and entirely devoid of those finer emotions which characterise a true psychologists of the emotions, such as is every Popenoe, ipso facto. What you want to do, understand me, is not to talk long and loud, but speak a few words, and those with a tremor in your voice and a hand on your left pulmonary, and at the same time look her straight in the retina with all the force which you can command. Dont forget that old ditty "If you love me Darling, tell me with your eyes." The man that wrote that knew what he was doing; he was, doubtless, a man of considerable experience and well qualified to speak with authority. Furthermore, you want to get away from the bourgeois patois of the bas-monde, and instead of saying "You betcher life", et al, you want to put it "What sayest thou?", and when possible, eschew prose and speak in verse; it is much more effective with the gentle sex. And always drag in the Moonlight, and the Gentle Zephyrs of Spring, and the Dew on the Violets, and the Sweet Notes of the Lark in Yonder Glen, and other such poetical subjects, instead of discussing the latest movie, or Tuffy Conn's mustache.

Neither should you ever say "Yes", but always "Ah, Yes", with stress on the "Ah", and be absolutely Parisian in your politeness toward the female persuasion; that makes a great hit with those who are refined enough to see it, and of course a Ponce wouldnt associate with any other sort, except when forced to, as your humble servant sometimes is when he attends the Peoples, etc. And learn to bow gracefully, -go out behind the barn and practice it a few hundred times, and then when parting from your lady friend always work that stant to the limit. When you get it real bad, and want to get in strong, all that is required is to submit a few verses for her approval, telling her that you have brought down a few verses you just scribbled down in an idle moment, and would much appreciate her criticism, knowing her excellent taste in such matters. If the poetry is sentimental enough, that little trick is sure to fetch home the bacon.

And now, having discharged myself of my duty as a psychologist of the emotions, I might also add, leaving the esthetic attitude and getting down to the practical, that it will add to the effectiveness of the above if you make sure that you ears are free from extraneous substances, your finger nails clean, your hair brushed, ditto clothes and hat, and your shoes shined, ~~not~~ to mention various and sundry incidentals, all of which combine to make up the perfect whole. But before I forget it, since you have learned to play the banjo, you simply must learn a few sentimental little ditties, preferably in French or Spanish, which Paul and I will teach you this summer. I find La Paloma about the most effective, as more emotion can be put into it than any other song I am familiar with.

I havent anything else to say today; hence the above lengthy remarks to Herb. I may note, however, that I recd a good letter from MBP this morning, which was very welcome. Hold on, I forgot I had a letter from P yesterday wh I havent yet answered.

PP, you ask if I do anything with the flute nowadays; Yes, I take it off the shelf once a month, dust it off, and replace it. When I get back to you I will take it up again so we can learn some exotic pieces ~~again~~. It isnt any fun to play alone, unless one hasnt a phonograph. Hope you called on Ruth Sulzner; I dont suppose you would fall in love with her, but she is harmless, and compared to the rest of the girls in Miami, barring, -always barring, -Thyra and Yvonne, extremely well bred. I think you would find her agreeable enough and wouldnt be excessively bored by a cell, tho I know you are darned hard to suit. Will write Auntie Downes at once. Got notice of my life ins premium, wh falls due a month earlier than I thot, and sent in a check last night, so my bank acct isnt quite so large, but I will have plenty to carry us thru, I am sure. No, I'm not going to cut short my stay in furrin parts, I would only be allowed a few weeks in Cuba, but I may cut it short a week or two here in Fla. You see; Thyra's going up to Cornell. Got a note from Effie today asking me up tomorrow, Sun, evening. Guess I'll have to go. Will see if I cant hunt up The Girls tonight or tomorrow afternoon, -my emotions are in need of tillage. Dont like to go too often, however, for fear I may violate my neutrality. Mrs S says I am getting too popular; why not? A Ponce cant help being popular. Hoping you are the same, z

Lovingly,

W.S. Ell

Later:

Afternoon mail has come, so I will have to add another sheet to acknowledge the kind favors recd. Don Pablo gives me a masterpiece in verse, wh I shall put to practical use immediately. That boy is a great convenience when it comes to requiring advice on matters of etiquette. And say, if you dont get an invite to Sulzners for some date pudding, then my name isnt Doctor Pompano. The only thing that can prevent it would be that Boob should get a notion he had to start for somewhere tonight, as he usually does. And say again, if Mrs S doesnt give my Danish-Swiss friends a good reputation, then I miss my guess. I would sure like to make Jamaica on my tour this summer, but fear they wont let me go over on account of the war; Jamaica is not neutral territory, you know. Keep Doc Gifford, our esteemed friend Doc Gifford, in mind, Paul, and if the opportunity arises to send him any free literature or anything, I think he would appreciate it, and he is sure doing his best for you.

Fine letter from FOP/ I agree with re Condit's bulletin. I saw several paragraphs, or sentences, in it that bore the ear marks of the Popenoe combination, pere et fils, very strongly. They all have to come to the fountainhead for real information. I am just starting in to write a short MS on avocado growing in Dade Co. It occurred to me while I was here I ought to work it up, while the data is available and convenient, and then stick it down in the bottom of my pack until I go back to Washn. I dont think DF will want it, but it will come in awfully handy for that book, or I may get to publish it some day. Anyhow, the information will come handy, no matter how you figure it. I'll send you a copy when it is done, wh you can read for your edification and then return to me.

I have all I need to keep me busy here until July 1, when you count out one day each week for a trip to the beach, and after that I will be on the move most of the time until I get back to Washn. Dont need any more trips now until July. I feel much better since ~~rain beach~~, and can take hold of things. I was getting a bit stñle and couldnt do much.

