



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

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

Statement on harmful and offensive content

The Hunt Institute Archives contains hundreds of thousands of pages of historical content, writing and images, created by thousands of individuals connected to the botanical sciences. Due to the wide range of time and social context in which these materials were created, some of the collections contain material that reflect outdated, biased, offensive and possibly violent views, opinions and actions. The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation does not endorse the views expressed in these materials, which are inconsistent with our dedication to creating an inclusive, accessible and anti-discriminatory research environment. Archival records are historical documents, and the Hunt Institute keeps such records unaltered to maintain their integrity and to foster accountability for the actions and views of the collections' creators.

Many of the historical collections in the Hunt Institute Archives contain personal correspondence, notes, recollections and opinions, which may contain language, ideas or stereotypes that are offensive or harmful to others. These collections are maintained as records of the individuals involved and do not reflect the views or values of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation or those of Carnegie Mellon University.

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.

12 Rue Jem du Ballon
Montpellier, France.
November 6th
1957

My own darling Mauna, I had time

only for a postal last week as
was so busy moving, getting establish-
ed, etc. with all that means of little
things to buy & to think of. Besides
having a new nurse girl to watch
and starting my first work in
L'Ecole des Beaux Arts. I find
the Professors in L'Ecole very polite
and the girls most pleasant and
hope to get a good deal of French
as well as drawing out of my course.
So far every thing has gone well,
but the "bonne" or nurse was most
unimpressing and a rough un-
civilized creature as ignorant as a
negro; and Louis screamed everytime
she came. To-day we decided she

changes of plates. We were expecting fine French cooking down here but we found only the shining propensities and the love in that household they don't throw away even a grain of salt. Our room had no carpet in it - none of the rooms have in this part of the country - and was bare and barren looking, in spite of the clock on the mantel piece and the gilt framed mirror. There isn't a room in France I think that hasn't one ornate clock (most of them under glass) and at least one big mirror. Our little kitchen in this apartment hasn't any, but we have three tremendous ones in our bedroom - where I am writing to you, sitting before the open fire - and our little salon has one. Another curious thing about this part of the world is that all the beds are short - even Paris & my feet touch the foot board. I don't know what Mr. Norton would do!

Well, we left the Russians and thought we would try "light housekeeping" and so here we are in a pretty little apartment - with rugs - and so far like it immensely.

Baudouin had the pension we went to as the best in the city, but we hear there is a better one where English and Americans go although we wouldn't learn much French there. Of course in our system of living at present we don't get much French at home here where we get our own breakfasts and lunches and go to the hotel for dinner, but Ben is taking courses at the University and I will get quite a little at L'Ecole.

There are quantities of Russian students here - a perfect deluge of them and they are all very much interested in the affairs in Russia. The Medical school here is one of the finest in Europe and very old and well known. There is only one American student here as far as we know and so my niece that he is studying Botany with Prof. Gladiou. He is from California and seems very pleasant.

I wish you could see the French kitchen! In all the apartments we looked at. They are small and the stoves look like a tremendous thing under a deep, broad hood which

was worse than nothing and will
now try another. The lady who left
The Russian Mrs. Cornsiller, recom-
ended her to get her for me and I ought to
have known better than to take her
for that very reason. Mrs. Cornsiller
is the very image of Mrs. Sears of
Columbia, in looks, gestures, shrewdness
and palming off agents of charity on
other people. I wish you could have
seen her husband, - The very image of
Lemuel's only learner and still more
unlike looking. Imagine us at table
with these two and a Russian student
whom you would mistake in broad
daylight for a gorilla! The lady's son
Herrai, was only a little bit better and
next to him sat a Russian girl - a cross
between Fanny Burdham and Maria
Wendship. Hence there was one more
man a Professor Fischer from Norway
and a very pleasant young lady medical
student. With such company you can
imagine that soup meat and as a
separate course and touch or cognac
made from odds and ends were not
very appetizing despite a pretence
of many courses and about a dozen

Nov 6, 1905
carries off the doors. ~~There~~ is all fixed
up with tiles and you think 'Oh
how fine!' and how large! But
when you examine it you find only
The white of iron and at each side
surrounded by the pretty thing are
two square holes about as big as my
hand (and you know my hand
isn't large either) in which they have
little charcoal fires. I am going to find
out how they can prepare a dinner
on it for it seems so ridiculous to me.
Homes with our alcohol egg boiler
and my alcohol ^{stove} and a ^{stove} ~~stove~~ and a ^{stove} ~~stove~~
stove which we found in the kitchen
we have all that is necessary for our
breakfast and luncheon - for instance
for breakfast this morning we had
beautiful apples & grapes, French drip
coffee, rolls & butter & eggs, and for
luncheon lamb chops, such nice
young lamb they have in France, potatoes
head & butter, tea a la Russe and marmalade
also ripe pomegranates - so ripe they
almost break your. At ten o'clock
I go to my drawing lesson and come
home at twelve. Then at six o'clock

know they had an epidemic of typhoid there this summer. Walter Williams has been very ill and Paris' instructor Mr. Reed and dear Mrs Curtis when her little baby was only two months old. Mrs Clark had it in our house. The Wachbushs leave our house now. Dr. Miller has reached Columbia, but Mrs Miller will visit her sister in New York for a while, while her Paris clothes are new. I am sorry you have to wait so long for your gloves. I am waiting to buy you other pairs until I get to Paris. as I will have to wait to buy them in with me anyway.

