



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

Praying for their family
is it? I have not
found it hard to spend
his leisure. I hope to
hear from you soon &
that all are well. Suppose
you are having good
travelling weather now.

It is done for me,
with much love to you
these few words.
Yours
P.S. I find on reading
some of Maria's letters
that I did not get the
solution, especially upon
the first evening they
were given, the report
was given then that
a strike had half the
patch is dry.

This no doubt has been a day of great
excitement all over the United States but with us it
was very quiet, the voters in this town seem to have
had no interest in the election, out of 56 voters only
32 came to the polls, perhaps they think Allen will go
for Parker any way & they did not put themselves out to
come, some are absent.

Well, what are you all doing? entertaining Mr. Robinson?
Alley told me he met him on the Exposition grounds
& he wanted Alley to go to Columbus with him but he
had not the time, his two weeks were nearly out, he
spent only 2 days & nights at home, reached here Tuesday
night & left Thursday on the 4 o'clock train for Selma,
as usual rain attended him, it began that night &
continued until dinner time Thursday so he was unable

to see any one but Reuben & ourselves. I invited Aunt
Melville's family, Uncle John & Susan to take dinner with
him. Thursday, but the rain prevented their coming &
made the roads so heavy, of course wagons were out
to cut them up & now they are very rough. Aunt
Melville asked us up to her house Sunday, (Rich's birth
day) but we could not think of going. Monday (yester-
day) we went in town on the noon train left the
baggy at Hall's until our return at 4 o'clock. Your
father saw his lawyer & I did a little shopping, the
stores are full of pretty things, especially the hand ware
stores where they sell china & glass, the display was fine
for Danvers. Aunt came next week, your father's case,
Dr Pitts, against the estate of W W D will come off about
the last of the week, I will try to get to Aunt Melville's
to stay while he is gone. Dr Pitts just in a bill of 1400
instead of eleven, charged for 3, 4, & sometimes 5 cents
a day, of course he never sends that money. Dr. Pitts

will fight that bill hard, your father would like to
employ Mr Knight too, but Mrs Gilder doesn't like him.
Green says Mr Gilder is a fine lawyer. Green stopped at
the gate Sunday, would not come in, came to bring the
costly boys to the place, & Laneville, he said all were
well in Greenboro.

Do you remember Miss Jan Welch? she was married
not long ago to Mr Lowe, he is cashier of the Robertson
Banking Co & has an interest in it. Dr Fessenden thought
him a great catch because he has some money, but he is a
nice man.

Today I had a very interesting letter from Waver, he was
suffering from over exertion hauling up cut corn & had to
stop work a few days, wrote to your father for a prescription
the answer went off tonight; he told of the potato
crop they made, they had one acre, planted 165 lbs of
potatoes, got only a tenth of an stand, had dug 900 lbs &
lost four or half the potato. said they were very large,

some as long as his hand & almost as broad, so much
for irrigation. I suppose, he had cured beans enough to
last a year & had a large crop of turneps to put up
for winter, he must work very hard.

Reuben stopped by a few minutes this evening on his
way from the Barnes place, seemed low spirited, some of his
beets are going to leave the Barnes place. He is at present
continues sick & he has a hard time, I gave him a loaf of
bread & a cooked putridge I had in the safe, to help him
out. Mr. Bawley brought us three nice ones, he killed 20.
I had a letter from Henry today, he was waiting while
waiting for Dr. Webb to come by & take him to see one of
Dr. Webb's patients, and he found a plenty to do on his
arrival, the springs had begun running again & the plant
had commenced work some days before he arrived.

Minnie Macintyre wrote for her mother to join her in
St. Louis, as she & Taylor went off Sunday. I suppose
Minnie pays all expenses, it is nice to have so much

you but I will be as little about this time. Tomorrow
all interested in the St. Andrews cemetery are expected
to meet there for a general cleaning up so I will be
there all day & probably too tired at night to do any
thing. I have been sewing steadily yesterday & today
fixing over a black skirt to wear tomorrow don't want
to wear any belt, the skirt is finished & I feel relieved.
As frequently the case these days I am all alone, soon
after breakfast your Father made a visit to Kate
Matthews, then went to Gallatin to take the noon train
to Damascus, will be home about sunset. He went
to buy or order some iron roofing for two cabins at
Mantletoe, they are to be fixed for bands Reuben
hopes to get, this is lovely weather for work if he can
get it.

