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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.

Extracts from
Whittier's Birthday Hymn

Beneath the moonlight and the snow
Lies dead my latest year;
The winter winds are washing low
Its dregs in my ear -

I grieve not with the moaning wind
As if a loss befell;
Before me, even as behind,
God is, and all is well!

|| * * * * *
The year no charm from Nature takes,
As sweet her voices call,
As beautiful her mornings break,
As fair her evenings fall -
* * * * *

Let winds that blow from Heaven refresh,
Dear Lord, the languid air;
And let the weakness of the flesh
Thy strength of spirit share -

And, if the eye must fail of light,
The ear forget to hear,
Make clearer still the spirit's sight,
More fine the inward ear!

Be near me in my hours of need
To soothe, or cheer, or warn,
And down these slopes of sunset lead
As up the hills of morn!

Dear Marion &

Wilson sends his love. [1895?]

We are here at Mrs Walker's and having a fine time. The boys have been so happy all morning playing out in the yard. I was so car sick yesterday I could hardly sit up so I was more than glad to have this little rest. I have no head ache this morning. Albert & I have been picking garden sass and sat out in the yard to full peas. It is a beautiful day. Was raining in Chicago when we changed cars but we did not get wet. They need rain here very much. I was so dirty that I had to do my shirt-waist up. We found it

Hottawa Farm,
Berryton, Shawnee Co., Kas.

[1895?]

Friday, June 28,

Dear Ones:

I have intended writing to you ever since we got home but you know when one has two children to care for there is not much time for writing.

This has been an unusually busy week on account of having the Horticultural meeting here yesterday. It was a great success. There were about 150 here and everyone said it was one of the best meetings this year. We had two kinds of cherries, goose berries, one variety of ripe apple + one of plums on exhibition. Some others brought fine peaches + Apricots. I engaged a half bushel of Apricots of Mrs Coe's

to can for you. This is a
rainy day and we are all rest
ing. Wilson is taking a nap
& has taken one every day since
we left you. He is getting so
big and fat & noisy. He says
you will have your hands
full when you come home.
I suppose you have had pas
letter by this time, telling you that
Paul reached here with poison
ivy. I think we got it at Mrs D's
and there was some in her yard
& I cautioned him about it. It
was pretty bad Saturday Sunday
& Monday. I did not notice
it until Friday eve. The boys
got some chiggers on Friday &
that eve I gave them a good bath
and noticed his little "do bee"
looked some what red & swollen.
I suppose it was chiggers & treated
it accordingly but the next

Hottawa farm,
Berryton, Shawnee Co., Kas.

Morning it was so much worse that we went right in to Dr Powell. He knew what it was and said Paul must go right to bed & stay there for two or three days. So I took him over to Mrs Sargents put him to bed & stayed there with him. I had to doctor him night as well as day & I can sympathize with those who have to tend babies. He mended right along and Tuesday we came back home & is so nearly well now that you can hardly tell that he had been poisoned. His navel was quite sore too but is all well. The Dr says he must be kept on light diet for a week or so. The poison did not seem to affect his health much. his

appetite has not been quite so good but it is improving. I am to give him plenty of milk, eggs & rice & but no fruit. The Dr says he has been stuffing too much. I like Dr Powell very much. We had a very pleasant trip from Bloomington and a very pleasant day at Mr Walkers. Albert is almost sick or was - and helped me tend the children. I was so glad to get off the train for a day as I was so sick. I did not get a bit sick the last night but I did something you would not have done I expect. I got a berth for the boys and rode in the chair car myself. I was so uncomfortable in the sleeper I thought I would not try it the last night I got a lower berth near the door and then sat near the end of the chair

Hottawa Farm,
Berryton, Shawnee Co., Kas.

car and made about a dozen trips - in during the night. They slept just as comfortable as could be and I rested well too. The sleeping car Conductor, & Porter were both so good & kind too. Mrs Wise had the sick head ache all night I had quite an experience with my ticket from Chicago home, or I thought I was going to have. When I got on the Alton road at Chicago I was so sick I could hardly tell what I was doing & when the Conductor came around I gave him my ticket and before I could tell him I wanted to stop off at B - he had punched it there by cancelling it. He was quite gruff when I told him & said he could not help it. That I could not stop off and that he could not

take the fare either to B- as he
had already cancelled my ticket.
When he saw how badly I felt
& how sick I was he took pity
on me and tried to fix it up
but all he could do was to write
on the slip that he had given me
in return for my ticket that I had
made the mistake & told me that
I might have to pay my way
from B- to K- so- I hardly knew
what to do & thought once that
I would have to come right along
but when I thought it over
concluded I would risk it as
Mrs Wise would be disappointed
& the folks here would not
be in for us. So I got off &
the next evening called on
the B- ticket agent but he
was not at home so I boarded
the train & told my story to the
conductor. He gave me a very
short answer at first & said no
stop overs on limited tickets

Hottawa Farm,

Berryton, Shawnee Co., Kas.

but when I explained + told I was ready to pay the \$3.75 - from C to B - if that ticket was accepted he was very pleasant + said it was all right + he would not take the \$3.75 - so you see I came out ahead. I have had to spend that much for lint + drugs to bathe Paul in so it is gone. I think the Western men are way ahead of the Eastern. I could see them begin to change as soon as we got into Mich. We had some very pleasant people in the Sleeper the first night. One lady told her husband that she never saw a more devoted mother than I and that I had two fine boys.