Isn't it queer that Chas. is President of the New England section. He deserves it, too. If we could be in two places at once I wish we could be in New Orleans after Xmas. There will be such cheap excursions and probably not another meeting there for years. How we are mighty happy to be here.

Alicie Petter wrote me about her plans for her wedding. I think it will be very pretty. She is to carry out the Xmas idea. The first bridesmaids - Blanche & Fannie, Sarah & her two cousins, are to wear white with holly ribbon sashes, holly on their hats and carry bunches of holly. I'd like to peep into the church that day. Mr. Clement was to be best man. I think and Walter Pratt & Will Kent, Horace, and a friend from Salt Lake are to be ushers. I hope Blanche & Clement fall in love with each other. Alicie says Blanche is so much prettier than she was. I was always sorry I broke off the budding romance between the two!

Isn't the College coming up! I certainly am glad. Money for Carnegie and the Library. Also the girls Dormitory. With President Wibbe for pusher and their million coming here in seven years things ought to boom in Durham.

I am so glad Alicie has a pink coral necklace. I want with me the lovely coral in Italy and would have given any thing to have been able to buy some. However we can't have any thing. In order to get our Italian trip in at all we had to cut our expenses down & even though I couldn't buy the pretty things I gained more from the trip than I had any conception of - its art, its history and beautiful Italy itself.

It must have been nice to meet Mrs Sullivan again. Is she leaving now?
I am thinking of you two darlings constantly and love you with all my heart. Love & New path send you love & kisses and with a heart full of devoted love I am your
maire.

we go to Hotel Villarsais and have
a delicious eight course dinner.
Every thing is cooked to perfection and
served ab. ag for a dinner party. M.
and Madame Villarsais are so nice
too and Mrs. Louis's hands give her
little cakes and have a high chair
for her and make us feel quite at
home. It is especially nice as the
restaurant is the smartest in the
city. Our waiter too is my nice - one
offered to bring me a foot warmer the
other night when it was damp and
raining.

I have just received your dear letter of Oct.
26th and am so glad that you are
well and happy. You write that darling
Daddy is better. I hope that means better
of his Rheumatism and not that he
has been sick. Do kiss him for me
and get him to kiss you on your
sweet plump neck for me. I am
sure you have "glams" enough & are
"gaule" enough to answer any of Rein's
letters. He says you shall certainly have
some of the French candy and also
the delightful candied fruit.
I haven't heard much from Columbia lately
except through the Columbia Herald. You

well, your father says it is stopping enough, he had from 4 weeks & 4 weeks. Yesterday I wrote
my father & to him I wrote
with her, this was much longer
and by her visit of two
weeks, has come back with
my friends that they were
able to live there again. I
decide very soon to get
out of the country, it is a
bad thing I think of you
Tillman has all his plans to a
degree. I understand him
and he has had an offer for
him from a English wife.
But he has had my boy at 16
He is a fine boy but
I will be two or three years
more. I have nothing from
him since. He, Mr. Lee, did not
know where to write, but for
will have to take care of her

from a four days visit, found your very acceptable
letter of the 19th. something new, was back dinner, your
father has gone off on a collecting call; without stopping
to straighten up more than to empty a chair to
sit in. I have begun my letter to you, all the chairs,
the bed & table, are piled up with books, papers, &
tomorrow I will have to give a general cleaning &
putting to rights.

I suffer by this time you have a passion to visit
you, & are well underway with your work. whatever
it is. I did not know of the University at Memphis
I can easily realize that winter is almost upon
us, the whole fly by is many things that should
be done have remained unattended to. We are
having a warm spell now, it is cloudy & I am a
much afraid a rainy spell is brewing, no need of

fine today. I am glad Annie stands the changes,
& travel, as well, but somehow I can't help feeling
that she is glad to be in our place for some time.
She is undoubtedly a remarkable child for her age.
Well, you may be interested to hear about my visit.
Thursday morning I started for Brimontown, spent
this day & night with our old friends, in their old
house, no one in the house but those two poor old
ladies & the 17 years old cat. I could not help being
a "creepy" feeling when I carried the lamp around for
Mrs Wren to fasten up the house. Miss Bray is almost
helpless & a great care to Mrs Wren. I expected to
be with them until 12 o'clock, go to Farnedale on
this train & have Bessie meet me there but she
had a tooth giving her a great deal of trouble so she
came up to the dentist & took me home with her,
she was suffering dreadfully, face so swollen & sore
that she had to go to bed & put hot applications
to her face. I found Uncle John feeling pretty well
but he did not sleep very well that night. Saturday
evening I went with little Bessie to see Bessie
& Harry & baby, Harry was not well & I could not

see her but they brought out the baby to show me,
a little & powdered when born. Thus I found Fanny
Adams, I enjoyed seeing her as much, have not met
her since she moved away, she is fat & in fine spirits,
told me Lottie, Bray, & Anne are all living together
in Birmingham, the girls are stenographers, getting
pretty good wages. Returning we took in the carriage
Dr Hurd, Johnny's osteopath, he goes out every other
night to give Johnny a treatment, after his mass-
ages with Lizzie Johnny slept well he said. Sunday
morning was cloudy & damp Johnny did not venture
out so Bessie & myself were the only ones to go to
church, the young people "don't like that old man."
(Mrs Hurd.) We expected Henry & Lucy out to
dinner but Henry was too unwell to go & Lucy
would not leave him as I was out eating
them. We had Mr Ramsey out for the day, he came
to see Melville, I felt almost indignant that
that little old Russian Jew should have the
assurance to visit one of my nieces, but you know
he is in society in Memphis & Colred much like
himself. The night before "Spirit" Hurdians had called