1708

Dear son dear
Mother

find a workman but all seem busy at this season,
however he has the promise of Peter & Johann in a few
days. Johann & John will continue to work the land
they have been renting on the "North side" as your Father
calls it, so there will be no bother about that. While on
this subject I believe I told you Reuben will rent
Bristle for next year & as sent to any good hands he
can find securing the pasture & woods for his goats, &
hope if he thinks best to leave them in the care of one
of the renters. I am very sorry to say Reuben will soon
move back to the Kaas place, not getting the hands
he wanted this year & having so much hard work to
do with his own hands. I regretted him with living at
Mistletow, he says his largest interest is at the
Kaas place & it is so much better for him to live
there, we think the best thing for him to have some
would have been to give up the Kaas place, sell
supplies stock & farm on a small scale at Bristle
but he did not ask me a price for the land. I am afraid

he made the bargain before we knew anything of
it, he is too much blind to leave so much on hand &
be going all sorts of weather. I am going up to push up
for him if he lets me know when he will move, not
still sick. I have written all this because I think you
will be interested to know how things are. Now I must
thank you for your letter & ask if your sock ever came
to hand? I sincerely hope Maria has come over to help,
while her Father is with her. Do you trust the baby in
the yard to play alone? are you not afraid she might
get into the street, your places had no enclosures around
it when I left Columbus. I am glad you had a little
spare time when the students went home to write, would
it a chance we could sit here Parker? I am afraid
the Democrats will never have another president, not
money enough to out do the other party. I am sure you
were much disappointed that Fred & Henry could not
make you at least a call. I suppose both had the
common sense to be afraid to go. I am afraid the

mult. resumed work soon after he left, a young man
accidentally shot himself in the foot so there was work
for him night away. Fred has not written to me since
his return from Des Moines, & we have heard nothing
more from Walter. I hope he is quite well by this time.
Late Sunday evening your Father was called to Hater
Matthews at the Des Moines place, expected to be detained
so he sent the man who came for him to bring up
John to stay at this place that night, Mrs & Miss Harris
politely promised to stop by & stay all night (they dined
with Mrs Touche) so I did not go to Mrs Saunders as I
might have done, they did not come as I was in the
house alone, John in the kitchen, I was thankful to have
him near. There is a disease in that neighborhood that
Dr Staples calls small pox, your Father has not seen a
case the many of the servants have it. Sarah Collins
latter day had it but is out now, I can't think it is
~~small pox~~, must be some thing else, they got over it
too quickly. We had no visit from Mrs Harris yet last



THIS HOTEL HAS NO EQUAL IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, CLEANLINESS & RATES.

TERMINAL HOTEL, EUROPEAN UNION STATION.

St. Louis

Tuesday
Nov. 29 1904
9:53 P.M.

Dearest Fattybunch,

I have just come back from a visit to Nance and Daddy. I found them at home, apparently enjoying themselves by themselves. They will take messages to you tomorrow morning; but I would like to go along myself, for I am tired long ago of being without my sweet wife and family. I love you, old Sweet-heart, and day is only the peep of day when you are not about to make it a whole day. And Babykins is, I guess, a little zephyrus to keep things in motion, bless her little heart.

I have had a full day and I am only going to write you a short note ere I go to slumber.



TERMINAL HOTEL,
EUROPEAN
UNION STATION.
ST. LOUIS.

THIS HOTEL HAS NO EQUAL IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, CLEANLINESS & RATES.

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I was up to catch a 7:30 train, only to find that nobody knew anything, that the time had changed, and it leaves at 8:25. As a matter of fact it was 9:25 before it left, and meanwhile I went to a photo. establishment and secured the munitions of flashphotography. At Pacific I visited the caves, took a few pictures, and reached the "Union" again at 1:30. After lunch I went to the Botanic Garden, did some errands there, as well as had a nice little visit with Prof. Trelease, and then hurried away to Scruggs ^{and Co et al.} Before the 6⁰⁰ bell rung on me most of the necessary purchases were complete, so I supped down town, stopped at the 'Hotel Terminus'.



TERMINAL HOTEL,
EUROPEAN
UNION STATION,
St. Louis.