Well, we have had a supper of poached eggs and cornmeal

gruel. The boys made their meal
entirely of gruel.

Paul wants me to tell you that his
watch does not keep very good
time but he is going to take it to
the jeweler the next time we go in.
He has been very careful with it
and has not played with it. Pa
mana gets Wilson most of the time.
Paul calls him Fred. I think he likes
the sound of it. They both seem
happy and have not cried after
you yet. Paul talks a good deal
about you. Wilson inquires about
"mama" every day. He almost
mores me out on the way home
wanting to know when we would
get to Grandpa's. They are
having good times and play
very nicely together. Wilson is
not so much afraid to go out
alone as he used to be. You need
not think they cause near the
well without our knowing it.

I went over into your house
while at Mrs Sargent's & I hardly
knew the place she has the sofa
down stairs that was in Fred's
study has two tables full of
china in the parlor and your
pictures all

changed around ⁵ & hers up. She
cleaned the dining & sitting room
carpets & in " " room has turned
a ~~width~~ width of the carpet in all
around and stained & varnished
the floor. The sitting room she
uses as a lounging room
has a cot & the crib in there.
The hollyhocks are in bloom
and sweet peas, honeysuckles &
some roses. The Elms look
beautiful.

Wilson says tell Mama my watch
wont do, he is hanging on me now
squaking & talking so I will have
to quit. They both sleep so well
Paul sleeps until 7 o'clock.

Wilson says tell her dood bye. &
tell papa bout my pay fings.
So good night and Gods blessing
go with you and bring you
safely back to us. We all send
love. Lucar.

July 3, 1893

Wednesday Eve.

Dear folks —

I did not think when I last wrote that I would be so long before writing again but the days are so full and the evenings ^{so} short that I don't do all I ought to. The boys are talking about what they are going to do tomorrow. Wilson just said "my fakes: won't I make a big noise wif my pin wheel to morrow" We are having fine weather this week cool and cloudy and occasional shower. We got the cablegram about seven o'clock Monday eve or rather ours was a telegram from Mr Holman Paul's eye sparkled when he saw it but afterwards they filled with tears and he said "I want them." but I talked about the 4th & joked with him and he was soon

happy again. He is feeling first
rate now. I bought them some
fire crackers & topedos & three pin
wheels apiece & they feel as well
satisfied as if they had 5 dollars
worth. Aunt Nellie & Kenneth are
coming out tomorrow so they will
have company. Mrs Wise has come in
town to visit. Paul says tell you
there is lots going on & the noise
will begin tomorrow morning at
daylight (but it will not if I can
help it) Wilson sleeps with me now
so that I can rub his chigger bites
& you need not be surprised to
find my hair snow white when
you come back, Pa's eyes are
growing worse, he says they are failing
very fast now & it will not be long
until they are gone. Wilson is out on the
poreh playing & has the dish towel spread
out for a carpet. I have not had
time to make any prints yet but will
send some as soon as possible. We had
letters today from Charles & Hoberg -
I'll enclose them.

Sunday July 7th 98.

Dear brother and sister

We have had splendid rains and I never saw the corn look better. This has been a warm cloudy day & we have been at home. The children are happy and contented. I do not forget at all altho they often speak of you. Mr & Mrs Reeder were here Friday and Mr & Mrs Coultis took supper with us yesterday, so you see we are not without company. Mr Alderson will be out tomorrow afternoon to stay overnight. We are going to Coultis' in the morning after Apricots. They keep us in Apples. Mrs Faust makes for us and pa thinks it terrible to pay her seventy five cents but

of course the two children add a good deal to the mashing. Paul went out with Pa after the cows this evening, thought he had a fine ride. We are getting used to the boys now so that they do not seem to be so much trouble. I dont know how we can give them up when you come home. I made black currant jam yesterday. The boys are going in to spend the day with Tom and Carl some time this week. I expect we will go about Thursday. I will plan then for them to come out.

Wilson takes a big nap every day & Paul has most of the time. Paul read the Boy Artist to day. He likes to read too well. Paul tried to tell you that when the circus parade went up 10th Street the elephant slapped his trunk into the shade trees along in front of the house (your fathers house) and scraped off a lot of the leaves. He forgot to say it was the elephant. We hope to have a letter tomorrow or next day from you. Ma sends love. Lucy.

[1900?]

Sunday.