he is another one I don't think good enough to
visit in our family, the Johnny says he is a "cant
fellow" he ought to be castrated, he is ugly enough &
common looking. I declare I would not know such
beauty. — Chas. Smith & Lily are staying at Bromwood, he
is helping to look after his Father's affairs at the
store. When I reached Gallien today your Father was
there to meet me, I turned over my suit case to the
Agent & walked up to Mrs. Hatch's, telephoned him
to come for me, we had quite a long chat before he
came.

I don't think I told you that Miss Mager shall after
vainly attempting to "catch" Mr. Brown, accepted the offer
of Dr. Green's kind & hint, they were married by Mr.
Brown the day before he was married, Mrs. Benton
gave the bride away & Mrs. W. was Matron of Honor.
Did you know Mrs. Benton has work in Washington?
they have gone there to live. Now you gave him a
good start when you recommended him for the
Cambridge Station. I don't think Paul's protégé, Mrs.
Richeson will ever get into agricultural work there,
Fred has to be too close at his back. Fred mentioned

these children. If I
 knew how to please
 I would try for this
 school. Now that
 would help me as
 great deal. I think
 the salary is \$750
 dollars, but I
 don't suppose I can
 get it. I am sure
 I can't find my letter
 by lamp light, it is
 too far for supper with
 much love to you all
 & kisses to my little
 girl. You are invited
 Mother,

NOV 6, 1905

the probability of his taking a trip to Washington
 this week if he returned in time from a trip to
 Florence, Livingston, Camden &c, he was to be accom-
 panied by a man from Washington, they went to try to
 arrange for some local experiments on raising cattle.
 Fred now better knows his chances this year because he
 has Ben Dumas who has had considerable experience
 in teaching the district agricultural schools as his
 assistant. Fred took the three boys to Birmingham
 Fair they enjoyed it very much, the little fellow, Abner,
 liked his ride on the elevator better than any thing
 else. The part they display there was fine, Johnny bought
 three kinds of turkeys, white, yellow, & what was
 called blue turkeys, they call them, slate. Johnny
 said Fred had a fine exhibit of cotton, every thing
 was moved to Selma, the Fair is going on there this
 week. I would like to go one day but grand father is so
 complaining I hardly think he will go. Yesterday he went
 to see Rich Harris who had as they thought a very bad

Writing my letter to a
dear, with much love
to you all
Yours devotedly
Victoria.

Nov 18th 1905.

My dear son

Your Father said he would write
to you this week but he is staying so late I
don't think he will feel like writing when he
comes. He went to see old aunt Margaret
Wallis, I could not get him to start until
three o'clock, it is now about 7, & I have not
heard him come in. I am locked in, still
there is an uncomfortable feeling at being the
only human being on the lot & no one in
cutting distance, we must try to have a servant
on the lot next year, but if we have our pauper
cook I don't think we will. Cotton at 11th will
make home comforts handy when we to get they
will want to make them. We were very glad to

from your letter to your father but I can't find it, its answer, he has mis-
 placed it, he is getting so forgetful, seldom who knows where anything is. By these
 times you are in your two rooms, who gets breakfast? I expect you do, while Maria
 gets dinner ready, I hope you will find this arrange ment satisfactory, there is some
 prejudice about it at my late. How strange it must seem not to know a word of
 english except from Maria or Louisa. What would Maria do in Montpelier? I don't
 think she speaks french, she is anxious to find where you are, Mrs Hatte has
 asked care for your address & yesterday evening Mrs Hatte said he had received a
 letter that evening & she wanted to know where is Ben. Mrs Hatte went to
 Salem to the Fair & then on to Montville to visit Mrs Shivers she can't stay at
 home to save her life, Maria has help to Mobile, she & Mrs Lou are alike in
 that respect. She was here yesterday evening, wanted to hear all the news
 from Cambridge, had not seen any since my return. She saw some Jerry
 & Evelyn while in Cambridge, her poor fellow is still confined to his bed
 & suffers from that dreadful disease as much as he did before the operation on
 his head, some times has convulsions, the Dr says there is no chance of his ever
 being any better, Maria is his constant & only nurse.

Mrs Basse preached for us yesterday, we had a larger congregation than usual,
 the baptists turned out strong as well as the seeps, one came near straying
 on, during the prayer I had to comment, wonder there is the reason for them to
 be falling about every where. I hardly think there is one Episcopal church in
 Montpelier is there Sunday came not much observed in Europe, plays, music
 & every thing else go on as our week days, I am surprised that our people are
 falling into the way of being merry on Sunday & making it a pleasure instead
 of a holy day, what would my parents think if they could know the games and play

ed in their old houses on Sunday, & that is,
the day for young company, the girls staying
away from church to prepare dinner for young
men, according to the train for them & regularly or
taking them back in the evening, the poor slaves
have it much of a cool day.

