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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.

To D. Coleman, Mo.

Readen wrote up  
while I was at-  
dinner, took some  
thing to eat & is  
off again. Don't  
forget to send me  
the promised plate  
of dories.

March 15<sup>th</sup> 1903

This is a lovely morning, just cool  
enough for a little fire to be comfortable, your  
Father has old John Olley up in the new garden  
putting in some potatoes & other seed, we are  
planting a garden for you to have some vegetables  
when you come this summer. This has not been  
like March, so little wind but we may have  
it yet. You said no more about the trip, I judge  
from that that you have not yet had a leave of  
absence granted you. I am very sorry you have no  
cook, they are hard creatures to deal with, the  
same every where I believe, Fanny was without  
one too when she wrote last week but she has such  
good help in her house girl. There is one good trait  
in my cook, she is not in the least inclined to be

impetuous, but forgetful to the greatest extent,  
it requires a great deal of patience to be constantly  
reminding her. I am glad you had clearly thought  
to dine with you, and sure he appreciated the  
attention & his Mother said I knew. I miss her  
as much she was a kind good neighbor, one I  
loved to visit. I hope she will return to her old  
home where the leaves appear. Miss Mary does not  
like Ashville I hear.

That was a nice crew to make for the church,  
your ladies must be more energetic than ours to get  
up such an entertainment. By this time Louisa  
is quiet & well I hope & probably is out today enjoying  
the sunshine, how I would like to take a peep at  
her sweeping & dusting, hope she will not lose her  
fondness for house cleaning. I fully intended to send  
Mary at 9 o'clock to buy her a little broom, wanted  
to be the first one to put her in the way of sweeping  
in that direction, then too I have seen children so  
pleased with a little broom. I thought she might be

know she is as sweet as can be & a great source  
of pleasure to you both, wish we were nearer so I  
could be with her often.

I have heard nothing from the wedding. Johnny attempt-  
ed to go but our dearaching Birmingham felt too badly  
sent Mary in his place. Maria's aunt, twin Maria  
was left in charge of the housekeeping at Norwood,  
but Maria & Mary's little girls also to take care of.  
Mary Wilkins must come to share the responsibility with  
her.

For as much as your Father has been writing every day,  
(one day two visits) Gerrit Collins, he has had  
pneumonia, yesterday was much better. It sounds  
your Father starts earlier than usual, he has to feed,  
smell his horse, come in & fix up a little more, set  
breakfast & go. Mr Dickman is sick but Dr Tench is  
his physician. I suppose old age & grief are about to  
overcome him, he was so devoted to Julia.

We had such a pleasant visit from the Bishop, at  
the request of the church members he preached in  
the afternoon instead of at night, had a small

but appreciative congregation, nearly all baptists  
as many of our congregations were absent, and Mother  
& other places. The Bishop & Mrs Harris spent the  
night with us, after tea, Mr Davis, Blanche & Miss  
Thigpen called to see the Bishop. I believe if we had  
such a preacher as he is, we would get in some of the  
baptists, if we don't prosper, some I don't know what  
will become of our church, your Father the only male  
member & my lastig. communicants.

I tried to get Rankin to come down when the Bishop  
was here but he did not, called by next day on his  
way to Bristol too, stopped a little while next day, <sup>again</sup>  
would not come in, he was looking very well, has  
fattened on potatoes & hog meat this winter, oh, if he  
only had his sight!

There is to be a stock, or revival Wandering meeting in  
Montgomery on the 28<sup>th</sup>. I will try to persuade  
Rankin to go up to Dr Thigpen at that time, your  
Father will be glad to go with him & perhaps both of  
them will hear some of the speeches. Good is to



March 15, 1905

Frank. Harry mentioned he was not well but  
as we have heard nothing more I suppose it was  
only a slight indisposition. Fred's eye improves  
very slowly, tho I put ~~specacles~~ on him & gave him  
constitutional treatment, which I am sure he  
needed, those children will never get over the poor  
start they had in life, tho three older ones, tho the  
two had a better time.

Wade says to see him now I would hardly think  
that climate agrees with him as he must be  
getting quite stout. Henry was quite well & busy  
when I heard from him.

My poor head continues to ache & I suppose will  
continue to do so until I can go to a dentist, if it  
is caused by my teeth, I do not see why my teeth  
should cause a pain on the top of my head.

With much love to Maria, Louisa, & yourself

Your devoted

Mother.

L. L. Duggar, M. D.

Fairford, Mo.

March 6

1902

My dear Mother

I am just back at the office from supper, the days are getting so long that at six o'clock we scarcely need a lamp. Another warm spell of weather, but I am afraid it will rain again. Being busy, I got little gardening done before the rains, and the ground has been too wet this week.