THIS HOTEL HAS NO EQUAL IN THE UNITED STATES
FOR COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, CLEANLINESS & RATE.

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to spruce up a bit, made my
call, and there I am.

Tomorrow will be given over
entirely to work and scheming
at the Fair, if anyone can
be found to scheme with.

Hold up before you the mir-
ror, and kiss your old sweet self
many times for me, then kiss
Babykiss and tell her that "I've been
consorting a bit with Santy Claws
for shoo."

Also nochmals lieber Märchen
ihren treu, and auch noch lieb-
volle, doch immer ihrer dienst-
fertige und adoring Ehemann, bis ich,
das heisse, Ihrer Berij. also.

I hope that tooth is not troubling you. B.

Nov 30th 1904

Very dear Lou

I returned this afternoon from a day & night visit to our old friends Mrs Wren & Miss Henry. I found them up & about but looking dreadfully, can't say which looks worse, Miss Henry is very stiff in her knees, gets up with a good deal of difficulty & stoops in walking. They still live at the Rectory with the peculiar Ben Brown. I went up on the train, was so glad to catch a glimpse of Sister Sally on the street & share her down, it was a share, she going as fast. We went together to the stores, she is so much better acquainted with them all than I am, then she took me to Mrs Wren, saving me a long walk. She told me Mrs Moffet Haines is confined to his bed again with swollen ankles, that means lots of trouble for her, getting him visited on, for

is such a trial to them all, I think sister I
is almost an angel to stand him. I used to think
bro' Waver a great trial but he was nothing compar-
ed to her afflict.

Fanny Jackson was on the train going & returning,
she looks as well, spent last night with Algeria
Wilkins (I have forgotten who else remained) in St. Louis,
she is housekeeping, has Belle with her.

I believe my last letter to you was written out
Lancaster, your Father had his trip to St. Louis,
lost his case, took an appeal & came home
Wednesday, I turned my count up to Lancaster for
some, but he took Thanksgiving dinner before leaving.
Amelia was there too. Kate had all Beecher's
family & some others to dine with her. I hope
some kind friend invited you & Maria to dinner
that is if you were still without a cook but I
expect you found one in St. Louis. While I
think of it, the box of preserves is at the depot,

Nov 30, 1904

will be shipped by freight as soon as our agent
can find out the rates, he is a poor stick & takes
his time about every thing, we will do as you
directed but I hate not to pay expenses on it, you
can be on the look out for the box. I do hope the
box will not be broken.

Reuben passed this evening on his way to visit
to see a young man who may live with him on
the Harris place. I hope he will spend tomorrow
night with us.

I think Fred has been so busy he has forgotten
how to write home. I had a short letter from
Fanny, she too had been without a cook but
had a very smart little girl, & a boy to help
her. A new cook came in that day. She expected
to go to Mobile to the Federation of Clubs. (I feel
like clucking her when I hear of her running
around to all such meetings.) She is now doing

Fred's writing for him, takes down what he wants
to say in short hand & writes his letters on the
type writer, says also likes the work, better still the
money, 16 dollars a month.

There is a street fair in Danvers this week
but I don't think we will attend, crowds of
people go in our train & in their own conveyances.
I stopped in to see Mrs. Hudson this morning on
my way to the train, Alfred's baby was there,
he is just 2 months younger than Louis, a
fine little fellow. Mrs. G. is devoted to him.

I hope Louis continues well & healthy & still
enjoys being out of doors, the last day or two has
been right cold & cloudy with us, this morning
particularly, I was so much afraid a rain would
keep me from getting to the depot. Perhaps I told
you of Minnie's Walker's death, you know she
married Mr. Geo. W. Lee. With much love to you
all & kisses to Louis.

Your devoted Brother.

before they were not informed
by staying so long at the
depot, that goods of our
agent could not be moved it-
get this letter till because if
there should be a letter
would on the first to take it
off & send the precious letter.
I hated not to say good but
you said we must not. Some
of us they will not be with
the freight. It is getting later
I must say good night, write
must I have to go all
Yours devoted
Mother.