I have not heard from Fred since I wrote you, he
perhaps, gone to Washington, & sent from Albany
said he was too busy to write a letter. We do not
see Stephen now since there is no hay to cut. I
expect he is trying to get cabins built at the
Harris place. Sister Sally invited us to spend Wed-
nesday with them, Mrs. Little & Leoline were staying
there, Mr. Harris, Sarah & Mrs. Proffitt were there for
the day. The father is staying at Farmdale now. I
hope he will not get back on sister Sally. I cannot
expecting to appoint a day for Mrs. Little & sister
Sally's family to do with us but they declined
to come this was going home to home. Lucy promised
not to come & stay some with us but I don't
expect her, at any rate not until I see her.
Bright before but we had a white frost but

Nov 13, 1905

Nothing seemed hurt, not even brittle brown
 leaves or flowers. The roses & chrysanthemums
 are so pretty I cut a large bunch this evening &
 wished you had them, tho' you may have just
 as pretty ones, to me the fall roses are particularly
 pretty. The Bermuda has taken my little garden.
 Mom Father says he can't write he is taking cold &
 you know how one feels with a fresh cold. Nearly
 every one has a cold. I believe I am taking one too.
 Leeway said he had a dreadful cold.

The hunts now are out after the partridges now.
 Stanley Whelan has been down on a hunt, John
 Webb joined him, together they bagged 46 birds in
 two days, that was a wonderful shooting, Stanley
 is not a good shot & sometimes brings a snail to
 shoot for him & even for his dogs. Wednesday we go to
 Ware Down to deliver to a furniture man Louis's
 wardrobe, he will pack a ship to her. I wish all the
 old stuff was to be delivered to some one so that
 Ambler could see the buildings it occupies but there
 is no talk of a sale yet.

I wish I could take a peep at you all, you can't
 imagine how much I think of you. It is time to

Nov 20th 1918.

Praine-Ville Ala.

Dear Ben:—

I had the pleasure of reading a very interesting letter, from you to your Mother of recent date: & I can't but believe you are taking it all in this trip—Oh; if—that little girl of yours was just ten years older—for this time—how greatly it would ⁱⁿredound to her Education. But you & Marie are reaping a harvest of delight,—What a providential gift it is to be able to receive so much mental pabulum & germe for thought.

Your Mother's letter gives you doubtless much or little of the affairs now current in this vicinity; and passively, I may reiterate some things she has noted—. Two prominent pieces of good luck I felicitate myself with—are first, the knowledge that the Supreme Court of Alabama—has reversed & remanded the rulings of the Lower Court (Marshall Co) "in re The Linn Pitts vs R.H. Duggar Exr." This gives us a double & underhalt at the time when it may come up again in the lower Court, & the prestige of "Wauquisher".—as it were

a score of 12 to 0; and the other party
to pay costs of Supreme Court appeal.
I would feel somewhat demoralized were
it changed the other way. The number two
was still a greater surprise to me; - our
Friend & Cousin Adolphus McHenry of Boone
Co. - now of St Louis came to the conclusion
that I above all others should own & be the
care-taker of the old - Original "Communion"
from Patrick Henry to my Grand Father
Capt Reuben Vaughan & so I am entitled justly
as he suggests to hand it down to posterity.
Many thanks to him, probably his "gout" has made
him feel generous & he remembers the days of our
youth; By Express it came to me prepaid &c &c,
and is here now at old "Bamboo Hall" in its old
age = 128 years of preservation.

We made a good hit I think in disposing
of the two crops of Cotton 1904 & 1905. at the current
of good prices, the former @ $10\frac{7}{8}$ & the other at
 $11\frac{15}{100}$. Since the "Memphis & Pensacola RR" sur-
vey came through "Apple Hill" & "Mistletoe" & Van Dorn, lands
in that direction & location are looking up. Mrs. L. Webb
of Demopolis went to work & purchased the Dr Reese place.
(Plantation on which Withers lived, comes up to Van Dorn on the
North side of the RR - to Komego's.) The Cement Delea is in the
ascendancy. As for another harriess me for small time,
I must close. a kiss & love to all. (Reuben has taken the Harris Plantation
for 3 yrs. $\frac{3}{4}$) Yr Father affectionately. *R. H. Matthews*

will move on.
We can't get on with
any what else will do
next year, when she
will go too. Some letters
I have is getting on very
well now. The Supreme
Court decided in favor of
the estate of W. W. Duggan.
I don't know whether I mention
ed the death of Miss
Catherine Dyer, 75 years old.
I suppose the old house
will be sold. There is no
news that I saw here, you
must guess the winter
setting letter, your letter
says he wants to get in
some, will send her to
you all & a few letters
You don't like
Winter.

20th 1908

I hope I can sit still for a little while & answer your interest-
ing letter, but my head is swimming after so much Monday morning
stomach around, the last thing I did was to hunt up a boy, please sit
the store room, went to the city for hay & pushed the boy with some new
sweat potatoes, a present from Henderson. Benben gave me some splendid
brush games & I enjoy them so much. I am sure to be right comfortably
fixed for "light housekeeping", I can imagine you & Annie getting breakfast
& lunch, I know you are good to lend a helping hand; she is fortunate
to know of so many dishes she can prepare for lunch. It is so much
easier to live in a city than the country, I suppose your hot rolls are
brought to your room & there are no dogs to cook for, milk & butter to
attend to, chickens to feed &c &c. Twenty two dollars does seem reasonable
for dinner for three, when they consist of so many courses. I hope you found
a "help girl" to suit & that Annie was not interrupted in her work. I am
truly thankful you all keep well & that Annie is such a "steady little
girl", moving around seems to agree with her better than I had any
idea it would. I wonder if such a trip as she has had would bring
out Pease's girls? I don't believe they would have stood it. We have not
heard from them lately. I saw by the paper that Auburn has 555 students
more than can be easily accommodated.

