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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.

1298 Main Street Buffalo, New York
Oct. 1st - 1906

My dear Ben.

Your kind letter of Sept^r enclosing Gift-Claim Deed has been received.

I was very glad to hear from you & surprised from the fact of your long absence in Europe that for months after your return you would be very busy indeed. I am very sure however that you will soon have everything in good order, & running smoothly again.

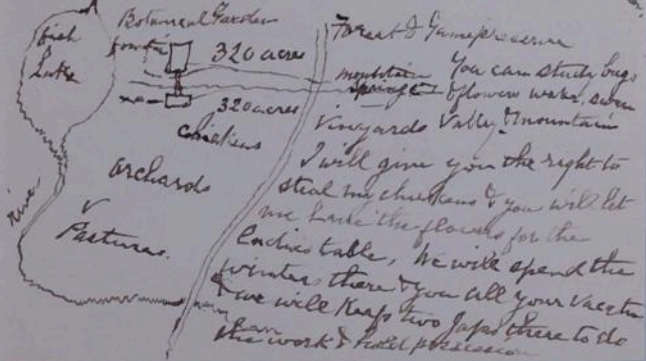
I was sorry to hear that Marie was not looking so well. I had the same idea & tried to get her to take some old fashioned medicine. She would not take it however. Very frequently if one has not been quite sea sick on ship board the system gets out of order on coming ashore. I am

my own experience a dose of Calomel followed
by a kindly powder set me all right. I
wish you would persuade her to try it.
I then a little olive oil & port wine each day
for a few weeks would make ^{her} healthy &
strong. I think that your own prescription
was a very good one, "to do less for others & let
them do more for her".

On account of the weather we post-poned
our Arkansas trip for a month, so as to avoid
the equinoctial gales. We had a big one
here on Saturday night, & are expecting
another this week.

I sincerely hope that your father & mother
escaped the ravages of the storm that
has been so severe on the gulf states &
that their crops & buildings have not been injured.

Madame Bonchon du Bouz & myself are
well & like the Eagles are renewing our
youths ~~like the~~ & busy preening our plumage
for the winter in Arkansas. We are about
ready & will soon take our flight. I will
while there look up that site for the
Bungalos. We will locate two homesteads
of 320 acres each & build a Bungalow for you
just on one side of the dividing ^{line} our ^{share} ~~share~~
will be on the other side with a terrace between.



On your side we will plant the Oaks for the
truffles & in the tunnel through the hill you
can have room for growing Mushrooms.
I enclose you here with five thousand shares
of Sapphir stock as part of the consideration
for the quit claim deed.

All are well at this end of the line
& join in love & good wishes to you Min
& Louise.

We will leave Buffalo on Oct. 18th
after which you will address us at Mountain
Home, Baxter County Arkansas As there
is another J. D. Robertson there write my
full name J. Douglas Robertson & there
will be no mistake at the Post Office.

Affectionately
Daddy.

will send you
what I intend
as soon as I
can. You may
go good to bed
it'll be me and
so Mrs. & Charles
Jack will send
the money
at once.

1891

Prairie Ave.

October 2nd.

My Succous Sister:-

I am so unhappy
that I can't write a letter but
I know you will wonder why I
don't write so will send you a
line to let you know my address
I don't see why I have to go
through so much for I have
always tried to do what is
right. This old Hag here is
the limit and we have had
too big fights already. She

says I ran up bills on ^{May} ³⁻⁷⁻¹⁹⁰⁶ 2
husband and that I don't do
anything to help him and
that if my family are so
wrapped up in me why didn't
I stay where I was, instead of
wanting to come home. Now
what do you think of that?
When I want to explain, she
says she won't listen, and
is the most cat I ever saw
I never was so mad in
my life as I was yesterday
and when she would not
listen and said she did not
believe that Jack wrote me

Oct 21 1926 3
that I could see the house,
and I have the letter to prove
it. She did not know what
to make of me when I pitched
into her. She said she never
saw that side of me and
that she was going to write to
Mamma. I told her I wished
she would. I use to take
everything mean she
would say, and she got
left when I stood up for
my own rights. I have no
future, Jack says he is going
to stay here all the rest of his
life and that I am to do as

his mother says. And I will ^{be} ~~be~~
darned if I do. I took the children
out to Rannsmoed yesterday after
the fuss and staid all night
at my friend the Kaderalladeg
and got home at noon to-day.
I wrote on for Will, because
some thing has to be settled.
I never can live here. I have
nothing to say about my room-
man. I can't begin to tell you
what a devil she is. I know
it would be like Miss Mrs
Weatherston wanted Mr Weatherston
to move into a flat and cied
and made a big fuss over it;
so he went to Jack and