Dearest Paul -

I was glad to get your letter and
tried to answer sooner but your Grandpa
writes so often that I thought I would wait
while. We are getting tired of having you
so far away. Some one told us yesterday that
you expected to be gone two months. If that
is so you will find us at Ottawa Farm.
Wroughton will be our post office. Pa went over
to the house while ago and found nine
people there running over things. They seem
to think it is public property. Pa says your
father ought to be here looking after it.
The past week has been cold and winter but
today is bright and warm again but the
roads are so muddy there are very few passing.
We have not put any potatoes in yet on ac-
count of the cold but think as the dark of
the moon comes this week we will get some
on. Mr. Niggans has moved and Ed

Blake man spent Saturday cleaning, swept
out and cleaned the wood work in two rooms.
He still wears his overcoat and puffs &
blows like a porpoise. The red haw and
sum trees in your back yard are beginning
to show the blossom buds they will be in
bloom by the time you get home I expect.
I have no little chicks yet but have 4
pens sitting. Mary has not been out
yet as your Grandma Bowman is staying
here, what do you think. The young folks
from Beverlyton had a surprise party on
the last Wednesday eve. Brought their suppers
and a big jug of cider. We had a fine time.
Charles and Hubert have been out twice
and Edwin several times since you went
away. They keep me busy fixing bread &
I am for them when they are here. I wonder
why boys are always hungry. Grandma was very
much pleased to get your letter. Tell your papa
write to her if he has time. I am getting the fourth
impairment & while you are away & will keep them for
you. Wish I could see the sights you are seeing. I
would like to hear Mr Willis preach too. Currys
will move out this week and Mabel is going
to be married in April. Tell your mama one of
the amaryllis has a fine bud on it. We have been
reading up about strawberries lately and have
gaged some for you from Mrs Cecil. The ground
has been frozen some this week & I

Wednesday Eve.
about 10 20
[Feb 1907]

Dearest Flocks -

I am sitting up with pa
and will try to write a
little bit to you but will not
try to answer all the good
letters you have written us
lately. They all came in time
for pa to enjoy but I don't
suppose we will read him
any more for there was a change
this morning for the worse
and he now sleeps all the
time and is very drowsy
when he does wake up. More
than likely that before this
reaches you he will have
passed away. He seems to
be very comfortable and told

ma this morning that
he did not feel as bad
as she thought ~~he~~ he did.
We will be so thankful if
he passes away in sleep.
Aunt Melia came out to-
day and will stay awhile.
Ma is so glad to have her
here.

Frid: your letter came
yesterday with the check
and pa told me plainly
and positively to return
it to you which I will
do when I see you.

Last evening he got a
little flighty and the quit-
claim idea came into his
head and nothing would
do but Edd must wait

to you. Edd felt very
much nettled about it
and I told him that
I did not care about it
but that he must do just
what pa said for it would
not do to argue a question
with him now. I know pa
has been worrying a little
about my future for he
would speak of something
every once in a while and
he told me day before
yesterday that he knew
that you would always
look after me or if you
did not, your boys would
and he sends you all
a great deal of love.

I am so glad Marion
wrote to him just when
she did. The letter pleas-
ed him so much and
he would say, "Yes, yes"
while ma was reading
it to him and he told me
about it and said, "Marion
is an excellent woman
There are few her equal"
He said after I had read
him the boys letters, well
Boys that get such grades
at school can never go
very far wrong. Ma is well.
Good bye

From Louey.

...FROM...
W. P. POPENOE.
NOTTAWA FARM.

Berryton, Shawnee County, Kansas.

Feb. 22nd. 1907.

Dearest Fred:

Our good, kind father passed away at half past ~~one~~ twelve last night, very quietly, and he looks so peaceful and quiet that we can but be thankful that his suffering is all over. He has just slept away the last two days and nights. Aunt Melia and Edd are here with us. Pa said so many times in the last week or two. "We have so many good kind friends. And it is ^{at} such times that we appreciate them. You know pa always appreciated such things so much.

We join in much love to

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Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

all our dear ones. - your Sister Lucy.



THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTAGE
POSTAL CARD
THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Miss Lucy Pofensee,
Berryton,
Shawnee Co.,
Kansas

Dear Aunt Lu: Here we
are, near Sa Junta, we
had a good sleep + a good
breakfast + are feeling
fine. There are lots
of irrigating ditches
out here. There are
yellow daisies instead
of white ones here.
We have passed lots of
little stations. I tell
you. We left Topoka
at 6.05. We have fol-
lowed the Arkansas River
a good deal of the
way. It is just flat
prairie out here, but we
will see mountains soon.
Will write later,
8 A. M. - G. W. P.,
Thurs - G. W. P.



British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

J. S. Linga.
Between Bombay + Karachi,
18th October 1912.

Dear Aunt Lu:

I was intending to write an article this afternoon, but Paul demanded the typewriter, so I will have to postpone my work, and will write to you instead.