I enclose letter from Baxter wh has just come. <sup>A</sup> heedless to say I will not answer it. It is in reply to mine of sometime ago, about which I wrote you. I take it that Mrs B may feel worse over the affair than WK himself. I am thru with Baxter, and thats all there is to it.

I still think my attorney can put it over me when it comes to writing poetry.

WF

OVER

Heres a little gem from the Miami High School annual:

The spring has come  
The snow has went  
It was not did  
By accident

The birds have flew  
As you have saw  
Back North again  
By Nature's law.



Miami, Sunday June 13, 1915.

Dear Folks:

Its church time, but raining, or going to again in 5 min., so I shall stay home, and dress up just in time to step out for dinner with the Simmonds. I have devoted this morning to two most worthy purposes, 1st and foremost, cleaning up my house, and 2nd and fully as important, courting the Muse. The Muse appeared in all her glory and looked me straight in the eye. I did up a little 3-verses on a tender subject, wh I enclose herewith for PP to read and fwd; I suppose PP will raise a mighty wail when he sees that I have fallen so low again as to drag in the subject of cake, but he forgets to bear in mind that to a young bachelor getting part of his own meals and the remainder at a restaurant, the subject of home made cake is one which can call forth the most tender emotions of which the human stomach is capable. The other pome enclosed is a revision of one sent you formerly; it never suited, and Thyra said it wouldnt do, so I braced up the weak spots a bit, and will submit it again. Thyra is a pretty good judge of poetry, -I know it because she likes mine.

Well, last evening I went over to see what was doing, and found Thyra at Coconut Beach, but little Yva and I went in to the movies, that being all we could think of. I just have a hunch that little Yva may have an enamorado sneaking around in the bushes somewhere, but she treats me mighty nicely, anyhow, and I cant really make up my mind yet which one I want to fall in love with. Probably I will have to leave Miami before I am able to decide. Anyhow, Yvonne cut me some be-autiful roses when I started home last night and they are at present arranged in true Ike-Bana fashion in my 45 cent bowl. Furthermore, we plotted another escapee for next Tuesday or Wednesday, -Collins B.Bach, comme a l'ordinaire, Gee, but what luck it was for me to get acquainted with those girls! Paul, you cant do too much for Ma Sulzner, I owe her a debt of gratitude I can never discharge. However, dont think this is an authorization for you to take Ruth to grand opera and send me a bill for the tickets, box seats at that.

Well, again, I have played my new funnygraf records over this morning at least 3 times, perhaps 4 of Pass the Pickles. PP, cant you send me down Pahss the Presairves? It ought to go well with the pickles.

Blew myself on a box of candy to take up to Effie tonight. I dont want to encourage her too much, but the Rolfs have fed me a good deal, and would feed me more if I gave em a chanst, and I think my attorney would say it is only common decency to show my appreciation. Attorney, I will try out the schemes outlined in your song, in re Mister Pompano, if the opportunity arises; however, I might inform you that the Effie business was only a blind.

My emotions are sure in fine trim this morning. Wish I had little Pipp here to give him a good talking to on the subject of emotional psychology, but I outlined the basic principles pretty well in my last letter. Now I must go forth and read some more.

Vive la Neutralité! Vive l'Entente Cordiale! Vive  
le Collins Beach!                      Toujours a vous

Monday morning, the 14th.

The postman has just come and has brung me several good letters, including two from Bailey, one from DE, and one from Don Fox, not to mention my usual quota from Washn and Altadena. Thanks for the extra avocado bulletins, FOP, I will distribute them among the growers here. I gave Cellon one the other day, and he was very glad to get it.

Well, I officially opened the mango season last night by eating an underripe No. 11 chez Rolfs, and we also ate one of Webber's hybrid pineapples that was simply out of sight. I went up at 7, found Hon. Henry there queening Effie, and we froze a freezer of sherbet and then sat around and sang college songs, me doing most of the singing. I guess I will have to cut out going to Rolfs very often; I don't think they enjoy me particularly, and I know I don't derive any great measure of satisfaction out of conversation up there. You see, our tastes are too different. Now, when it comes to The Girls, why we can talk Psychology, and Things Chinese, and Social Uplift, and all that sort of bunk. I'm going to call up tonight and make another date for a swim.

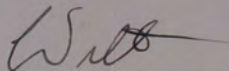
PP infers, or rather bluntly states, that my last poetry was rotten. Wish I knew which one he refers to. I begin to feel that I am not as much of a poet as I thot I was, inspite of MBP's frequent assurances to the contrary. Maybe I am on the wrong tack. I don't think emotional poetry is my long suit, anyway; think I would do better on semi-humorous stuff, like Professor Ben's outrage.

Life is just one darn thing after another. I had just paid up \$75 life ins when along comes a bill from my dear friend R A Cavanaugh, you know Cavanaugh, who says \$2 please.

Ma, I blew myself on a new tie Saturday, to match my incomparable Traje de Shantung, a nice delicate brown thing, which I am sure They will admire.

Dined yesterday with Simmonds; came home and slept two hrs, read 1-1/2, played the phonograph 1 hr and then went to Rolfs. Big day of it. I rather enjoyed it; had a hard rain in thw afternoon, and it was awfully quiet and snug here in the lab. Almost the ideal conditions for griting poetry, but I refrained, feeling that I am degenerating along that line too fast.