said if Jack would live ^{with me} that- he would do so and so, because he did not want to give up his home. And they fixed everything up together how nice it would be. Then after our furniture had been stored and we are here she does not think I must breathe why I have to laugh then cry, I am so mad. I am sick all over. For I love my husband but I will not stand to be told I am extravagant- and that- I don't do anything more for my

husband than any other ^{detestable} woman
and that I don't help him
And you know and every
friend, neighbor and servant
know how hard I have worked
and denied my self for
seven years and don't get a
bit of thanks. I am certainly
crushed and dumfounded
for how could I do more. I
use to be ironing and cleaning
my flat at one and two in
the morning, for with a young
baby I could not do much
when he was awake. This is
the cleanest family I ever

Oct 21, 1906
say they would rather do ~~nothing~~
anything to save a penny. God
will furnish this old devil. All
her children will be back. Charles
has only been married three
months and his wife won't
have anything to say or do with
him. If Jack would rather
give up his wife and children
for the sake of living here why
he can. After all these years
of hardships that I have
gone through with him it
is more than hard. No wife
could be ~~more~~ truer and no
wife could do more. I wish

you could be here and ^{July 1906 8} stop
the old Hays face. I wish she
would drop dead. She is
such a liar. I say I have
trunks full of clothes and that-
I put on a dress and shoes
on my children one day
and throw them away the
next and that is what I do
with my own clothes. Alice as
God is my witness it is not
so, no one could do better than
I have on the small pittance
of an allowance. I got Jack
like his brother says all these
unkind things because he had
to borrow money from his
father to pay his bills that he

can't get this summer for coal
and other things. Business has
been dull and no one paid
him, but that is no reason
they should be so mean to me.
All Jack has had to pay for
me is \$47.⁰⁰ and that was
for groceries and meat and
milk. And I think that might
be a little after eleven years I never
ran behind only for the
past three years when I
was so ill and I would
have gone on trying to make
it up had I not gone away
this summer. I don't know

what I am to do. She ^{Oct 2-1906} throws it
up at me that I could not
get on with my own family
just because I wrote Jack
that I wanted to come home.
Hann! I a right to ask my
husband to send me money
to come home. Jack like a fool
showed her my letters. Please
send this letter on to Marie
for I can't write it. ^{again}
my brain is on fire and
I am so sick. I had such a
nice visit with Doug and
Alice also with Will and
Elizabeth, ^{"Betsy," and I} my get on fine to.

gotten and she gave me ⁰⁰⁷¹⁸⁶ a "mirly"
dress one of hers. Her clothes and
shoes fit me perfectly. I will
write you more about my visit
to her another time. I left a good
time to come and help pack
and I worked so hard for did
most of the packing myself
and after handling and packing
I feel so tired and then to
come to this house. I don't
think I could ever come across
a kinder woman on ^{earth} ~~land~~.
think of slaming lies at me
then says she won't listen
when I want to explain. They
don't want to know the truth
because she knows she was

under handed to fix this all
up when I was away and
did not want to come here.
Oh Alice if I only could put
my head on your arm
and die. I am so tired of
trying to ever do anything to
please. My whole married life
has been to try and do for Jack
and give in to his every wish
and yet that does not please
him. If I only knew what
more I could do. With fond love to all

Ever your heart broken

I did not intend to write Agnes.
so much but got started and
could not stop. & am mistakes

Durham N.H.
Oct. 4th 1856.

Dear-Mary:-

I dislike to send
you the enclosed letter from
our dear sister for she said
it will make your blood
boil & your heart-ache like it
has made mine do all day.
but she asked me to send it
to you so I will have it to do.
I ^{do not} know what the outcome
will be & feel so powerless
to advise a help here for it is

and a little while, made
to pack up this summer
at her request but do not
think it did a bit of good
for he has no pride & is
afraid of love for his wife.
When I first saw her this summer
she told me things that he
had said & done to her that if
he had been my husband
I would have left him in a
minute. his man would
have used the language to
his wife that he did if he
had any respect or love for her
in his heart. his hope Sullivan
will go to Chicago & have a talk
with Jack & the people. I was
home for 4 days & he was very helpful & cheerful.
He has had a hard, miserable life
with many people ever since he
was first married. the manner of
himself he & that is where the trouble
is. they have no love & husband & are
dead, feel worse & everything awful here
how the work will be for him.
They are not as good as the poor for
they cannot provide for their own
support as well as the rest of the world.
I will write you the rest of the story

Agnes have justice. If it was
not for the children it would
be an easy matter but they are
a big proposition. I am all up
about it so you must forgive this
long tirade.