Just by way of beginning, I will say that I am getting my first taste of suckly heat. I got in Bombay, and altho it is not a bad case it makes my face sting at times. Guess it will leave me, now we are on the water again.

This is the fastest boat I have ever been on, - just spins along. There is such

a crowd on board, however, that we had to take a 2nd class cabin, with 5 berths in it, and have 3 "stable mates". We are only on the boat for 30 hrs, so it doesn't matter. Last night we slept on the boat while she was in the dock, and it was the hottest night I have seen since I left home. I didn't have a thing on me, but the sweat poured off until early morning. Added to that, the mosquitos were so bad that we got up about midnight and anointed ourselves with Citronella oil. It is the only sure thing to keep mosquitos away.

Well, we are all through with India, yet it doesn't seem long since we landed at Calcutta. India is certainly an interesting country, but the natives are the scum of the earth. Actually too lazy and indifferent to move out of your road. Most of the Europeans carry a cane with which to touch them in the ribs and make them stand to one side. We didn't have any canes and had to resort to several ways of making them get out of the way. Yelling at them doesn't

always have an effect; we found stepping on their bare heels worked pretty well. They are certainly the limit.

Northern India is very much like Southern Calif in appearance, but not so pretty. As a matter of fact, we haven't seen any place yet that was quite the equal of Calif.

We think about the prettiest spot we have yet seen is Penang, down on the Malay Peninsula. It is a picture of tropical beauty hard to equal. Coconuts everywhere, and big shade trees, and such things..

And I have seen more



British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

J. S. Linga.

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fine crotons since I left home
than you could shake a stick
at. I think the finest were
in Honduras and Manila. They
were 10 to 15 ft high and
gorgeously colored - all kinds,
narrow and broad leaves.
At Manila we saw a field
of about an acre of Cape
Gessamines; it was pretty fine.
They don't grow quite so
many fine foliage plants in
India as they do further
down in the tropics. In
Singapore, only 50 miles from

the equator, they can, of course, grow almost anything. They say the climate is absolutely the same all the year round.

I tell you what, I don't believe you can beat Honolulu for tropical foliage & flowering plants. The Royal Pavilions there were simply great; that is my favourite tree, and all the front yards in Honolulu are full of Acalyphas, Cotoneas and such things; they go in for them more strongly than they do down around Singapore. I'd like to spend a summer in Honolulu; it is the place to see tropical plants. Guess you and I will have to go over there some summer before long. It is a little warmer there than at Pasadena, in summer time.

You would be interested in seeing the way the ferns grow wild in Japan. They are as thick as fleas on a dog's back, everywhere. I think I saw *Onychium japonicum*, and there were several species of *Nephrolepis* quite common. Japan has about as rich a native flora as you could imagine. - It is a beautiful country. Lots of bamboo on the hills.

I haven't yet seen any
country, however that I would
trade for So. Cal, in spite of
all the fun Uncle Ed makes
of us. It is good enough for
me.

Hope Uncle Charley isn't
going out nights too much.
Is the blind pig still alive?
I want to write to Uncle
Ed now so will quit. I'll
try to write you again from
my Baghdad way.

Loveingly
Wilt.

Give my love to Gma, and tell
her she ought to see Paul's
mustache, - but she would
need magnifying glasses to do it.

S. S. "Mokta"
near Bunderabee, Persia

28th February 1913.

Dear Aunt Lucy:

We received your letter just before we left Busrah, and I will try to write a short letter in reply to it now, being marooned on board this ship with nothing to do but study French and look at the "skenery," as A. Erickson calls it. The weather is beautiful, and we are, and have been for 2 days, coasting along just off the Persian coast. It is very picturesque. We went ashore day before yesterday in a small Persian town, Bushire, and spent the day in the bazar and coffee houses. For dinner we had a big slab of hot bread and 1¢ worth of native candy to help the bread down. The bread out here is very similar to a California flapjack, only made of coarser meal. It is very good when you can get it hot. The candy we had was made of sesame seed and date syrup and tastes something like peanut brittle. It is common everywhere out here, and I used to get 1¢ worth of it as I went thru the bazar at Busrah, just to whet my appetite. If a fellow lives on ~~with~~ ⁱⁿ a place like this he can get along

pretty cheaply. We sat for 2 hrs in a coffee house, for a Monday rest, and drank 3 cups of tea each. Our bill was 5¢ for the two of us.

The Persian towns are quite unlike the Arabian towns, and better in some ways. The buildings are more substantial and more carefully constructed. Most of the Arab houses look like the would fall down at any minute, - the walls are never straight.

Tonight we anchor at the island of Ormuz, to take on iron ore, and after we get loaded up we will sail straight for London. It won't be long now until we are back in civilization again. I will be glad to get back, altho I do like the Orient in many ways, and especially Baghdad. I would have enjoyed staying there longer.

Pare puts in all his time now studying Arabic. He looks as fat and healthy as he ever did, though his face was rather thin for a while after his illness. He is getting to speak Arabic very well.