Hoping you are the same



Miami, Wednesday morning, about the  
16th of June, I guess. [1915]

Dear Folks:

You never seed a feller with his emotions in such an excellent state of tilth as mine are this morning. It happened thusly:

We (you know, who We are) went over to Collins beach at 1.30 pm yesterday, and had the greatest swim yet, the weather being cloudy so we didnt sunburn. Yvonne and I spent most of the time on the diving board, and I can confidently assert that your humble servant is getting to be one of the best bantamweight divers in Dade county. We came home at 6, and the little dears invited me up for supper, wh showed their good sense and judgement, as I am sure my attorney will agree. After an excellent repast, the color scheme being brown, -muffins interspersed with excellent Chinese tea, salad, cake et al, we played cards until 9 pm, or rather 9.30, or as C K Valentine would say, -Lets see, it might have been 9.32, but anyway, it was somewhere around 9.30, I came home, but not without booking myself and themselves for Saturday evening. It was certainly a great afternoon, and Thyra and I settled some ~~xxx~~ very difficult questions in psychology coming home on the bus.

Well, the time of my departure is drawing near, and I begin to feel that I am going to be on the move again. I finished up my report on mangos this morning, 31 pp with 12 pl, as they say in editorial notices, and will send it in to DF. Now I am going to do up my MS on avocado culture in Dade Co, of wh I have 5 pp already written. POP, I note with interest your warning that Condit may write a book. I am really beginning to think that in case I am to stay in this country next winter I will urge DF to let me put out That Book; probably this will necessitate his sending me abroad somewhere, so I figgure I stand to win either way, -either I will get to write the book, or go abroad, and either of them will suit. There is no use holding off forever, just to accumulate more data, if a lot of low brows are going to crawl in during the interim and usurp the ground. I have ample material to turn out a book of some pretensions, and one which would at least stake out a claim for me and occupy the ground until we could get out the 2nd edition 5 yrs hence. What do you think about it? My work for Bailey has brought me into close touch with nearly all the fruits, since I have had to work them up for him and have done it as thoroly as possible, and with many of the minor ones the datat I have written for him, somewhat elaborated, would fill the bill.

Doggone it, I wish I could get more done? I have been here 5 months, almost to a day, and I havent covered half the ground I wanted to. It just seems as tho I cant accomplish things the way I would like to. (Im going to turn this machine back to the Underwood Co in 10 days, and I'm glad of it, since the ribbon is getting awfully weak.

It has been raining all morning, and Ed came over to the

heavy crops of fruit.

lab to file some publications, so of course we had a big medicine talk incidentally. When I went over for the mail I noted the Madam seemed a little bit peevish; I think she is sore at my knocking off on a work day to go to the beach. Of course she knows whenever I go; she would find it out anyway, so I always, or usually tell her, so she cant claim I was trying to sneak awgy unbeknownst. I fear she may play up this business to Dorsett when he comes down, but in view of the fact that I worked Sunday mornings during mango season I think I am perfectly entitled to a half day off once a week during June, and I'm going to take it, willy nilly. Guess I can square myself with the boss allright.

Got a letter from DF yesterday in which he says "The Brazilian bulletin is still held up. Congestion at that end of the line is what Mr Meyer would call "fierce". I understand it is on Taylor's desk, where it has rested since last October.

I am going to start for Cuba on July 1, but I guess you might just as well continue to send mail here. No, I'll take it back, guess you better send my mail, any that will reach hereafter July 1, care Mr Foster's Information Office, Habana. It will save Mrs S having to fwd it, and be a little safer.

More later.

Lovingly,

Walt

1915

Miami, Fla., Thurs June 17th.

Dear Folks:

Having despatched my daily letter to D H Bailey I can turn ~~turn~~ my attention to more important things, such as writing to my attorney. It rained all days yesterday and all last night, a constant drizzle which was at times a downpour, so I didnt stir far from the Lab. Couldnt even go in town for supper, so I boiled up a bit of rice, added thereto some tinned milk and butter, ditto slice of bread and some guava jelly, and called it a meal. I am persuaded (as the old writers all put it) that I do not care to live alone all the rest of my life. After supper Edward came across and talked an hr, and then I read McDougall until my eyes wouldnt stay open any longer, and turned in to dream that I went to Brazil; I had arrived in Rio de Janeiro, gone thru the Alfandega, engaged a boy to carry my two trunks up to the Hotel Beau Sejour, and gone to the hotel myself up the old carline thru Santa Thereza. When I arrived at the hotel I found my old Friend Arsene Cuminge had gone, and there were three or four guys standing around who looked Teutonic. I asked for the manager, and told him that I had been at that hotel the previous year, and liked the French cooking, me being of French descent myself, and therefore I ~~had~~ come back and wanted him to give me his lowest rate. He informed me that I wouldnt get anything French there now but Porterhouse and Sherry, and I had just started up to look at a room, and had reached the third floor when I woke up, and was the most disappointed youth imaginable. There's your clue, Psychologist, work on it!

Yesterday pm I turned out Surinam Cherry for Bailey. I am working hard now to find some other subject which I can scrape up an excuse for doing. He seems to take em, hook-bait and sinker, and I am feeding him up as strong as possible.

FOP's specimen letter to Mr Fairchild re Mrs S came to hand yesterday. Havent yet read the edited carbon from PP. I am very dubious about the advisability of writing such a letter to Dr. Both Dorsett and Bisset know Mrs S's vile tongue just about as well as I do, and DF knows enough about it. I dont believe I would be telling them anything new, and they would not think any more of me, I feel, for coming out so strong and making such a howl. If it would accomplish any good I would write it, but they are all just as powerless to stop the Mrs as I am, and found it out long ago. As for my own reputation, if they dont know me well enough so that what the Mrs may say wont prejudice them against me, then I will just have to stand it for the time being, and let my future actions prove my character. I will talk to them when I get up there, but I dont like to put a letter of that kind into the files, where it may be dragged out some day and exhibited before the public when I am running for the Presidency.

