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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.

Oxford. December 1st 1829.

My dear Sister,

It gave me much pleasure to hear from you, & I have been for some time
proposing to acknowledge the receipt of yours, but time slips away & resolutions are
unfulfilled. My last journey thro' Germany was rapid, & soon accomplished, &
gave me scarce more opportunity, than just to let my friends in England know that
I was abroad, & that I had come back among them again. Among other places,
visited by me was Dresden, where I called on Neffrath Postojer, Mr. Hankin's
literary correspondent & acquaintance who gave me a packet of a letter &
pamphlet, for Mr. W. - & which I hope he has received, thro' Warrens.
The object for which I went into Germany I hope is in some measure effected,
viz: the setting on foot plans for a more extensive distribution of
Bible & Tracts & small publications, & for the more extensive
much in need. And as they can generally & almost universally read, it may
be hoped, that some benefit will be effected, & perhaps thro' the mercy of God,
not a few poor ignorant souls be brought to know & serve ^{him} God.

I have heard often lately from Dr. Johnson, & he gave me, what much
expressed me, a good account of your looks & health. May it please God
to restore the latter, which is indeed an invaluable blessing, if used aright.
The loss of it, sometimes becomes the greater benefit, by being a means which
God uses to improve on us those sad truths which in seasons of
prosperity, health, & worldly comfort, are so commonly forgotten or
disregarded by us. The Heavenly Father finds a system of gracious
correction as needful for those whom he w^d have as his children, as
an earthly parent does for his. Human nature, like our sins & their

fruit trees must be topped, pruned & dugged, to answer any purpose.

I hope therefore from Dr J's account, that the trouble of furnishing & transporting to enter Biggar House is doing you good rather than otherwise - I may you be spared to experience many truly happy years in it - I need not tell you that I am still within the walls of Alma Mater - enjoying in it, rather than much liking it, & stopping because I do not see any clear call of duty to go away. I cannot say its society has much attraction for me, but perhaps it may please God, by me to do some good to those who are coming on in life; not a few to be ministers of religion. I am happy to find a considerable proportion of decided & consistently religious young men here, & the number increasing, which promises well I think for the future of the National Church. And truly, unless it be in the diffusion of religion & sound piety in our land, I fear there is little to look upon as a people: for temporal matters have a most gloomy & unpromising appearance. Not that I am a coveter, but rather wish people would say less about our national dejections: & do more to promote national religion. And so long as we make Gods cause our care, He will make our wants his.

I have to thank Marianne for her answer, tho' somewhat brief to my letter. She has asked me rather a difficult question in her, or rather set me a difficult task, in requesting me to send her an explanation of 1. John Ch. v. V. 8. Perhaps she is not aware that the words

beginning with "in heaven" in the 7th & ending with "in earth" in the 8th, have been
 & are the subject of a great controversy, as to their genuineness or not. As far as I may
 venture to judge, this very difficult to decide the point. It seems the question, whether
 the authority of the Vulgate, which are a spurious translation from some earlier ^{or earlier} ~~or earlier~~
 the passage; of the Complutensian Edition of the S. which was ^{made} ~~made~~ ^{from} ~~from~~
^{then} ~~then~~ ^{causing} ~~causing~~ ^{great} ~~great~~ ^{uncertainty} ~~uncertainty~~, & certain references, (not quite satisfactory) to their words
 in some ^{of the} ~~of the ^{early} ~~early ^{fathers} ~~fathers, are sufficient to weigh against the negative evidence
 of no Greek mss, of the first 12 centuries, I believe, being found with them.
 This negative evidence w^d be sufficient to decide it, but for the above positive proofs of
 its existence of old time: but these positive proofs are not so clear from ^{all} ~~all~~ ^{doubt} ~~doubt~~ &
 suspicion as to be satisfactory, which otherwise however small in number they w^d
 be, in its favor - so for myself, I do not proceed from it: tho' I w^d on no
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 of the Bible which contain the caption of the rose - which is in the Bible, by
 most judicious & safe & impartial of the Scholars generally, I know, tho' I do
 not concur with him in all matters. The Spirit signifies ^{he thinks} ~~is~~ the
 influences & gifts of the Holy ^{ghost} ~~ghost~~, which with the 2 Sacraments (baptism) called
 here, the water; & (the Lords supper) denoted here by the blood, continually
 bear witness to the salvation effected by Christ: & to the truth & efficacy
 of his doctrine. - Or not improbably, by the water is meant circumcision
 or the work of grace in the heart, & by the blood, the atonement of Christ, as
 depended on, by a sinner: thro' both which the believer overcomes the love of
 the world, & sin, & every obstacle to his salvation on earth, & by which
 the Holy Spirit testifies to others the power & reality of his other religion, as~~~~~~

well as appears it to his own heart - I would add, that I am not satisfied with
the first of these 2 explanations, tho' it is better - But I shall consider the
whole paper over thoroughly, & see what decisive commentaries say, of which there are many
now at hand to me, in our college library &c, & perhaps employ some one
opportunity to send to Mr. A., a more full explanation of confused & difficult points.

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Mr. Hawkins
Archdeacon
St. Michael's Church
Little Hampton
Windsor
Berks.

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1823

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September 2.

1.

I hope you have good news of Henry, & Agnes. & that all with you are well.
My kind love to them. - & praying that a gracious God may bless you with
every needful blessing, herein me, always,

Yr. very affectionate Brother,
P. Walden

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