There isn't a great deal to see up in this neck of the woods as far as horticulture is concerned, but I have to say that any thing in the plant

line to write about this time. Outside of the date palms there is mighty little grown here, and everything looks poor and unhappy. There are a few roses and other flowers at Buarahi but they don't amount to anything. It will seem good to get back to a country where there are some pretty flowers and plants. The Arab is too lazy to grow anything that isn't good to eat.

I have got a hatpin for you that I got in Bombay. The head is a peculiar Indian seed, something like a peach stone would be if it were round, but polished and pretty. I think it is an *Elaeocarpus*, - a genus of timber trees which grow at the foot of the Himalayas. I saw the tree and the seed in Darjeeling.

I had a card from Ruth Holcomb last week. If you see her, give her my best.

I'll soon be back in Sunny California again, and can tell you of everything I have seen, so I won't try to write more this time. Tell Grand-ma the first thing she knows she will hear me whistling out on Santa Anita and I will come walking in through the Cypress hedge.

Lovingly
Wilt.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

FOREIGN SEED AND PLANT INTRODUCTION.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Washington, D.C.,

St Petersburg, Florida, July 20 1913.

Dear Aunt Lu:

This is Sunday morning, and as I have an hour left before Church time, I guess I will tell you a little about the things I am seeing down here. My, how I wish you could be with me here in St Petersburg; nearly every tropical plant you can think of will grow here, and the gardens are just full of the most beautiful things imaginable. It is really finer than nearly any place I have seen in the tropics, there being more interest in growing plants here than there is in most tropical countries.

About the commonest flowering plant, and one of the most gorgeous of all, is the Allamanda. Nearly every garden has one, usually trained on a trellis in front of the porch, and they are just loaded with the most brilliant yellow blossoms almost three inches in diameter. There are two species, as you will see in Reasoners catalog, and both are common. The large flowered one is by the far the finest, to my notion.

Another striking thing is *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, which grows into a miniature tree about eight or ten feet high, and is similar in character to our *Caesalpinia* or *Poinciana gilliesii* of Calif., but much more brilliant in coloring, the petals being a deep rich yellow, mottled with orange scarlet in the center, and the stamens two inches long and the most brilliant crimson color; it has not that faded appearance *C. gilliesii* so often has. I picked a few pods of seed from one of the plants, and enclosing them herewith, tho I fear the plant is too tender for your location. I believe it could be grown in the most favored parts of California.

Even the Royal *Poinciana* grows here, a fact which surprised me very much, as it is a strictly tropical tree, and simply wont grow in California. I saw one in bloom this morning, but they are not in full bloom here now.

Do you know *Tabernaemontana coronaria*? There used to be a small plant on Calkins' place, which flowered every year, but it has died. The plant grows into a very compact and handsome bush here, and bears its flowers in the utmost profusion. They remind me of Cape Jessamines; their color is the same, but the petals are not quite so waxy. The flowers are even prettier in form, and while not quite so strongly scented as the Jessamine, are very fragrant.

I have seen both the Grand Duke Jessamine and the Maid of Orleans here; the Grand Duke is quite common, and is a fine thing. There used to be a plant of this in Calkins' lath house, which was doing well, but I suppose the freeze got it.

Antigonon leptopus is one of the commonest vines, and is a most beautiful thing. They ought to grow more of it in California. Wish you could get hold of a root and try it; I would send you one from here if I dared, but as I dont I will see if I cant get you one somewhere else. I think the nurserymen in Santa Barbara list it.

Look up *Phyllanthus nivosus* var. *roseo pictus* in Reasoner. It is one of the commonest hedge plants here, and is the finest thing of its kind I ever saw. The foliage is small, but the young growth is of the most brilliant coloring, cream and crimson in all shades.

Before I forget it, let me tell you that in coming down here from Jacksonville I came by just loads of water hyacinths in blossom; some of the small ponds and streams are just choked up with them, but they are a beautiful sight.

Crinums are as common as dirt here, and by the way, I want to help you to get a collection of them, if I can, as they are fine stuff, and would do well if they got plenty of water; you could plant them near what Mrs Dunham calls an "i-durnt". I have not identified the various species in the gardens here, but only about two or three are common. Reasoner has a lot of them; I wish you could get them all. We must figure out some way for you to get hold of them. Maybe I could have them sent to me by Reasoner at Washington, and then re-forward them to you.

Jacobinia coccinea is common here, but I don't think a great deal of it. *Russelia juncea* is not so common, but I think, a finer thing. I used to have it in California, and it did well. I guess you know what it is.

One sees a good many *Caladiums* and *Xanthosomas* and such-like down here, and occasionally a fine bunch of variegated *Caladiums*; they seem to do well, and they surely are beautiful. *Crotons* are rather common, and I have seen many fine plants four or five feet high. I wish you could grow them in Calif, but you can't, and that's all there is to it. I really had no idea there was such a difference in the climatic conditions of the two regions. But Florida can put it all over you when it comes to growing purely tropical stuff. I always thought the soil was so poor here they couldn't grow much of anything, but in many places it seems to produce splendid plants, even without fertilizer. Of course a large part of the state is too sterile to be cultivated. And down here, altho the soil looks very sterile, and is nothing but black sand, it seems that with the favorable climate it will grow almost anything in the way of tropical plants.