Doc Small is coming down again, be here tomorrow. He wont bother me any, however, as long as he is alone, and I will be gone myself in 13 days more.

I'm sort of getting things cleaned up now, and think I will go away with the feeling that I have finished up quite a little work. The more I think of That Book the more I believe next winter is the time to write it.

Como siempre

*Dr Tompkins*

1915  
Miami, Fla., June 24th. Thurs morn.

Dear Folks:

You know how ideas "grow" on you; well, I am just about persuaded that the thing for me to do, after I return to Washn this summer, and spend a month or two cleaning up my work, is to settle down on THAT BOOK and get it finished before spring, then if I come down here again, or go abroad, it will be DONE, and neither Condit nor any other Dub can get in and steal all my long-pent-up thunder. This is called forth by the receipt of a letter this a m from FOP, enclosing one from Coit, in which I note Condit is going to get out another avocado bulletin two yrs hence; I ought to get my book out before that appears, sure. What do you think about it? I believe I can get DF to agree. I have really accumulated quite a little material here this spring, and have brot a lot of it into form thru writing for Bailey.

Got an invitation yesterday to deliver a paper at the big celebration of the N Y Botanical Gardens on Sept 6th, but turned it down. Horticulture and tropical pomology is my forte. And take it from me, when it comes to tropical fruits, I take off my hat to very few of my esteemed contemporaries, and I have just decided that it is high time I jumped back in the ring and make a little more noise. It is a great thing to bury oneself for a while, and draw together all sorts of information, but one has to get it in print if it is to do any good.

Well, I rode down to Homestead with A M Griffing yesterday, and rode back thru a big thunder shower. Took all afternoon; got home at 6.50, after wh I read my mail, ate a bite of supper, changed my clothes and appeared at Sunnyoaks at 7.50 em ponto. Had a great seance; we talked poetry for a while, then went into the movies, came home and talked poetry and psychology some more and then I left at 10.40. The girls are training me on the matter of poetical style. I have full instructions now and am going to make an effort to put them intomeffect. For the benefit of my esteemed friend Doc Popence I will say that I think I am vindicated again, -in other words, the girls are falling for that poetry. Doc, there's nothing like a little poetry, properly applied, to touch the girls in a tender spot. I saw Thyra's great mosquito epic, in blank verse, and am promised a copy of it next time. For your information I will state that tomorrow at 1 p.m. we take our weekly afternoon chez Collins Beach.

Those girls have got me guessing, sure enough. I really begin to feel shaky about Yvonne's being engaged at all. For two cents I would fall in love with her myself, and for annas 0 and pice 6 only I would do the same with Thyra. Since there is nobody to fork over the money, however, I guess I will desist. Yvonne has received the impression from reading my poetry that I am homesick, and it took me about 20 minutes to prove that I wasnt, -or rather, to assert that I wasnt. Of course, one cant really prove such a thing as that.

However, for MBP's benefit I want to say that the above remarks are not really intended to be serious, and dont get the idea that I am a goner, cause I aint. I was only foolin, foolin you.

Wonder what my attorney is doing these days to keep his emotions in proper trim? Echo answers What?

Must say that the movies didnt do justice to Bret Harte last night. They made a mess of it; too much blood and thunder, and overdrawn western life. The thing might have been made into a fine little drama of frontier life, but it wasnt, and Thyra and I oft had occasion to remark. I fear I wont ever be able to read "Her Letter" again and enjoy it, now that I have seen what a homely mug Joe is, and how much whiskers Old Folinsbee has that dont belong to him, and how Harrison's Barn doesnt look like a barn at all. Such is life, - just one allusion dispelled after another. I suppose next thing I will wake up and find that my poetry isnt poetry at all. In fact, I think my attorney has cast intimations to that effect already.

Pooty warm, but I dont mind. Mangos are in the market, and pines holding firm. I think if the Rolfs stayed here another month, and me ditto, I would get doggone tired of Pines.

Lovingly,

Will

Dont worry; Ma, your client is safe

Miami, Florida, June 26th 1915.  
Saturday morning.

Mr Wilson Popenoe begs to announce to his many friends that the Beach party which was arranged to take place yesterday afternoon was postponed on account of rain, and will be held today. Following the return from the Beach at 7 p.m. Mr Popenoe will dine at Sunnyoaks, by request, and probably play cards afterward, unless the spirit moves to take a stroll in the moonlight.

Mr Popenoe also wishes to announce that he will dine tomorrow at 1 p.m. with Joseph Hickson and family, at their residence on Orange Glade Road, following which he will again dine at 7 p.m. with Mrs Peter Henry Rolfs and family at No rth Buena Vista.

Paul, come to Miami, where the parents of eligible daughters have learned that the way to a man's heart is verily thru his alimentary canal.

But who dares to intimate that I am getting barnacles on me, when I am setting a pace like this?

Furthermore, you must know that this humble one was booked for a lecture on Arabia last night, as per enclosed small bill, but when I went for the lantern it failed to materialize and I had to talk without my slides. Stood up and kept a steady stream going for 25 minutes, after wh I retired to the rear end of the hall and allowed everyone to shake hands with me as he came by and tell me how much he enjoyed my lecture. I brot down the house with my Arab call to prayers, wh I can sing with great eclat. That seems to be a winner, but it requires a little nerve to start out and sing it.