We have had some beautiful weather but yesterday evening there were
dark clouds around. I thought we would have a storm, but it did not
come, this morning however is dark & damp but no rain yet, I will be

long to see corn for the cows and so there was for dinner & there is still
a little more cotton to be picked but the price has dropped a little, 10th
Saturday. Thinking we would have bad weather I cut a lot of flowers yester-
day evening & we took them over to the grave, it looks so unkempt that it
made me sad, how hard your grand Mother used to work to keep it in order,
no work has been done there since she died. I must try to get her to work
there one day for me. Aunt Margaret Willis died yesterday, there will be a
big funeral today.

Reuben dropped in yesterday just in time for dinner, had spent the
night at Vintletown, said he had a tough time with 'Ben Crockett' about
the place but it is settled now & he is fixing up the cabin, has covered
the barn, & hauled brick & sand for a chimney to his room, has had a
'stuck & sand' chimney, 250 dollars are allowed for improvements, not
enough but he must do the best he can with it.

We spent last Wednesday at Vintletown, went up to deliver Lizzie's wardrobe
to the furniture man to pack & ship to her, while your Father wandered
around looking at different things I found some cleaning to do, it was
nearly sunset when we reached home. I packed the wardrobe drawers
with a good many of Mother's things, work baskets, books, &c. &c. The last
day your Father was in town he sold the office building for 25 dollars, it
was secured when the lot was sold, the furniture in it will have to
be hauled out to Vintletown. Your aunt Melville & Lucy spent Tuesday with
us, she is much exercised on the servant question, her work & house current and
'go to the field' next year & she can't bear of others to take their place, all want
to make 10th cotton. She is preparing herself to do the cooking if it comes to the
worse, will order a blue flame stove. Elmy writes that improvements are
going on under a new manager of the plant, some land has been sold
on the R. R., & even the site of a town laid off. I hope some nice people

tips of the box a print of a horse, a lady in
the yard, & a boy on the steps, with the aid of
the magnifying glass we decided the lady was
Mrs Bolin & the boy Frank, it is a picture of
her home in Exeter, she does not forget her old
friends.

Your letter came Friday I think it was, & I
enjoyed it very much, you must have a kind
of home feeling living as you do. I was glad you
told me about it & what your house was, very
nice I think, but Annie's letter did not
come, perhaps she did not finish telling of the
walk, sewing table, &c. in time to put it in,
what would not I want to see how she has grown
in height? I want you now accommodating
with you there with us if we cannot see to
stay with Annie until you & Annie return
from the Anniversary at night.

A man has come for your father to go to the
Lomas place, he offered to take me as far as
Mrs Batte's & have me seated here again but
his movements are too uncertain, I might

have to impose myself on them for dinner.
I am sorry to lose the chance to call on Mrs
Stewart, she is there, came to attend to her
business matters. We were getting ready Saturday
to call when Mrs Batte, Mrs Stewart & Miss
Sally Boyd drove up, she said she wanted to
see us & would not wait for a call. I asked
her to give us a day but she said she feared
she would not have time, would stay only a
short time, she left Miss Gray quite well.
Mrs Stewart said she saw a good deal of
Annie's mother this summer at Asheville,
thought her as kind & sweet, what a contrast
between the two women! (Mrs S. & myself)
Of course there will be no Thanks giving day
on Friday. Thursday is appointed by the Presby.
We will have no services over here, your father
has proposed to go to Greensboro for night
services, the Bishop will preach. The Methodist
Presby terians & Baptists have united services on
the morning in the Methodist church. If we
do not go to Greensboro I will try to go to

Harriettale. I always want to go to church -
some where on Thanksgiving. Mr Harris might
have done as Mr Cobb used to do, given us many
services & St Michaels might serve but he is not
very energetic.

I don't think I have written to you since I had
a letter from Fred telling of his short visit to
Washington to attend a convention, (around I think
it is) of the Station men. He had a pleasant
time, met a good many acquaintances & many
kind inquiries were made about you. The family
were well, only Alwell you suffering from a stomach
too, went in August & no new mail forward
yet.

Henry was senior last week sent me letters &
as for Warr, it has been weeks since he has
written, "this spirit" has to cross him, he does not
write from a sense of duty.

I don't think I have seen Peabody since my
last letter to you. Tell him I ought to have
his speech esp. please write me, we have not from

To Dr. Mongellier,
France.

Dec 4th 1905

Very dear Son

I hope you all are not as cold today as we are, I am shivering sitting close by the fire, it is the coldest time we have had this season, last night ^{there} must have been a "black frost" for every thing that was green is black today, what a pity to have the beautiful roses killed, anticipating this cold night I went out yesterday evening in a very cold wind to cut the prettiest roses & buds & put them in water they will last some time, I do admire them so much will keep them as long as possible, they keep a much longer in cold weather than in summer.