Clerodendrons grow over the front porches of some of the houses, and are beautiful tho I don't fancy them so much as *Antigonon leptopus*; the latter is surely a beautiful thing.

Tropical guavas are common in almost every garden, and you can pick up all the fruit you want to eat. Mangos are common in the gardens, too, but I don't see much fruit on them now. Either it has been a bad season or the crop has gone by. There are a few avocados, but I haven't seen any in fruit yet; most of the fruit in the market comes from further south.

I think they have the real old fashioned Chigger down here; I have some bites this morning that feel very much like it. They have several other insects, and some hot weather too, but of course one can put up with all these things if he can get mangos and avocados and all these tropical things. They say it is lovely here in winter. Geo W Park of the Floral Magazine has his winter home here, confound him.

Well, I guess this is a big enough dose for once.

With much love to Gma and yourself

Wilt

Miami, Florida, August 10 1913

Dear Aunt Lu:

Your letter of July 28 was waiting here on my arrival.

I am going to put thru some sort of a deal so that you can get those Crinums; I understood from Reasoner that the California quarantine law hadn't been amended now and he could send in to the state all but a few specified plants which were prohibited. If that is the case, I am going to get him to send you a set of his Crinums direct; if I did not understand correctly, I will get him to send a set of them up to me at Washington and I will forward them off to you. I will try to tend to this before I go away to Brazil, as I think you ought to have those Crinums. When you get them, be sure and put them where they will get plenty of water. There is a wild Crinum or Pancratium, I don't know which, which grows along the river banks here. I saw it coming thru the Everglades, and it is a very pretty thing. *(Guess this is Crinum americanum)*

Glad to know you have at last got a settlement out of Coolidge. While \$300 may seem like a small price for the avocados, a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, and I guess you are getting quite a little more out of them than you put in to them.

No, I have not written to Ruth; if I can get time I will do it some time, altho I don't know as she cares to correspond, and I am pretty well loaded down ~~with~~ correspondents already. I wrote to George Hunt some time ago, but don't get any answer out of him, and am wondering whether he is under the weather, or Aunt Downes won't let him write.

No, I don't seem to get lonesome at all. Over on the West Coast,

blue, but not enough to hurt anything. I am really surprised how little I mind traveling alone all the time. I really get along mighty well, and enjoy it. Sometimes when knocking around the country I hardly speak a word to anybody allday; other times I meet up with some fellow horticulturist, and we have a big love feast and talk all day. Over at Ft Myers a dutch gardener on Thos A Edison's winter residence set me up to a big pitcher of guava cider, and it was hot stuff. When I am alone I usually do a lot of thinking, and considerable writing, and that prevents me from having any ~~time~~ to get lonesome.

No danger of anybody getting sick down here, it is a regular summer resort. I think if I had had to stayover on the West Coast at Marco for an indefinite period I might have picked up a little malaria, tho my blood ought to still be full of quinine from the liberal quantity I took last winter, and throw off any malaria that came my way. When I get down to Brazil I expect to take a little quinine regularly, to ward off malaria; that is the best way.

I will try hard to remember your fig bulletins when I get back to Washington, and will also get those negatives from Chas.

I pity poor Herb if mother has already framed up a deal between him and Flora. When mother found it was impossible to do anything with Paul or me I guess she must have tho she would begin on Herb earlier, in order to make a sure thing of it. I'm afraid Paul's and my chances are pretty poor now, at least mine will be if I am not more than six months in one spot for the next two or three years. of course I dont know what Paul might do in my absence.

This is about the prettiest place in all Florida, and is about astropical as you would want it. Coconuts grow everywhere, and of

appearance to a place. In fact, the more I see of the coconut the more I think that it is one of the finest members of the vegetable kingdom. It certainly takes my eye.

Not so many mangoes here as there were over at Ft Myers, but a good many more avocados, and I am filling up on them. I am packing a little box to send you, which contains several kinds of seeds which I thought you might be interested in having, not to plant but merely to keep. They are tropical, and won't do anything in Calif, I am pretty sure. I am going to send some cashew nuts, which I would advise you to roast and eat, as they are about the finest thing out. Also some Royal Poinciana seeds, and some black eyed susans which I got over at Reasoner's. The Cashew nuts are wrapped in coconut fiber, as also a few tamarinds, which you might like to sample. They are fine when put up in syrup.

Guess this is enough for the second instalment. Going to leave a week from tomorrow for Washington. Give my regards to everybody.