FOP, I have written Baxter about the kind of letter you outlined, - copied most of it verbatim. I think it is a good plan to save future embarassment.

I have also written DF, asking him if he can arrange it so I can skip over to Jamaica when I am at Santiago de Cuba and spend one week. Dont know whether it will go thru or not, but it wont do any harm to ask, and I would sure like to make it. I am glad you suggested it, anyway.

While I will be somewhat relieved to get away from Mrs S, and glad to be traveling again, I will hate to leave Miami for two reasons, one of which has blue eyes and the other brown. However, Ma, I think you would be proud of the way I am maintaining my neutrality. I have the girls guessing, they have me guessing, and we are all happy.

I have finished my avocadompaper, with the exception of the dope on varieties. If I can find an outlet for the thing I am going to get up a crackerjack list of the principal vars cultivated in



the US, and tack it on to the end. I rather think I will ask DF to let me publish it in the Proceedings of the Am Pomological, wh will be out next fall. I think I could put the variety datat in such form that it would sort of be a standard for the future, - giving a popular account of each variety in non-technical language and then the requisite pomological description, stolen from the publications of KARYerson. I shant trouble to credit any of my descriptions to Dr Ryerson, however, for reasons best known to myself. I have worked out a key to the Mexican, Guatemalan and South American types wh is hot stuff. I hope DF will let me publish this.

DF wrote me yesterday suggesting that I get out a preliminary statement on the results of my mango investigations, if I felt safe in doing so. At the end he said he had just talked with Dorsett, and the latter said, etc. You know the rest. Dorsett makes it just a little bit too strong, but I dont mind. I am not going to publish, however until I have another season to work it out more thoroly. I want to be on the safe side. PP, if you should get a chance to talk this mango matter over with PHD, please fill him up until he cries peccavi.

Got a Cuban avocado here yesterday, for 20. First that have appeared in the market this season. GUESS I will have to send one to my atty, or else a soursop, before I leave for Cuba, to remove thr bad taste left on hispalate by all the bird-and-children fruits wh I have sent him recently. By the way, PP, you verses on the Kai apple were strictly allright. I turned out a poem last night, by request, on the Wanderlust, wh I will submit to my critics for approval today and if they say it is allright I will fwd it to you. The only trouble with poetry is that it exposes the innermost workings of your mind; I guess the girls know my temperament about as well as anybody, bythis time, since I have supplied them with all my chefs d'oevres and a few that werent chefs. They keep encouraging me to write more, so it is their own fault.

Next week I will devote to outlining the big cuban campaign, packing up, sending Paul the phonograph, and clearing up odd jobs here. Havent heard anything more about Allen coming down. I rather doubt if he gets his appointment in time. Maybe they will send him down here to Miami to spend August with me, if he cant get to Cuba. I am trembling in my shoes now, in anticipation of learning before long whether I get a promotion this year or not. I ought to know soon, tho perhaps not before the July 15th check comes in. I wont be certain I havent got one till then, anyway. Here's hoping.

Doc, dont go in too strong on Eleanor until I get home and can size her up from the standpoint of an emotional psychologgist. We will settle the matter for good when I get there, wont we, Dac? Therés going to be some big times around Woodbury Rd when I get out there again. You watch me.

Lovingly,

Will

I leave here on the

18 July

1915

Miami Florida  
Sunday morning, June 27<sup>th</sup> 1915

Dearest little mother:

Before I clean up the Lab this morning I am going to sit down for a little chat with you. There is something about a typewriter that seems to me to kill the personality, and once in a while I like to write you in long hand, as I feel a great deal more as though I was really talking to you.

I suspect my letters, which have been pretty frequent these last few months, won't come quite so

often after I get started for Cuba, for  
I will be moving around a great deal  
over there and seeing lots of interesting  
things. I suppose I have wasted a good  
deal of time here in letter writing, but  
I know that you like to receive letters  
from your boys, and if the time hadn't  
been wasted in this way it would probably  
have been wasted in some other, with-  
out doing anybody any good, perhaps.

We came back from the Beach last  
night a tired but happy lot. Had an  
excellent supper at the Jermissonsens,  
and then talked and read poetry for  
an hour or so, following which we  
played cards until 10.30. Mrs J.  
read us some poems in French which  
were very pretty. I just above Thyra's  
accent, but don't get to hear it very  
often, as we rarely talk any French. I  
am getting awfully rusty on it, myself.

I am enclosing my latest, written in  
accordance with the fragments laid  
down by Thyra and Joanne. Thyra says  
it is alright, but she can't agree  
with me in believing that the

Wanderlust ever dies out, or  
can be eventually killed by  
sufficient wandering. I hold  
that it can, and that after a  
while it will loose its hold  
and you can return home to  
live in peace. What do you  
think about it? You have  
refused to comment herself on  
this poem; the girls tastes are  
very unlike and I only figure  
on pleasing one at a time.

I sent Miss Amelie that  
poem on the Wanderlust  
which I wrote some time

ago, but haven't heard from it  
yet. She doesn't write very  
often, but it is just as well.  
Of course I don't write any  
often than she does, but  
frequently I sandwich a poem  
or a post card in between my  
letters. Does she ever mention  
my poetry, or is she as reticent  
as ever? Probably the latter.

I am sort of hoping that D.F.  
will include me on that big  
trip to South China if it comes  
off. As long as the war lasts,  
however, I am rather ~~skeptical~~  
about the possibility of getting

the Houston to O.K. such a trip. I would like mighty well to go aboard again next winter. I feel as tho I have been home a pretty long time - it is over a year already.