Speaking of the hens cackling, I wish we had a few to do some of it, for eggs have been high ever since before Christmas, we paid twenty-five cents until the last week, when we could get them for twenty-five, but we put in an order at "Store 2" which is thirty miles out on the road, and today got a shipment of ten dozen at fifteen cents. The woman we have would be a good hand to raise chickens, but neighbors are so close that we don't care to trouble with any more domestic cares.

Spent Sunday last very pleasantly in town. Morgan, one of the teachers, and I went down late Saturday afternoon on the local in order to



March 16, 1905

I. L. Duggar, M. D.

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Fairford, Ala.,

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heard Ex-Gov Bob Taylor's lecture "Castles in the Air". It was fine of course, as are all of his efforts.

Since the "Bottle House" burned hotel accommodations in Mobile are at a premium, we registered at the "Biciville" and were put in an annex - this hotel now has three annexes. We were gentlemen of leisure next morning and got out in time only to get breakfast and go to church. He attended services at Trinity and heard Dr Bennett, the vested choir is an improvement on church music. He sat in the pew with Alice Johnston and Miss Edmonia Kaine. In the afternoon I made several calls, one at the home of Cousin Kitty Kaine. She looked better than at my former visit, and was full of reminiscences of the old time. Mr. K. is rather a crude specimen. You are especially invited to come down and visit them.

This week so far has been a busy one, a good half day in the country each day and enough to do in the D. In addition to which

I have had six life insurance instructions to make. don't mind this so much though, for as the boys would say, it is like getting money from home.  
What of the wedding of Columbus Tenn., is it Off?

I may attend the meeting of the Medical Association in Montgomery next month. does Father speak of going? If I do go, I suppose it would be in order to run up to Auburn to see the folks. think it time to go to see my namesake!

I was surprised to hear that Dr. Staples had returned from whence he came. Suppose his wife will be loath to wander far from the old fireside.

While I think of it - Alice Johnston wants Harry's correct address - it seems her husband is out there somewhere at a J. M. L. farm of some kind to recuperate.

Must close now with love.

Yours devoted Son  
L. L. D.





found the water too deep to cross, had  
go home & try it again yesterday, he made  
the trip, took home all the hay he had  
stored in Red store, says it takes 2 bales a  
day to feed once our hay. I think he has 14  
head of animals & horses, 4 oxen & a good  
many cows & hieps, quite a lot to winter.  
After easing his wagons off he came up &  
took dinner with us, he is very well & out  
growing all his clothes, fattened on those  
delicious sweet potatoes I savor.

Uncle Ben dropped in to dinner one day  
last week, he looks well, has his usual plan,  
rides for the Mercantile Co., was looking for  
Wellington's coat & hat that day, all were  
well in Fannsdale, Melville Pratt improving  
but not out of bed, this is the 9<sup>th</sup> week.

since she was taken sick, trained nurse  
dismissed. I tried to persuade Reuben to go  
to Montgomery next Monday, if he consents  
your Father will accompany him & both can  
have the benefit of some of the speeches  
at the Stock Breeders Meeting, Fred will be  
one of the speakers. If they go I will come down  
to Fannsdale, spend a night with Benny &  
Lory, & then go out to Newwood. I have heard  
nothing of the young couple, they went to  
Cuba, instead of up North Benny said.  
Bessie was delighted with the family, &  
Columbian people generally, she said 'Kitty'  
the sister of the bride was the prettiest lady  
in the room (at the wedding) the Lilly looked  
better than she thought she could, so the  
bride cannot not be pretty. Mrs Henry Winters  
knocked at the door yesterday, wanted the

church yard key, he is so improved. I scarcely  
knew him, your Father says "yes, he is a widow-  
er," rather a reflection on wives! but she was  
a crazy one. He lives now on the old Withers  
place, has "farmed out" his 5 children I think.  
What have you all been busy about? I hope  
none of you have been sick. I wonder if Louise  
wouldn't be delighted to see my little chickens,  
I wish she was here - yesterday I took off a  
hen that hatched every egg (13) hens two more  
hens to hatch Friday, in all I have about 100  
eggs sitting, if all do any thing like as well as the  
first hen I will have as many as I can take care  
of. I sent your Father handed in your letter  
which I have read & enjoyed very much. He  
has taken a sudden notion to go to Danvers on  
the same train & is hurrying to get off so we will  
have to talk over your letter & write again. I



March 22, 1905

am very sorry the decision of the board is as long postponed, but as you feel sure almost of its being favorable you will not mind going ahead with your arrangements.

