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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.

Pray tell Madame that I am become a Poet: he will exclaim, what will happen next. I will favor her with a specimen, if she will promise to submit to music.

But I will no longer tell your eyes... I shall be glad to hear soon from you. & with kindest wishes for all with you, believe me, my dear sister,  
Y<sup>r</sup> affect<sup>d</sup> Brother  
Blot.

BRINGCASTLE  
110

MR. HUNTER  
Black Park  
Petersham  
Suffex.

26	30
28	20
28	20



Petersham. November 10<sup>th</sup> 1824.

My dear sister)

It is so long since we have had any correspondence or communication by letter, that I almost fear my handwriting will frighten you, as if announcing some melancholy event. I take the blame of this to myself, for you have many cares & engagements which may excuse your silence. I shall wish however that we may begin again our occasional correspondence, & I hope I shall not seldom hear from you, if you think my letters worth a reply, & will bear with their somewhat grave & serious cast. To say the truth, I do wish in the main, to keep me steady in view, the preparing myself rather for a better state than this present, & finally, I hope allow me to write upon this principle. Do not be frightened, as if I was preparing a series of poems & lectures. I only wish to make a sort of apology for something introducing a subject of all most important, but the most frequently kept out of the way, both in letters, & conversation.

We have been glad to have a good account of your parts from the mouth of an eyewitness. I mean Mr Bradward, who was last week with my mother, & in passing this, I believe, with Miss Ellison. I must except a few indeed out of this good report; but I shall be glad to hear that even this excellent record not be made any longer. I hope she may be speed to you, & home during the winter, her former strength & spirits. I wish we had also learnt from Mr R. that Mr Hawthorn had settled his plans respecting Biggswor. I was in hopes he had finally determined against building there. This you will perhaps say, is no business of mine, but we all like to

give an opinion, & more tho: it may be an erroneous one, arise from a  
sincere wish for the happiness of you & yours. I have engaged my land at  
Bathwick for another year: - my mistress, to be near my mother while she pleases,  
God to spare her life. She is upon the whole tolerable, but yet weaker & thinner.  
& steps more - Mr Brown has had another sharp attack of the complaint  
which will it is most likely terminate her life, but is recovered again. But  
for wishing to be near them, I sh<sup>d</sup> prefer to leave a place which neither she  
would nor I sh<sup>d</sup>; for here is no society whatever of any kind, & I think the air  
is too soft & relaxing to suit me. - But the main point is to be where she  
who appoints one station would have us, & to be doing or suffering the best  
I may learn a lesson of contentment from my curate, who has a wife & six  
children, with 70 ps. annum. He is however in fact not the incumbent, &  
I the curate; as I have obtained the church for him. I cannot conceive  
how he struggles on, nor could he, unless he was helped by prayers of various  
kinds. But he bears all his difficulties with surprising cheerfulness.

Thompson & many are returned from Burlington. I have seldom seen  
the latter looking so well. - All at the Hall near usual, & going on  
as usual - he has had snow unusual heavy rains: & the weather  
peculiarly close & relaxing for the time of year. I quite prefer to see  
a sharp frosty morning. I feel quite another being.

I can send you no country news: my mother & son & the Lincoln papers will better  
supply you with that. Let me hear when you write how yr neighbour Triffet will  
& whether you have lately seen Dr Johnson. I suppose Mr Smith now officiate  
at Brijoor: & it must be painful to you to attend one for whom you have so  
little respect - However, there are few sermons without something in them useful.  
& we must attend to receive that, not as the sentiment of the individual  
preacher, but as a truth of religion in general - I am anything but what is  
called a high churchman. I never care to avow that I regard as Brethren,  
all who appear to be serving God truly, whether in or out of the Church of England,  
But yet I am <sup>in need</sup> ~~in need~~, (& I have seen something of the Bell's way's hold)  
that the Church of England affords the best opportunity for serving God upon  
the whole, of any Church or Sect whatever. And it is important to uphold  
her interests by attendance at her services, tho: the individual who ministers  
may not be all we wish, or anything we wish. Yet such attendance need not  
altogether exclude attending on one so estimable as your friend Triffet.  
But this is a happy country & so far a happy age, in which every one has the  
word of God, the source of all religious truth, & can consult it for guidance:  
& such in praise that teaching of the Holy Spirit, which is so often referred  
to in our incomparable liturgy. I wish persons w<sup>d</sup> read their Bibles  
more at home, & run up to sermons & so forth. They would be better than