I am glad you are letting Herb earn some of the money for his trip to Trisco. It is better thus. I'll be glad to put up \$10 or \$15 if he makes any more than he already has in sight, but I'd just as soon deposit the money with you and let you have him clean up the yard for it. I think it encourages industry, and Doc is getting better point now where he ought to learn to stick to a job even though he doesn't particularly fancy the work. I think he is a little like me - will work like a Trojan if he wants to, but if he isn't particularly in love with the job it is hard to keep him at it.

Old Paul will soon be with you. I won't know when I am going to get home until I get back to Wacha and can see what the future plans are. If Allan comes down I think I won't go back to Wacha until the 1<sup>st</sup> of Sept at

the earliest, but if he doesn't come  
I think I am likely to land  
there by August 20th, I may stay  
over in Cuba a little longer  
than I expect to, however. D.F.  
seems to have taken to leaving my  
plans in my own hands, which suits  
me all right, and I will "run  
my own show" just as I take  
a notion.

Now I must quit and clean up.  
It's just 7.15. Take good care of  
yourself, dearest mother, and don't  
forget that there is one in Florida  
who is thinking of you always,  
which the same is

Your devoted son  
W. H. T.

1965

Miami, Monday morning, June 27th

Dear Folks:

Mail has come, and as there are several statements from Paul wh I must refute I will have to cease in my daily round of tasks and write a letter.

Fortunately, my dear attorney, I didnt argue with Thyra about silicon on grass stems, but silica (sic); if I said silicon in my letter it was a typographical error, and I shall go after the proofreader at once. However, it is calcium carbonate, anyway.

If Paul doesnt reach Altadena until Sept 9 it looks as tho he wouldnt be back in Washn until about Oct 1. Is that ~~am~~ correct? I dont want to hurry home in case he isnt going to be there until that time, altho if Allen doesnt come down I shall go on back to Washn toward the end of August anyway. But if Allen is here, and Paul isnt there, I might be induced to hang around here until Thyra starts for Cornell, see?

Got my authorization for the new Physical yr this morning, so I can start on the 1st as planned. I see it specifies that I am to search for mango varieties that produce more pollen than the average, and to obtain such superior producers of pollen for introduction to this country. Looks like that must have been the work of PHD. He is darned hard to convince. But as for me, when I get there, the word pollen will be lost from my category, for I am no longer bothering my head with that subject, and wont until the next flowering season.

Nice and warm here now. Yes, beautifully warm. I sit here at my machine about 2 pm and feel the sweat trickling down my spine in large globules.

Yesterday, as previously advised, we dined chez the J L Hicksons, having a pretty good feed, and late in the pm went over for a drive to the beach, and coming back at 6.30 they dropped meat Rolfs, where I dined and made mango phul, wh isnt half bad, and then we sat around and made phuls of ourselves until 10/30, when the Hon Henry brot me down town on his motor bike, riding on the tank, wh is against the law in Miami, so a burly cop stopped us and made me get off at 8th st and walk home to 20th, but that wasnt so bad as walking home from North Buena Vista. Going in strong up there on Pines, still; we had sherbert and pine juice and sliced pine last night. The Rolfs mean well, and I dont know but what they may enjoy my fool stunts after all, at least they seem to like to have me come. I am getting to be an awful boob however, and sing all sorts of exotic songs to the girls. Thats what comes of having my emotions cultivated by the ex-Hainanese, I guess. Dont know whether they will run me out of Washn society or not. Maybe they will tolerate me because I am a bro of the Illmo and Exmo editor.

Just got plate proof of my Macadamia article; it appears on the 1st page of the next vol, with a drawing. Starts at the bottom of the page, rather.

I am going to lay in quite a new stock of clothes today, as my experience in buying shirts in Havana last yr convinced me that I dont want to take any more chances. Will purchase every-



thing I need in the way of shirts, sox, hdkfs, ties, and a new pair of puttees; will leave the purchase of a walking stick untul I come back from my trip to Santiago de Cuba and then buy it in Habana to wear home to Miami. Bet it will make a big hit with The Girls.

Thats all for today.

Lovingly,

Miami, July 1st 1915.

Dear Folks:

Positively our last appearance. Next stop, La Habana. Found a short letter from my atty yesterday on returning from little river; if Mrs Sweet keeps on she will finally get out that dinner invitation just about in time for me to receive it when I strike Washn again. I only hope she wont invite me the same Sunday as Safford does.

PP, your friend Doc A B Small isnt my friend Dr John Kunkel Small, M.S., Ph.D.; As I notified you recently, his wife is dying to join the AGA, and I duly nominated her. None of my friends would think of resigning from so beneficent an organization.

No, my dear Paul, I regret to state that Dr Jeremiassen et familia are Not going to spend the month of julio in Cuba, my own wishes in the matter to the contrary notwithstanding. However, they will probably be in Miami upon my return, so you can anticipate that I willn not stay in Cuba long myself. I am going around for a farewell call tonight; if I had realized what an interminably long time it is from Sat to Thurs I wouldnt have put ~~up~~ the call this long.

Yestredgy I dined with Prof Simpson at noon, and spent the day there/ We had a big medicine talk, and incidentally picked out aalot which I am going to buy and build on,-some sweet day; manana por la tarde, talvez. Then in thepm I stopped at Rólfs, per urgent invitation, and we made a freezer of surinam cherry sherbet. When

I announced in my recent lecture that surinam cherries were good for sherbet Mrs Rolfs was very skeptical, so I had to convince her. Following the sherbet we dined, with plenty of pineapple and plenty of mangos, and I came home at 8.30 and thence to bed. I told the Rolfs to be sure to come out to WIG when they are in Los Angeles, wh will be sometime in August, I guess, and I wouldnt be surprised if they might show up there some morning. Effie reiterated her regret at seeing me depart. I guess I could cut out A M Henry without much difficulty, but it isnt in my heart to do so base a thing. I am darn glad now that I let Effie assume that I was engaged; it will perhaps keep her from getting too interested.

