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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.

Canwick. May 13th 1826

My dear Sir

When I send off my dear mother's letter by regular despatch, I little thought how soon I should have to confirm what my fears expressed in the postscript I added to it. She appeared rather better yesterday morning, more collected & capable of attending to what was proposed: & in this state I left her at 2 o'clock. I had hardly returned at 3 o'clock when I was summoned to witness her gradual but peaceful departure to I trust a happy & lasting habitation. She was taken with a coughing fit, & in the space of a quarter of an hour without any struggle or apparent suffering she expired on the sofa: she was quite sensible to the very last.

I need not examine you much on this subject. With this beloved Mother we connected all my earliest recollections. I can safely say that not a day has passed for years, in which she has not been in my thoughts. With her every place was pleasant, & every all all seemed to be ^{to} ~~be~~ unsatisfactory & void. I never quitted her without being comforted with the hope of seeing her again: & some my chief consolation in the prospect of reunion where there shall be no more pain or sorrow or death. I find abundant cause of thankfulness, not the least, that I was permitted to be with her at the last

To hear from her lips that was very comforting to me.
But the blow struck you from unexpected, was sudden at least &
I feel as if a catastrophe had been ^{from} your side
and the stronger & hold of my affections, were more dear to my
wretched self.

Give my kindest love to my sister. I hope she will not suffer in
health - Mrs Brown is tolerable. I remain, my dear
Yr. affct. & obliged

Wm. D. H. H. H.

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My sister or yourself will be written to in a few days