While at dinner your father came in with your letter of the 19th of course we enjoyed it, I read it aloud while he snatched a tea cake for dessert. At the same time came a registered package from Melville Birge, a collar & a pretty little set of

artist, painter, & have long wanted, but never
managed to buy when I had a chance. But she
is in Birmingham keeping house for many while
she takes a rest at Wood, is it good of her
to take charge of 16 boarders for many? She is a
fine girl, so kind & sweet, & a real good
man-ager & worker, some people are boss but not
work -

I am very sorry your tooth has troubled you, sometimes
I have quite some times. We have an excellent dentist
in Danville, Dr. Lee, he is very anxious to make one a
set of upper teeth but I can't bear the thought of
having two good jaw teeth & some roots taken out.
What a queer custom that is for others to make
the first call, now that you have your trunk, it
suppose you will make some calls. How inconvenient
it must have been to be without your trunk as
long, you certainly did well to hire out of the two
girls, I wish it was wash & put on, and enough.
I would like to hear you & Annie talking with
Mrs. Flinchbaugh, will you take Annie along too?
Is she picking up any French? We certainly would

enjoy sitting by the fire with you all & having a
good chat. Sunday is a long time now day to me
unless we have services, & that only once a month,
some times your Father goes to hear the Baptist
preacher, he will now give them only one Sunday a
month. His grapes were kindly nicely I have been
using them that way as you and the French are not
a head of us in that. My vines are all dead & the
grape is turned into a soft paste as well as the
garden.

We did not go any where for Thanksgiving services
I was so disappointed. I could not persuade your
Father to go, he had a snow making a snow fence
and was afraid if he stopped him he might not
return. Thanksgiving morning Aunt Brubaker's
us to go up & spend the day with her but there
was the same objection, the work on the farm -
It was a windy cold day & if we had gone would
have suffered coming home late, as we always do. I
wanted so much to go, the all day & night since
Saturday & the cold will make it some time before
we will get there. Sister Sally & Lucy are busy sewing

for a church Bazaar & a wedding. Mary Wilkins
is to be married on the 14th to Mr Robert Gardiner
here, M. A. Gray is asked to be brides maid & of
course has a dress to make. They will have to help
at the Bazaar on the 12th & help decorate the
church for the 14th. It will be a night wedding,
the first night wedding there since sister Sally was
married 36 years ago, then the church you know was
in the country. At that wedding I was not "bridesmaid"
of course, but I walked in with the groom, how
well I remember it all!! I hear Maria Wilson &
Bet Bailey are to be bridesmaids of course for Mary,
it seems to me she might have found some young
"bridesmaids".

I have no news from the boys for you this week
except Henry, he was very well, not as cracked as
usual but had enough to do "to keep him out of
trouble" he said. Ruthven stopped by Friday for a
few minutes it was so cold & windy I failed to
see him out, he was quite well. I expect he killed

Dec 9/1905

hogs today, had some waiting for a cold spell. We called to see Mrs Stewart last week, after putting it off two days on account of clouds, were out in the snow, or rather your father was, he left me at Mr Hatch's, went to the ^{depot} while out there was a sudden, heavy shower. Mrs Stewart looks so well, will soon return to Asheville. Miss Mary's health is quite good she says.

Oh I almost forgot to tell you, young Rolling Duggan was married a few days ago to Miss Beant, a beautiful Frenchman's daughter in Greensboro. It was one of those weddings that gave us trouble, he came in from his plantation where he lives, went to see her, they arranged matters in a few minutes, had a few witnesses, were married & went right out to the plantation. They had been "keeping company" for a long time, school mates I believe, she is 17 & he 18, a good couple is it not? The snow is getting low I must hurry to my evening duties, with much love to you all & kisses to Louisa.

Your devoted
Mother.

Please excuse mistakes, with
as well as leaves must be
pardon.

Flowers adhered to Dec. 4th, 1905 letter



he is gone the limited amount for a good thing but the same stock has not
come in as I did not find much, but I bought my own good square flannels
hoping my joints will be less stiff & acting easier and protected from the cold.
I think I would like the New England climate, not yet enough for frost & that
because of disagreeable day & night. I am sure it will be very good for me
because I am sure of some. I was then that there is a regular new house as we
come out there, the place here is very much built up for rent to the owner.
It was not at all much as I hope yesterday today is cloudy & the penetrating wet wind
weather. It means more from the day place for your sister. Finding her had not
fed her horse & would have to wait for him to eat, he took him over in his
hobby, well being him back, that is better for him than sitting & watching.
His own hobby with the prospect of rain to do it in. This week is a great before you
can read the writing, I don't know when to send any letter just a piece of
writing paper. It is true that this week off did me some pleasure, it is so
delightful to have one very up sweet for get to write to his mother regularly. I am having
a letter from him last week the first one coming weeks. I think it was a good idea
taking leave to the newspaper, as must better than forcing her to stay with someone
she did not like & could not speak English to her, as you say it will be good for her
to have children to play with. I suppose mine will be quite amiable with Mrs. Holmes
other than some things in conversation, with, painting in water color etc. My sister's presence
for no Sunday would not stay to dinner next night home as much the expectation
was made at Hamilton & I am sure that I am sure that I am sure that I am sure
some from the house, I am sure for dinner, I am sure to enjoy very stuffed things
& jelly, the harvest. If to Hamilton, as I said very little to talk with him,
he stopped by yesterday in his way back & hurried off again & I am sure of it.