My dear Attorney, I note with interest your remark that Dr Taylor likes turkey, but I fail to see the application of this remark, inasmuch as Meliagris gallipavo is not indigenous to Dade county. However, when the mangos are ripe,-i.e., good ones, I will see that you are supplied. Perhaps I can send you a small invoice of Filipinos from Cuba,-think I will. I left an Order with Cellon to send 6 Hadens to FOP when they are ripe, wh wont be for 3 or 4 weeks yet. If they are in fine shape when they get there, you might donate a couple to the Barton family, because they have been so nice to Herb. However, if you have some better use to which you want to put them, do so; it is entirely immaterial to me.

My waitress showed her keen insight into human nature by remarking theother day "I tell you just what; you're going to miss your buttermilk when you get over in Cuba". What truer thing was ever said?

I am interested to hear that Dr Willis has returned to Camb. Guess the Brazillian govt stopped paying his 8 contos per yr. Como siempre

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

Washington, D. C.,  
Sarasota, Fla, July 25

Dear Folks:

Now I can die in peace. I have seen the great Reasoner. Landed at Oneco day before yesterday at 11 am, and saw a man waiting for the mail bag whom I spotted as Reasoner, and went up and embraced him. He got in bad at the start by dropping me off at the boarding house to get my dinner, while he went on home: I thot he might at least take me out for dinner, and especially in view of the fact that the accomodation for guests at Oneco is rotten. But that isnt Reasoner's style.

Well, to make it short, I hung around his place the rest of that day and all of yesterday, but didnt see a great deal of R; he didnt take me into his house, and yesterday afternoon went off to see his boy play in a baseball game. Notwithstanding, when I was with him, he was the friendliest imaginable, and really seemed to mean it. I guess he just isnt very strong on having guests in his house, thats all. But after all the corresponding Ive done with him, and all I may be able to do for him as a Govt man, the thing for him to do would have been to take me into his home for the short time I was there.

The boarding house, run by Mrs Collier, is hot stuff; dried beef, mashed spuds, stwed and fresh Guavas, threetimes a day. And it cost me \$2 per, too. Several of the boys from the nursery lived there, and treated me real white; I felt quite like a citizen of Oneco before I left, - it consists of a store and postoffice, nothing more.

But-I dont hold it against Reasoner, in a way, since he was so very cordial in other ways. He has got a mighty interesting place, witha wealth of ornamental plants, but not so much in the way of fruits. I was surprised to see how much stuff he had from Saharanpur.

Well, to continue: I arrived here late last night, and this morning found my mail fwd from Miami, thanks to Ed Simmonds, and several good letters from home, inc one from Dr Prof P B Popenoe, and last but not least, two pay checks, totalling \$300. Therefore I am sending N Y Drft herewith to cover \$100 borrowed fro m bank, and board, lodging and laundry for 3 weeks at M B P's establishment. Good thing I got the money; I was on my last \$5. I got the man I came to see here to introduce me atthe bank, and so got the cash O K

Well, to continue: this morning I went out with a party of four men, mostly real estate boosters here, across to Long Boat Key, 7 mi, to see avocado grove on ten acres. Real Estate boosters expounded at great length on beauties of Sarasota bayne climate, but when we hit the Key and ran into a swarm of mosquitos so thick they cast a shadow on the ground, said boosters didnt mention it at all. I am so bit up that I wont get over it for a week. To boat, I have a most magnificent case of sunburn, but it was a fine ride. The boosters made a lot of me, and talked about the value of expert opinion, etc, trying to get me to commit myself on the value of the avocado as a crop for this region, but I didnt bite,

as I had been too thoroly warned by Fairchild. To end up, the host a ked me to write him a letter for him to fwd the owner of the avocado grove, who is up north, respecting the prospects of the thing. I will do it, but submit the letter to Fairchild first. I was sorry not to see the owner, who is a friend of Fairchild's, and he will of course want to hear from me as to what I thot of his grove. It is a nice proposition, ten acres in Trapps, two yrs, and coming into bearing.

Didnt get back in time for noon train, somwill have to stay here until tomorrow morning, then go to Fort Myers. Wish <sup>I</sup> could cut that out of my trip, and go to Miami, as Ft M is a long ways out of the road, and not much of a place, but <sup>I</sup> have orders to go there, somI gu.

Just rolling in money now, but am going to hang on to it. Will send Hartless his \$50 as soon as I get a chance. Only cashed one check, \$225, will hold the other in reserve. Guess I am on the payroll now, and wont have to worry about funds any more. When M B P wants a new dress, apply to the Agr Explorer.

Had a nice letter from Hartless today. Will fwd it after I answer it.

Tell Paul Higgins of Hawaii is in this country en route to Porto Rico, to be a Prof in the University.

Going back to Tampa tomorrow, en route to Ft M. Havent been able to get any clothes washed for somlong, guess I'll have to buy a new shirt, or else start in to wear my dirty ones again. ~~Maybe~~ they have lost their odor by this time.

I was sure surprised to hear the amt Fairchild is going to put into my camera; whew! guess I wont have any excuse not to turn i good photos when I get that kind of an outfit.

Got to stop now to write the Ofs. Spect to lay off Sunday and write MBP and PBP and several others; dont get much chance tra veling as rapidly as I am.