With much love to you and Gma

Wilt

Washington, Sept 26 1913

Dear Aunt Lu:

Six days more and we leave here, so I had better be getting busy if I am going to write you again before I go. I received your letter of the 14th several days ago, and was glad to hear that the Grinum bulbs had reached you in good shape. I hope some of them will turn out alright. I guess we can hardly expect every variety to be a success in California, but if part of them are, we will be satisfied.

I dont believe the cashew will grow in California, but it wouldnt do any harm to try it. I planted some two years ago but lost them all in trying to repot them. You want to plant the seeds separately in pots; if you try to move the young plants from a seed box they are goners.

I looked up the fig books but I find that they are all out of print. That is usually the way with any bulletins that one wants especially badly. I may be able to get hold of No 9 at the second hand store here for they keep a lot of old bulletins on hand. I will try to get it before I leave. I am sorry to say I forgot to ask Chas for those photos you wanted until after he had left here; you will have to make Paul get them for you. Chas has them down in his locker at the camera club so I cant get at them.

Crystallised figs will taste pretty good back here in the winter. There is lots of fruit in the market but Paul and I cant afford to indulge in much of it, the prices are something scandalous. The peaches and grapes, however, look pretty tempting.

I dont blame Mary Tevis for not thinking Kathleen Florida,

except some of the streams where the spanish moss grows, and they are picturesque but not fit to live in, because of the mosquitos. The whole country is as flat as a billiard table , and nothing but pine trees to break the monotony. The East coast is pretty where it has been planted to palms, and other things, but in its natural condition Florida is a pretty desolate proposition.

I think Charles is in Kansas now, and one of the men in his office told me news of going to Sacramento, Calif, but I dont think he is going to get down into your part of the country this time.

Paul's magazine will appear next week, he thinks, and I will ask him to send you a copy, if he doesnt forget it.

I dont believe there is much in the way of prune bulletins here. I will look the matter up. As to bringing you a parrot from Brazil, if I can put him in the cage with my monkey, alright; I am going to bring a monkey if I can find one like Jabbo . I saw one for sale here yesterday, a young chap, and if I hadnt been going away I would sure have bought him. And if it hadnt been so far to ship him I would have sent him to Herb, but I am afraid he would have died on the way. But I am going to have one of those white faced monkeys some of these days.

Paul and I move into our new quarters tomorrow. We dont like Charles's place, it is no good.

I guess I got off without going thru much hot weather this year. It has been fine since I got back here, and is really cool now, feels like fall. It was pretty warm in Florida, but I dont mind the heat a much as I do the cold, by a long sight. Guess I will get all I want down in Brazil, however.

I sure will send you a post card from Brazil once in a while, and if I can possibly get time to write I will do so. I have no

doubt that I will get time to write occasionally. Willet M Hays, former Asst Secy of Agriculture is also going down on out boat so you see we are going to have a very distinguished crowd. We stop at Barbados for a day after being at sea five days, and then stop at ^hBala, Brazil, eight days later. I think it will be a fine trip. They say the service on the ship we go on is fine.

Guess I must stop now and get to work. I come down to the office in the morning an hour before anybody else arrives, and have a little time to put in on my own business. Office hours do not begin until nine, but I usually get here about eight.

Well, dont work too hard while I am gone, for I think it is high time you were taking things easy and beginning to enjoy life a little. Next spring I want to see that you get a few choice flowers to put in your garden so that when I come out they will be in bloom. I miss my garden a good deal; that is a great drawback to city life for me.

Give my love to grandma, and tell her I am going to come out to see here just as soon as the snow is off the ground in Altadena next spring.

Your loving nephew

Wilt

Bahia, Brazil, November 23 1913

Dear Aunt Lu:

I guess you think I am a little slow in writing my October letter, but everything is slow down in this country, except the tax collectors.

But we have been mighty busy every day, and I have hardly had time to write any letters. You know how it is.

While we had a good time in Rio de Janeiro I am enjoying it much more here, for it is more tropical and there are many more interesting fruits. The finest fruit of all is the pineapple, and I am simply living on them. I think I put down an average of one every day, and they are not small ones either. They are fine for the liver. They only cost about 6 cents each now, and are getting cheaper as the season advances, so I expect soon to be able to get them for 3 cents. You never ate as fine pineapples; they are sweet and rich, and don't cut your mouth a bit, for they are picked ripe.

One very interesting flower which I noticed a day or two ago and thought of writing you about is *Pleroma splendens*, which I have found growing wild here. You know this plant, I think; I had no idea it grew wild in this country, but at times I have seen great patches of it, and it is a beautiful sight, with its purple flowers.

I have been looking around for interesting *cuzzies* to bring home, and have found a few. They make some very nice baskets, of which I will bring you samples. Some very small ones are made out of a soft grass that grows in the interior,

while the larger ones are made of piassava fiber, a palm fiber obtained in this regions. I have seen the women weaving hats out of the leaves of the nicuri palm, a species of cocos, and I expect to bring home several of the hats, for they are very light and cool. Think they would go well at the West India Gardens.