71 D, Columbia

9th 1904

When I left home Wednesday evening
your Father promised me he would write to you as I
did not find time to do so before leaving home. I
returned on the noon train, find he has not written
so I will attempt a letter tonight tho it is late.
I found Reuben here waiting for us but by this time
I could make a fire it began to sprinkle rain & he
said he must go, could not wait to for dinner to
be brought in, he wanted to get on before the
bridges became slippery. Reuben had put up a
little lunch for me saying the train might be
late, it was, but I did not eat the lunch as I
slipped it in his pocket for him to eat on the

way, & off he went much against my wishes, he
came to Wrentham yesterday, stopped here to leave
large shoulder of fresh pork for me to make sausage
as soon as I ate dinner, a late one, Harriet & myself
went to work in good earnest & by milking time a
large turkey dish was filled up with sausage partly
seasoned, tomorrow I will complete the seasoning &
pack up, how I wish you could have come, I believe
Maries is not partial to such rich food.

I had such a pleasant visit to Fannadale, first went
to Mary Wilkins to leave a dress to be made, then I
went to the store to see Sary, intending to tell her I
would spend the night with her but Sary had
gone to Hy to buy cranks so I told Johnny I would go
home with him, intended going the next day any
how. I then went to see Julia Harris & Berrie, dined
with the latter, Johnny's Berrie seemed so glad to

Dec 9, 1909

see one, & as there was only Bevillette & a friend of hers
with her we had a good quiet time, Miss Hecatt is
a very nice girl, one of the sort I like, by the way they
say George Adams is "settling up" to her, was there the
first night I was, but last night there were no beans
as we all fixed things for a fruit cake or rather cake,
enough was prepared for 3 or 4, but they divided with
Mary, she has a large house in Birmingham now &
is taking boarders, Beria's twins is with her, Johnny has
been better lately but was feeling a little badly today,
he brought one to Farnesdale in his buggy. I wish you
could see the "little midget" as he calls him, who goes
with him in his buggy, he is very small but smart
& useful, feels his importance, waits on Johnny nicely
& reminds him of things he has to do. I found good

letter to your Father & was very glad to hear from
you. I hope the clouds gave you rain instead of sun,
don't you prefer it - Of course you are all enjoying
Mr & Mrs Robertson's visit. I was wondering just a
day or so ago if you still held your lot & would
hold on it. Your Father had a letter from Fred, he
said Fanny would be in Montgomery on a certain day
that Frances & Margaret would go along to Va - to
meet her, Dr Thigpen to be consulted about Margaret's
throat, it troubles her very often. Fanny stayed a week
in Mobile with the Spragues. Did I tell you that
Mary Gladwin Pringle is married at last? but I do
not know the man's name, he has been in love with
her for many years I hear. Pearson is building them a
house just opposite, the land belonged to cousin Mary.
She must have made a good deal off⁴ her flowers.
The box of preserves was shipped by freight today &

"a great mind" to write Fred that the weather is
too bad for us to go up to Auburn, I think it would
be too bad to disappoint them, this spell may last only
a few days & then be bright & pleasant by 21 or 22, just
a week off tomorrow. Fred spent last Saturday night
with us, could not stay longer, wanted to go to the
meeting of the cotton men in Shreveport but I don't
think he got off for Farming and he was in Montgomery
Tuesday & I think that was the day for the meeting, he
was looking very well. John has just knocked at the
window & said Mrs. Gilden telephoned to your Father
that Dr. Focner was killed this evening on his
evening walk. He has been in the habit of going for a
long walk down the R. R. every evening, he was shot
with buck shot, some one must have been on the
watch for him; your Father will go in tomorrow if it
is not raining, or doing some thing worse. Poor man

Dec. 17, 1904

being killed may have saved him from the insane asylum for I don't think it would have been many years before he would have been there, you know his sister died in the asylum in Teshkuloos; he leaves his family very well provided for.

Your letter for 11th week has not come but I suppose you & Maria both are busy with your visitors, & getting ready for Xmas. I hope the cook returned after Thanksgiving. My cook (Harriet Alley) does very well. I like her much better than Mary, she says she will cook next year for us, she is a good milker too. Today I had a letter from Waver, he says he expects to rent the same place another year. I am glad of that, for he seems to be living more comfortably than he has been for some time, mentioned having two cows, & making 6 lbs of butter a week besides having milk at three meals for coffee & for oat meal in the

to take to the
 if we do not
 give out the
 trip. It is
 getting late as
 good night,
 with much
 love to you all
 & as fine to
 Louise
 Your devoted
 Mother.

morning, while he was sick there. Some one was to
 notice his eye as about half of it spoiled, he did
 not know exactly how to put it up for winter. Some
 of their own had been amputated but they had not
 received returns.