Weather fairly decent, for Florida. Real estate crowd say it is balmy, just delicious. Mr Caven, the chief booster, says he knows Calif isnt in it with Fla. I tell them down here I am an Kansan, which istras, sint it? I tell them I have been in Cal, however, Caven's partner informed me on the side that Caven's time was worth \$2 an hour. Thats nothing, Burbank's is worth \$300. You ought to see Country Gent of July 26 for a dandy article on Burbank.

Will answer any que tions in your letters in my next.

Lovingly,

Wilt



# Gran Hotel "Sevilla"

DE

PELAEZ Y RUIZ.

MILANES 55 FRENTE AL PARQUE DE LA LIBERTAD.

Apartado No. 212.

Telefono larga distancia 821.

Matanzas de \_\_\_\_\_ de 191

CUBA.

Miami, August 4th 1915.

Dear Felks:

I suppose you are just counting the hours now until the Editor makes his appearance in Altadena society.

NOW IS THE TIME for me to cut and run, if I am going to get out of Miami alive. I called on Uncle Joe yesterday and he told me he expected Dot and Amy would be back in a couple of weeks. He also invited me in to breakfast, but I couldnt stop, so he gave me a bottle of home made grapefruit wine, to show there was no hard feeling, and sent one down to Mrs Simmonds to boot. The plot thickens. Ma, what, oh What, shall I do? Lucky Allen is coming down, isnt it? I am rather expecting him to blow in today or tomorrow, probably the latter. There has been a big washout on the F E C and the trains have been very irregular this week. Perhaps you have found my letters a bit slow in getting to you.

Got a good letter from FOP yesterday, telling about the Earle's visit. Glad you treated F S right; it fully squares up the account. I was considerably indebted to him for my stay at his place last year. I think it is a fine thing for F S to see the Guatemalan avocados there in California, as it will probably encourage him to devote more attention to them in Cuba. The sooner we can get that

He always calls me "Pompano"  
type fully established in this part of the world, the better. I went up to see Cellen yesterday, and he had a lady visitor there; on introducing me he started in and gave her a long tale about how myself and my father and brother were the originators of the avocado industry in California, and how much Florida owed to the Popeo family, etc., ad lib. The old boy is loyal to his friends. Cellen is a queer chap, just like everybody else; he has his eccentricities and you've got to respect them. If you do, you get along with him finely, but if you try to overstep the line he gets up on his high horse right away.

Tell Paul, when he comes, that he neednt bother about that letter of mine concerning a prospective Feijoa article; DF has looked up the thing, and finds that what Knowles published a couple of years ago covered practically the same ground, so it isnt worth while to publish on it again. Ask PP if he doesnt want a bang-up article on seedling variation in the mango, with some illustrations of the constancy of polyembryonic types and variation of monoembryonic types. Think I can put up a good article on this subject in a month more, and believe DF will pass it. We might use this in the J of H about October, and then I would like to get up another during the winter on some of the tropical fruits.

No fear, FOP, I have it all planned out, and I intend to make Hon A Groves do some real jennywine work when Bisset pulls up stakes and leaves me to train up Allen in the way he should go. I think I can keep him pretty busy; I know I have a whole lot more work here right now than I can handle alone.

FOP, I dont care about your speaking to DF, if you see him, re my work, etc. That is, I dont object to it. In re my work next winter, if I cant go abroad, I think I would like to stay in Washn



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CUBA.

February, then come down to Fla during the mango Flowering season and get John Belling down from Gainesville, to clear up this subject. Three months would do it, and I dont want to stay here much longer than that next time. It is too all fired hard on my nerves having to put up with the unending jealousies of Mrs Simmonds, but I can do it if I have to, and would be willing to undertake it again for the good of the cause. I feel this way about it, that I am getting a bigger salary than Ed, and expect to keep on getting a bigger one; I know my position in the world and feel that I can afford to overlook such petty things as she puts over. Life is too full of important and vital matters to spend much time over these small things.

Yes, ma, I am going to put up a big bluff when I get back to Washn to have the Ofs send me out to Calif. I think maybe I can put it over; I wouldnt feel much doubt about it, except for the fact that this is exposition yr, and they may balk on that account. But I will tell Dorsett that I feel it would be no more than fair for them to send me out, and that I will do enough work when I get there to make the trip worth while, if possible.

I would like awfully well to save that RR fare, as money is not any too abundant in these parts at the present writing, the I

find, after depositing my Aug 1st salary wh came yesterday that I have \$106 in the banco,- and not the Banco de las Bahamas, either, but the banco nacional de Miami.

I'm glad Barber is satisfied; I suspect he had it pretty warm those last few months he stayed chez CKV. You know CK. He is loyal to his friends, etc. Wells says Barb is not a \$150 man; I agree with that myself, but I suspect there are folks who believe that WP is not a \$150 man, either.

Ma, I'm glad to hear Marion Walp is such a good manager. I always knew she couldn't travel on her looks. I don't think it is necessary to call Thyra a good housekeeper, and loyal to her friends; she is a rather attractive mignonne, rather freckled, which is not unbecoming, and with strong indications of her Scandinavian extraction, and to boot she is very vivacious and has just made one of the greatest collections of butterflies you ever seed. She is an unusually bright girl, to my way of thinking, but as I said before,-

Lovingly,

Wilt

I have instituted the new regime, and walked in town the last two evenings, with my stick, and took dinner leisurely, listening to the music in the meantime and enjoying it. Met Hon H Geiger, Amy's steady, last night, and he says he hangs out there regularly, too; when Allen comes we will begin to have quite a gang.