One thing they have got down to a fine point here is the manufacture of sherberts from all kinds of tropical fruits. I have tried, up to date, suriname cherry, mango, genipap, and pineapple, and they have several more I haven't sampled. The surinam cherry is one of the commonest fruits here, and is planted everywhere as a hedge plant. It makes one of the finest hedges you ever saw. When I get back I am going to induce some one in California to plant a hedge of it. They make a fine jelly out of the fruits here, too. They make jelly or jam out of nearly everything, in fact. The other day when taking lunch with a man out in the country he served us some mango jam, about as thick and solid as you can make it, and it tasted just like the dried pumpkin you used to put up for we boys. It was not a bad article, I thought, but I guess it wouldn't sell very well in the states. I don't think the mango is a very good fruit for jelly or jam making, it hasn't enough character when cooked, some way or other.

They sell lots of guava jam or cheese here, and it is fine stuff. I wish you would try making some of this with your cattley guavas some time. They merely strain out the seeds, I think, and then smother the stuff in sugar so that you get very little guava taste, and cook it until it becomes so thick

hasnt a strong enough flavor to make good cheese.

Say, this is simply the prettiest country you ever saw. It looks just like Costa Rica, except that the mountains are not so high. Down around Rio the mountains are rugged and four thousand feet in height, so you can almostbimagine you are in Costa Rica. When I come out to California in the spring I will bring along a set of photos to show you, and will have a few extras of the best ones for you to keep. Lost of bahanas and mangos and cashew nuts and jack fruits and avocados and bread fruit, and I dont know what not. It is just the kind of a place I like to be in. The weather has not been hot enough to hurt anything, the nights always being cool. The only times I have felt warm were when I was walking up hills carrying av camera case or something of that kind, and then I usually get up a pretty good sweat. I havent lost any weight as yet, however, and dont expect to if things keep on the way they are going now.

Theybhave one or two very good native dishes which I will tell you how to make when I come home. The best one is Vatapa, and it is the real thing, believe me. If we can get the ingredients for it we will have a big batch some day next spring. They use palm oil for it here, but I think we can make it w th olive oil almost as well. I guess you have read all about it in my journal. I am going to get a recipe before I leave.

Another thing I will initiate you into when I get home is mate drinking. Mate, or matte, pronounced mah-ty, with accent on first syllable, is Ilex paraguayensis, and the

fine for whatever ails you. I am going to write them a testimonial before I leave.

I am just getting ready my bunch of Christmas post cards, and I guess there are going to be about forty of them. I had a terrible time finding any decent post cards here, but at last found some about as good as the kind you get for a penny in the states, and they only cost me six cents each. That's the way the money goes down here. If I stay here long I will have to get my salary raised.

Write me what you hear from the various relatives. I don't get much news of any kind down here, and am always glad to get anything. The papers never have anything about the States except what Wilson says to General Huerta and what General Huerta replies to Wilson. That seems to be all they are interested in.

Give my love to grandma, and tell her when I come walking in at the gate next Spring I expect to be wearing a mustache, for I find the climate here very conducive to raising one, and think I will give mine a chance. Sorry I can't send you any Christmas present, but it would never get home, I fear, so I will bring it when I come.

Your loving nephew

W. H. C.



ON BOARD S.S. "VAUBAN"

9 Abril de 1914

Dear Aunt Lu:

I haven't much to say, but I will write you a short letter to mail on my arrival in New York. The voyage is beginning to drag a little bit, still I manage to put in most of my time reading or talking Portuguese.

I think probably I will send home my Brazilian souvenirs to the folks by Express just as soon as I can get time to pack a box, and I will include the few little things I have for you and John. It

was really awfully hard to find anything worth bringing home. I have 3 or 4 small - very small - baskets for you and a few other things. Most of my stock consists in fruit jars and preserves. I will send this to the folks and they will see that you get a chance to sample them. Some of them I consider very good, others don't amount to much.

We have had a very pleasant voyage all the way up. Today we are 2 days from N.Y. and the air is beginning to get a crisp. It puts new life in me, after having been in the tropics for 6 months.

However, in my whole stay in Brazil I haven't had to lay off a day on account of sickness. One day I got some ptomaine sardines and had a little fever for a couple of days but it was not enough to lay me up. I think we have really been very fortunate on this trip.

Travel in Brazil is really a very lame proposition anyway. The only hardship is the poor grub and dirty beds. It is not as exciting as Arabia but more interesting from a horticultural standpoint, as there is a much larger variety of plants.

I am afraid I haven't fulfilled my promise to write you a

letter a month. I guess now
that I am home I can do
it better. It kept me pretty
busy in Brazil keeping my
journal up to date.

Tell me I am coming out to
see her soon, & that I
will be pretty well satisfied
to stay in the U.S. for a
few months. When I come to
Cal. I want a big straw-
berry shortcake, and some pie.

With lots of love to you
both,
Your loving nephew
Wilson