Well! he did not get off, mounted his horse & found a stirrup broken, thinks some one must have borrowed it last night. A few nights ago some one took the basket that was wired to his seat, opened a wallet of old keys from Brattleton, took out two bunches, & some little tools that were in the bag. Sunday morning, John found or pretended to find, the keys by the wire fence near the store, some of them evidently had been tried in some lock for the old seat was pulled off. Your father says find out what you can about rates & let us know, it is almost impossible to find out anything here. How would it suit you Ben to come here on your way to N. Y. or if you came to see us

70 D. Virginia Ave.  
Columbia, Mo.

April 5<sup>th</sup> 1906

My dear Son

Here we are heated by a fire  
again & the wind whistling around our doors  
making us feel as if winter has returned & our  
few tender vegetables will suffer, but for a rain  
this evening I would certainly have collected  
some old bins & turned them over our 27 hills  
of squash, but if the wind keeps up there  
will be no fruit. We had only some shovels,  
but enough to make the grass wet.

I was truly glad to receive your letter this  
morning & to know that you will come to see  
us before sailing, the only trouble is your visit  
will be so short, but better half a loaf than

she come." We are sure it will be impossible  
to find any one to take care of the place for  
us to make you a visit & we think it the  
very thing for you to send Maria & Louise on &  
you come when you can, we will be delighted  
to have them & will take good care of them until  
you come. I hope the weather will be better than  
when Maria was with us & that she will enjoy  
her visit more. Your Father will take pleasure  
in meeting them in Breidenau, you must let  
us know what time of day they will leave  
Columbus so he can find out at what hour  
they will reach Breidenau, can do so by writing  
to Selma, our cousin at Gallatin never knows any  
thing. If they could reach there in time for what  
we call our 4 o'clock train it would be as much  
better than to arrive as I did at 4, & have to

stay over all night. Our 4 o'clock train must  
leave Breidenau about half past one. I know  
you must be very much pressed with work, and  
it were no way for us to help you. I think you  
& Fred will always be busy, maybe you will  
have a little rest time on the steamer from both.  
I expect you will spend a good deal of time  
taking care of Louise. I am very sorry to hear  
of Mr. Horton's fall, hope he will soon recover.  
The Medical Convention meets on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this  
month. I think now I will spend the time you  
Father is gone with sister Sally, by that time she  
can certainly meet me at Tammesdale, roads will  
be smooth enough for her to travel. I must try  
& get Henry to meet you here.  
I have been counting on a visit from the  
Anabaptists after commencement must but your



Father said Fred told him in Montgomery that they would hardly be able to come, talked as if they had some trip in view, but did not say where. I am sorry you could not accept the invitation to speak at the A. S. W. College Wisc. Mrs Hatch was here yesterday & today, for medicine for himself & Taylor, Mrs Hatch is ailing too, has rheumatism.

How does Maria amuse her self these spring days? she has all her sewing done for the summer. I have been working hard on a home dress for two days, have so many interruptions I can't get on very fast, little chickens take up so much time, I have 48 now, & 5 more hens to hatch. Taylor Hatch has 150 little chickens & 30 hens sitting. I would not care to have so many, he takes all that trouble off his Mother's hands. I had

Apr 5, 1905

No letter from Henry last week, none from  
Waver are moving week, he is a queer fellow, some  
times he writes right regularly & then again  
weeks pass without a line from him. Nelson  
dined with us Sunday, said he would come to  
Metteton yesterday, but we have heard nothing  
of him, too much like our Ireshon.

Mrs Garbrough in Vermont inquired particularly  
about you. I think she was Miss Weston, but  
probably was married when you lived there. Mrs  
Dickinson is about the same, Mrs Marshall sick,  
Dr Turk's patient. There was a freight wreck at  
Mrs Dowell's as the train could go no further than  
Danapolis today, I suppose they will run all right  
tomorrow. It is getting late good night, we will be  
looking forward with much pleasure to the visit from  
you all, with much love to you all.

Yours devoted

Mother.

April 30<sup>th</sup> 1905

My dear Son

I am very glad to have your letter but it was too bad for you to have to write so late at night, I am afraid you will wear yourself out, not be in good fix for the long trip, but if you had not been up your cook would have been the loser, that was an awfully time, I think the young man happened in at the right time, the husband might have visited you alone, what terrible creatures they are! still we must have them. I hope you could soon fill your cooks place for Vicar & yourself must be busy packing. We are so glad



this time is near, for her to be with  
 us, if she is feeling badly & needs any  
 thing we will do our best for her & be  
 happy to do it. I hope she will feel  
 more at home with us this time & ask  
 for what she & Louise need, or would  
 even wish to have. I am delighted at  
 the thought of having Louise, & expect  
 will want to stay here when you leave  
 I suppose. Maria will tell us when to  
 expect you, I am afraid from what you  
 said that you will not leave Columbia  
 until about the 12<sup>th</sup> & that will give  
 us so little of your time, everyone wants  
 to know when Ben will come, Uncle  
 Ben says he certainly wants to come  
 over to see you, I am to let them all

Apr 30, 1905

know when you will arrive. Your  
Father will go on the noon train  
Wednesday to meet Maria, has written to  
the Proprietor of the Southern Hotel to  
be at the train (Maria's) & take care  
of her if the Gallatin train should be  
late, until he arrives.