3
left in the safe. I can scarcely realize
it is mine. I will all wear the same fastenings
you have at home it will hardly even look like I wear
with it. I wish I could send you all something
pretty but my present to you & Maria will be a pair
of those candle sticks Maria liked, & I think
they will be right pretty, they will be ready for you
when you return, you will have to come by to get
them. Mary what was I to write to tell you, she heard
it from Mrs. Hatch. Maria must have had
some what evening in Dresden, Mrs. S. said her
time was out on the 8th of Dec but her husband
told her she could not leave until Jan 1st, then
too she said they wanted to try her income &
she had to go to the Consul, Maria may have
written Maria of her troubles. I have no news from
Fred or during this week. It is going back, looks as
if we might have even a bad day for the church
Bazaar at Brandeburg & bad prospects for Liberal-
ism in night window out night. The ceremony will
be at 8 o'clock the Bishop will read a sermon
the society to a large reception at Mrs. Brandeburg.

Blossoms Adhered to Dec. 12th, 1905 letter



P.M. 1905

12 Rue Juvénat Balbu.
Montpellier France.
Dec. 12th.

My own precious Nanna & Daddys - I just

a line to wish you a merry, merry
Christmas and the happiest New
Year of your lives! How I wish we could
be together this year. We shall think
of you many, many times that
day. I hope Chuck will be able to
be with you and that you will
all have a roaring good time.

I wish I could send you a hundred
lovely things but the Consul writes that
even to send a box of candy would
cost much more than it is worth
because of our mean old Customs
regulations. I shall have to bring my
little remembrances in with me

from us all and much, much
love, my darlings, I am,
Your own devoted
Marie.

Ben sends to you especially
his love, dear Daddy, and to your
sweet Marie, Marie. I enclose a letter
from Louise to her dear grandmother
and grandpapa. Do give my love to
all the boys and tell them that
just as much love & good wishes
went with my postal cards as if
they had been most expensive presents.
With many kisses to you two dears,
Your Marie.

next summer. Wouldn't it be lovely
if we could all be together at Haines?
We leave for there next Friday. However
I am looking forward to Scotland in
the summer. Won't we have a happy
time there with Daddy to show
us the things and please be good
as a boy!

Do take good care of your dear Selma
in the cold Buffalo winter. I often
think of you and wonder if you are
warm and comfortable. Annie still
has a bad cold but is much better
than she was. I have just made her
some fudge on the chafing dish. I
wish you could have some. The dear
little soul is enjoying scraping the pan
and licking the spoon - the first time
she has had that dear delight of my
child's heart.

With a thousand good wishes
and merry Christmas greetings

Tough as I will
I close & write a
few lines to

Wences with much

love & wishing
you all a happy

New Year

From devoted

Wences.

Dec 18th 1905

The work in this house is
too pale for me to write with as I will
ask you to express pencil & sit close by
the fire & write for I have hardly been
warm today, spent most of the morning
cleaning up stairs while I could get a
girl to help, this it was really too cold for
me to be in a room without fire. For one
week we have had miserable weather,
damp, cold, & altogether very gloomy,
occasionally a slow rain for some hours,
this rain has not been out but one single
time in a week & that was a few
minutes this morning, you know what
such folks are here, sometimes it was
too dark to see or read with any pleasure
even in the middle of the day. The thing

predicts better weather in a day or so, we
will surely be glad to see it. I am so
anxious to have good weather for 2 weeks.
Henry will make us a visit at that
time he says, & I want him to be able to
move about some. I expect he would like
to hunt some. He wrote of a 2 day hunt
he had out near the end of the pine
woods, rail road, he & his friends jumped
4 deer, shot only one, on returning from
the deer hunt one day they started a
wild cat, saw it in horn & then it
was shot, it measured 4 ft 6 in between
extended feet. Henry says he had the
skin in preparation for a rug. They
bagged a wild turkey some squab &
60 quail, pretty good was it.
While on the hunt he passed through some
of the finest timber land he ever saw, the
A. M. Lumber Co of Mobile own 15000
acres of it, are logging the timber over the

Tombigbee Valley road, expect to exhaust that
fine body of land in about 10 years, does it
seem a pity!!

But I must thank you for your very interest-
ing letter, I think I like your mode of hunting
better than Henry's, who would imagine that
truffles were hunted with a dog! You are
having many strange experiences, & learning
wonderful things in the Old World -

That was a fine lunch for a village home, but
I expect they did add a little for a distin-
guished botanist. I am surprised there are
no sweet potatoes. I wish you had some
of the nice lunch game Parker gave us.
I am so glad the "school" for Lories is such
a "happy hit", we will be glad to have Momi's
letter when it comes. Mrs Hatch has just
sent up for your Father, that was a "happy
hit" for us, for her messenger takes a box
to the depot that we have been trying to
get off - A few little things for the Huber-
wites. Your Father says he wants to write to you

Dec 18, 1905

Monday

Dearest Maria

I wish you all were going to be with us today week, I expect to have Henry & have invited the Barnes family & Andrew to come, I can't give an elegant dinner in course, but we will have turkey & sweet potatoes till King, & some other things & will think of all our absent ones - Let me tell you some thing funny - Fred could not invite me up for 4 weeks because "Melly" the old cook has left, they had not procured another, & Harry is sadly expecting a little stranger, what a pity she has taken a fresh start isn't it! As for Stickney appears it, she is being roped in, I think, can't leave home affairs & run around to Clubs, Federations & so now for some times, but I am sorry for her & poor Mrs Camp, won't she have a time with so much to look after!