Mrs. Petter came over this
afternoon to tell me that
she is a grandmother for
Allie had a little son born to
her yesterday the third of
October. Emma's birthday. The
telegram said that both Allie &
the baby were doing well. Mrs.
Petter & all her family are
very proud & happy.

I went down to Kudome al-
most yesterday & spent the

afternoon with my first-⁹⁶ ¹⁹⁰²
was a sight. I took her
by surprise & I took her some
good things to eat so that
she could have a spread
for some of her friends. Mrs.
Morgan went with me &
we did have much a good
time with the girls & my
precious big girl.

I am still without help & have
more than two hands can do
but I am still alive & looking for
a girl. Is any there here fearing
Charles' clothes is that he can
start for New York tomorrow
& attend the banquet given

for his William F. Perkins by
the chemicals of Mrs. Cook Saturday
night. All the pres^{ts} are to make
brown colored ties with their
over suits. I have also been
making crab apple jelly besides
things too numerous to tell.
My hands are right & so stiff
that I can scarcely hold my
pen. We have not looking
for a letter from either you
or Ben. in regard to the
question Chas. asked him
about a man for Prof. Howe's
class. President ^{J.}Abbott said
that a Mr. True & someone
else in Washington asked him

why he did not take Prof. Rogers for
it would make a good addition for
the Department - Nelson etc. He would
then, would & could come here. However
he could fill the bill splendidly I just
staid & have not got to each other.
The paper staid about if the crop is
good. Well - you want to send me what
they about Cornell what you know
of the summer!
Mrs. Merrill once had to see
Sunday & I read Washington in the
middle but my wife will - she when she

as much else to do but the
weather is getting colder
each day & the little girls
& Annie need warm clothes.

I wish I could write
Mrs. Matherson a letter telling
her just what I think of her
& her. But I guess it is best
to keep out of it. But I'd want
to write than anyone can tell.

Please send Aggie's letter
back to me for it might be
needed later when we all have
to fight for her.

With a heart full of love for
you. Rev. & the dearest ones
you are old as earth in which the
whole family have been buried.

William Barclay 1878. Reuben had a great
deal & all who had bottom land lost heavily,
the wind blew the corn down & then the
water covered it. Your father went to Fairdale
today to look up a rent bale of cotton that should
have been looked up the fall we came from
Hot Springs, (see how things go!) Mrs Pettit
could not straighten the matter today, said it
was sold for Reuben, but it was not found on
his account. The Bishop was to have been with
us today but the rainy path caused him to
postpone his visit, he was at Fairdale & on
the train today returning home. No matter when
he makes an appointment for St Andrews there
is always rain.

Between the showers one day last week we called
to see Minnie, she inquired particularly about
you, Maria & Maria, was fond in her praise of
each one of you, said she would have written to

Minnie but did not know the address, says
Minnie must write to her. I suppose she will be
at Gallion sometime. They are all in a stir
about the wedding, & the reception at Mrs Keady's
call on all their friends to help, you know
better Mrs Keady or Minnie know how to take
hold & work. The whole family go to Uniontown
on the morning's train Wednesday & Mrs Keady
Guthrie, Miss Sallie Boyd & Mrs Higgins are
expected to take charge, make the arrangements,
exclude us, hold the fort until the crowd comes
in on the night train, I hope the weather will
continue good. Minnie has come up for the
wedding.

I had a long looked for letter from Wain today
he said he would like very much to take advantage
of the "Home coming" cheap rates but that
he did not know that he would be able to get
off, it appears they (he & Mrs Higgins) are trying

to make some notes to a party from Lynch
burg who was expected there the evening he
arrived, I do hope he can come. That summer our
brother Robinson has worked a long time in the
same mine in an iron mine, lately he sold
the property to the Collins says it is thought
brother's share will be 100000, the mine & 1/2
for three hundred thousand. Gordon is saving the
amount of many years of hard work, he deserves
it. Thank Maria for her letter & tell her I will
write her next time & tell her about the receipts,
she may be more interested in the details than
you would be. I am mighty sorry to disappoint
Maria but she must not look for us this fall,
I expect next spring I will have to leave him &
run up to see you all, tell Maria not to forget to
talk Garrison, she must talk some for me.
I think I wrote you Henry was not hurt by the
storm, & not even a tree blown down at Leeds but
quantities of rain. All are well & children doing
finely at school. Miss Samford died of typhoid

Oct 15th 1906.

