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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.

& this I will soon to make it: for, whatever the cold may call on, or Head
 of me, & I am now a little accustomed to its ill nature, I am fully persuaded
 that there is no happiness equal to that which arises from writing, & seeking to please God
 I mean if I could to read best, & give my faithful friend's letters, & study

Canwick. January 14th 1826.

my dear sister/

I will not let another morning sun shine upon me, without having
 at least commenced a letter to you, tho' most probably a Sunday must
 intervene, before I shall have finished it. I believe the appearance of
 my returning strength & health, & that given under my own hand & seal
 will be a real gratification to you: & I should be therefore on many
 accounts unpardonable if I delayed it. God is indeed very gracious to me,
 when I look back on the many mercies of the last 3 months, & on the
 manifold blessing I now enjoy, I see such proof of his goodness, love & care
 as bring to my mind with a joy & amazement before the many passages
of scripture which lead us to view him, as "gracious & merciful, slow to anger
and plenteous in kindness." I have now, after having been brought to the verge
 of another world, & returned to the weakness almost of a child, every prospect
 of a return, & that not a very distant one, to, perhaps more than my
 previous health. During the last few days, notwithstanding a little
 disordered of the bowels, I have been rapidly gaining ground. This you
 will at once perceive, when I tell you that I now dress & even sleep
 myself: get up to a nice cold breakfast, & sit up till nine
 at night. I am yet weak on the legs, but I get from one room to
 the other without even the aid of a stick, & manage a few short
 walks up & down the drawingroom, in the course of the day. On

17
 1826
 B

Miss Hawkins
 Biggin Park
 Newark
 Subject

a line. It is only due to his attentive kindness - My mother is tolerable, but feels
 a little the thirgely winter weather we now have. She sends her love to all
 you. In this first protracted form, & I need not add, that another writes
 with them, who is always, my dear sister
 P.S. All are well at the Home, & Washington. & in the
 minister's good -

Yr. affec^ted & obliged Brother
 Richard D. Thompson

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