Now I wish you could see my pretty centrepieces now they are washed, one is

for sister Sally & the others for Hecies,
then I have a doily embroidered in wild
rose for Lucy (Mabel's). My little 2 presents
are all fixed & ready to send, (some already
sent) tomorrow I will begin baking cakes. I
always send one to friends in Uniontown, they
give them 2 to make as presents to colored
friends. I begin early so as to get through with
every thing before January comes. We enjoyed
Ben's letter so much, what a chance you &
he have to lay up a store of information! I
don't believe any man of Ben's age, ever had
such varied experiences as he has had -
It is getting more cloudy & dark. I cannot
feed this fowl before we have a snow, with
much love & a kiss to my girl.

Your loving

Mother.

Augusta, Mo.
Dec. 20th / 1905.

Dear Mother; -

You will have to excuse
the pencil as my feet are damp & I
am sitting by the fire to dry them;
having been out this evening with
the ponies to pack up some lumber
to one of our properties (lately acquired)
to make a whine to hoist out the with.
The shaft is about half mile from
road but up a steep canyon that it
is too steep for a road unless graded;
yesterday I cut out a trail on the
hill side (summit side) so we could
get the ponies up packed without
trouble - where the snow lies the
ground is frozen & too slippery.

I spent than beginning trying to get
papers fixed for a deal when we
expect to make \$1500.00; it is
closed yet we have not got the return

from the draft. This property & fire
other we got in the dead outside of
the \$15.00. etc.

It sounds queer to me here to hear of
roses for the winter here but we so
long with us.

I received the pecans, many thanks
for same for what we get here from
a poor floor.

No I have not sold out as yet, for
it seems otherwise; yes, there are
no more of any kind in this
altitude. You would not ask why I
want to build should you see this
house & place - every thing going to
rock have leaks, & if it were not
for the logs holding heat we would
freeze. We expect to have every thing
in better shape next year to do some
mining & milling, & want a house
closer to mill & a good one.

Yes I would like to have some good old
home made sausage I made some last
year but there seemed to be something lacking

Dec 20, 1905

I have one fair size hog to kill later.
Turkeys are rather scarce here for they
go wild or else go off & become wild.
Yes the Madam is still our cook.

I would like to be with you the best in
the world on Xmas but it is impossible
at this time & distance.

It may be possible the Co. is running
its train too fast for the condition of
the track with the light rails &
no rock ballast.

Cotton in good price for the first time
this year.

I have not been on doubt that our hunt
we will I go on another Xmas for
I have too much at stake & too much
work to do.

Hoping you will have a pleasant
Xmas & pleasant & agreeable
company.

I must close, with best wishes to all
I am,

Your aff. son,
Wm.

from any of the kids
this & was, have not
him to tell what the
children kept us, and
was a great hurry to
get this off tonight -
Hope you all enjoyed your
& miss trips & will write
me about it. Writing you
all a happy New Year,
with much love
Love devoted
Mother.

Sunday Dec 27th 1905

While Henry & your Father are at the
store I will begin my letter tho it can't be far from
seven times. Henry came Sunday on the 12.33 train
but it was raining & he did not reach home until
nearly sunset, the road was bad but Annie
managed to get him & John over the short distance.
He is looking very well & seems in good spirits,
says he is doing well at Stanford & will stay
another year, we are so glad to have him &
Reuben with us, this letter ^{came} Sunday morning. So
Henry rode to Mistletoe yesterday evening to get
some hands to meet Reuben at his hay stacks
this morning to put a wire fence around them
the stock had gotten into them, so Reuben is
caring about the fence but will be here tonight,
they found that road awful Henry says the roads
are too bad for him to try to see any of the kids.

am so sorry for I wanted him to visit Uncle
John if no one else. We all thought as much of
you all yesterday & wished you could have been
with us, think you would have enjoyed our turkey
eggs, sweet potatoes &c. &c. jelly, nut & white
cake & mince pie to finish on, with nuts in the
chamber where it was warm.

Wednesday, 3 P M —

I could not get any further with my letter
yesterday, dinner came, then in the very short
afternoon I made a visit to the ^{with Henry} Boarding, at
night I tried to write after the boys retired but
the lamp had burned low & I could not see
the lines as I hope you will pardon the delayed
letter. Reuben came in at sunset had worked
all day in mud & water putting the fence
around his stacks, this morning he left for
the Harris place, I fixed up a box of cake,
& a bag of dried peaches & pears to be tied to
his saddle, "Schacker" is a capital pack horse,
Henry surprised us by announcing at breakfast
that he would leave this evening, he & your father

have just gone. I put in his valise a box of
cake & a pint of butter, this morning we
packed in a box 5 jars of preserves as he
had both hands full, box & valise. I am
always so glad if I have any thing the boys
will accept. It is closing up as Henry leaves
just in time not to have seen & almost getting
to the depot.

The day after I was a telegram came that there
was another grand daughter for us in Auburn,
the same telegram said the package "sent" from
the wording we might have construed it that
the baby would be the package — I think the
message was dated the 15th as she was a
little ahead of Sarah Blane, now tell me about
Louise did she hang up her stocking & cuffs?
I sent three little hobbys just that she might
know I thought of her, I hope you had no
customs duties (is that it?) to pay on them,
let me know if you did & I will not send
any thing more. I have not heard anything