Reuben, joined with us today after  
spending 2 days at Missions, he  
has just gone, it is a cloudy, dark  
evening for him to ride, but he would  
not stay. We had quite a heavy rain  
this morning, I do hope the weather  
will be good while you & Maria are  
with us, our long the rains have  
spoiled the pretty roses. I wanted you

all to see them, the Paul Wilson is  
now the prettiest thing I ever saw in  
this way of a rose bush but they will  
drop before winter comes. the roses are as  
large as success.

I think I wrote your Uncle John went  
to Dr. Carson's Sanitarium day to stay a  
few days while your Father was at the  
Medical Convention, is there still. A  
letter from Bessie today says she has  
been very ill but is much better now,  
very pale & weak, his feet have been  
swelling, that is not favorable. Bessie  
prettended to go there because she  
did not know what else to do. Dr. C.  
is a cousin of hers. I had a letter from  
Fred yesterday written from Birmingham,



Apr 30, 1905

he & Fanny were there to the States  
 I! Convention, all was well at home,  
 Dr Allen of Washington had under  
 them as visit, was very sick one night  
 but able to go as far as Georgetown  
 with them on his way to the West  
 A & Mr Lottiger. We have another little  
 beef calf, that smokes & better beef  
 calves on this lot this spring, one was  
 Remond's cow, he has taken her home.  
 Fanny wants to know up when you  
 come, possibly all can be here but then,  
 I mean the sons. The rain prevented  
 Mr Harris from coming over to hold  
 services this evening, with much love  
 The Proprietor Your devoted  
 assumed he would meet Mother.  
 Warren's train.

Prinville Ala

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1915

Dear Marie:—

Today at 2:00 P.M. I came home — having been in the Capital City since last Wednesday Evening. Whilst waiting in Selma for the evening train — on which I was to reach Montgomery — I heard that Ernest Thompson Seton was to Lecture to the School Children, on "Nature Study". As I claimed a half hour of leisure time, and with watch in hand, as no seat to overstay my time; I became greatly interested in what Mr Seton had to say to "we Children, Of course he had the "Views" arranged to illustrate his address, and 'twas fortunate for me that so much of his lecture could be taken in. This is one of my rules of life "to gather what fruit is ripe & reachable." Another little trip thro Selma some weeks ago furnished me the opportunity to listen to a very eminent Rabbi

whose theme was - "The Wandering Jew". This was so ably discussed that I was persuaded to admire greatly some of the Jewish customs and methods. Our Med Assoc<sup>n</sup> was held for 4 days & the entire proceedings were highly instructive - just a dash of amusement - a reception at the Beauvoir Club one night, and a car ride of 6 miles to Jackson's Lake with a regular tip-tap baritone; this was rather a healthy diversion from a consideration of Tuberculosis & other ills of Mankind. Again I was in luck - for the famous Dr Woodrow Wilson Pres<sup>th</sup> of Princeton Univ. made an address or lecture Friday night, and I believe I could listen to him 20 nights in succession, and now I am at home with its prosaic affairs - setting out tomato plants, cutting pretty roses - (beautiful I should say) - & looking for guinea nests. These are the graded experiences of a Country Doctor.

Merton had her sister (Mrs Harris) to stay part of the time with her whilst I was away. She is now awake & sends you this message, that "she would have written herself but her cook was



sick & she had everything to do & that with a lame  
foot - but she appeared this evening & now  
she looks forward to much pleasure from your  
visit. I have read your letter & say in  
reply that I surely expect to meet you  
in Meridian when I know the time de-  
finitely - D.D.

Dr L.L. I was with me in Montgomery at the  
Med Meeting & promised to come up when you & Ben  
& the precious little one are here. He also paid a short  
visit to the "Auburnites" before returning to his home.  
Very well do I know that it must be a considerable  
bother to close up & settle your home affairs be-  
fore leaving for the distant coast of Europe,  
particularly when an indefinite stay is  
ahead of you. Now I too am actually sleepy  
& tired as every night recently I was up & asleep till  
one or two o'clock. So good night & love to you all.

Affectionately Gr. Father.

Wm. Thompson