I have heard from Henry in the last few days, his
 household were fasting on visions, an ingenious
 friend sent for him to help deer as large deer he
 shot from the cat window, he said it was quite a
 job but he was repaid by having a bird quarter to
 take home with him. I have not seen Reuben since
 he hurried off the evening I returned from Hamstead;
 Your Father was at Winstelton a day or so ago, said there
 were 8 or 10 little kids, I hope they will be able to stand
 this cold weather. A man who promised to cut some
 of that land he now declined to go there. I am afraid
 he will be as short of hands there as he was last

Thursday
Dec 27th 1904

My dear Son

I reached Auburn Friday night
found your very interesting letter awaiting me. I
enjoyed it so much, so glad you told me what
you would do at home. I imagined how happy
you all were, & how delighted Louise was with
the 2 new trees. I expect you had your Satur-
day night, one was put off until last night
on account of a sudden dark stormy squall
for Mont gomery Saturday & did not get in
until 9 at night. Frederic had a singular
trouble with his eyes, one of them closed, no
inflammation but he could not open it without
a great effort that was painful, he became
nervous & without consulting Fred even, got blind

up the boys part as they were (recently above
no secret) & away she waddled with a red &
a blue scarf on her hand, and flying behind
her, they were, to be met on at the depot.
The day was damp, cloudy & windy but she could
not think of that, "the little boys love to ride on
the cars & it won't cost me any thing." Suddenly
suggested she should wait & let Dr. D. - see Frederick's
eye before taking the trip, he was coming up that
night but she did not listen to me. She had not
much satisfaction from young Dr. They saw, the
older one was not there. She then consulted
young Father but follows no advice, does what
she thinks right, tries to keep him in bed
& diet him, refusing him things young Father
thinks good for him, oh! how I do hate to see
the way she refuses them things that we

Dec 27, 1909

3

know can't possibly hurt them but I keep
quiet. This morning I have not seen Frederick
but she says he can open his eyes with less
pain. Our Father wants him to be up, but to
wear colored glasses, he went down town &
bought a pair but Fanny tried them on, said
they hurt her eyes, as Frederick does not use
them Fred is as busy as ever, leaves the
house & children to her management.

The tree last night was very pretty & all
enjoyed it, these are remarkable children, I
wish I could tell you of ^{all their} precociousness, but
we are wary to see it, they know too much mind
for their bodies. Just think, 'Margaret with
nearly every present she gave, had a little
verse attached, her own composition, I think
her very bright, & so affectionate, Frances

seems to be content with her books but not at all affectionate, rather repels advances of affection from others. Fredine has a good disposition & is content enough, very practical. Ellwellton is a real boy & allowed more privileges than the others were at his age. Don't encourage Louise to be too content, her body might suffer for it, (you won't mind suggestions from me will you?) I know Louise can't help being bright, the temper can be controlled. I don't think there can be decided characters without some temper. How I would have enjoyed seeing her & you all this & more!

We both thank you very much for the warming plate, I am sure it will be very useful especially for keeping your Father's breakfast warm.

Dec. 27, 1909

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Yesterday evening Fred took us to see the Polled
Angus, & the Short Horn cattle that are here to be
inspected, about 50, some splendid ones ~~one~~,
one Angus they value at 500 dollars, he took 4th
prize at St. Louis. (I mean in his grade) they
are to stay until spring & then be sold here.
I began this before breakfast with a pencil, you
must excuse the dreadful writing & mistakes,
now I am in the sitting room & there is talk
ing all around. We have had a hard rain since
breakfast & it is still raining; I expect a freeze
when this is over, we may have a cold time
getting home, expect to go about day after tomorrow.
I think all are glad of this rain, the water
supply was low on station grounds & none on
this place, they use from the dairy. Fred has come
in says I can help him in getting together some

papers as I will bring to a close this
fragmentary letter, much love to you all & many
kisses to my dear little girl, be sure to tell me
how Lomax enjoyed the tree.

Your devoted

Brother,