Dear Mr. M.

This is a bright fall morning
& I must devote a part of it to answering
your letter which was very acceptable. First I
must say how very sorry I am to disappoint
you all about our visit but Dr. D. could not
be persuaded to make the effort of straightening
up house affairs to get off, really there is a
good deal to see to at this season. I am as
much disappointed as you are & was almost
tempted to try it alone, but it is a very
debatable feeling to go so far alone & I feel old
enough to need help in travelling, just suppose
I were to be taken sick, or some accident happen
& no one with me! It is a long way to look
ahead but maybe next spring we might make
you a visit. I am so glad you have so much
comfort in Regina, the current question is whether

in this country now. Harriet (the girl I had
when you were with us) came back the 1st
of this month but expects an addition to her family
very soon & I will be without a servant again.
I am helping lady (as far as kitchen work) while
she is here. Have been on quite a crowd of
specimens for me. Last Wednesday Rev Kotch
was married in Uniontown, every member of the
family took the evening's train for that place &
Mrs Barber, Miss Boyd & myself were left to
take charge of every thing, complete preparations
for the reception. Expected to help but was not
prepared to leave home at 8 o'clock in the evening
on 15 minutes notice, however, with my hands
before a handkerchief I was ready when Rev Kotch
came for me. I had fixed up my clothes the night
before & given orders to the cook as I soon desired.
The family had not been to breakfast when we
reached there but as I had, I put on a checked
apron & took myself to the kitchen for work, the
first thing I saw was the cook beating up icing
for the brides cake that had to dry & be iced.

I took the job of plain icing, Mrs Davis soon
came in to do the iced cake & had to wait for
the cake to dry. Making 12 hours into chicken
salads, helping to decorate, helping to make ice
cream (we had 4 large freezers) putting things in
the pantry convenient for serving occupied the
time until late in the evening, then Mrs G. &
myself served 29 plates of the sweet supper &
about as many of cake, putting a success for ice
cream on the cake plates, & finally it seemed to
me - a small cup ^{for coffee} on the meat plates with a
hump of sugar by it, no little bother every one
stood up. Such a rush as there was to get the
helping done, plates & cups had to be washed, &
the waiters clamoring for helped plates to take in but
all passed off well after the bridal party arrived.
The train was only 4 hours later, bringing them
in at 11 o'clock, every thing waited for them.
Will you be tired if I tell you of the decorations?
The parlor was in green, & red spiders lilies, they
were bunched on pine & spruce besides numerous
vases, palms & asparagus ferns were tastefully

arranged about in the same. Mrs. Spencer did
that. The hall was decorated with palms &
ferns, the dining room in pink & green, "show told
with pink ribbons from lamp to the 4 corners & a
center piece of pink carnations, only I care
not that. Now I ask you have had enough of the
reception, we reached home at 1, cold enough to jump
in bed with clothes on about. The next morning I
had just straightened the house when up drove
sister Betty & Mary, I was so delighted to see them it
had been so long since she had been here, we could
not talk fast enough to say all we wanted to.
Next day we put on our best & called on the ladies,
four there called on our new neighbors, the Walthams,
they live at the old Shivers place. Saturday was
taken up with house duties & Sunday we attended
two services, one church in the morning & the
Baptist in the afternoon. Mr. Jones has given up
his charge & that was to be his last sermon they
all thought but he gave notice for services next

Oct. 15, 1906

5

Sunday, after tea New Jones, Mrs Lario & Roland came over & sat an hour or so. Dr D. has taken quite a fancy to New Jones. Next month there will be a wedding at the baptist church & a reception at Mrs J. Collins' as you see we are quite gay. I am to have a black silk waist made for the occasion. The week after that, the Bazaar (Episcopal) will be held at Hanns delo & I must surely be there to get some dolls as I am getting up one for our church to come off later.

Reuben was with us last week but I could not persuade him to come to the reception, said he could not afford a new suit for the occasion, where he says must get one that he can use afterwards. His sight tho' poor still, is a good deal better I think & I am so thankful & I pray God will be merciful to him & restore it in time for I never cease to pray he will, write with me in that position will you? I believe in assisted

penyer. My eyes have been very weak lately. I
think perhaps my glasses need changing. I am
trying to rest them, but you would not think so
from the length of this miserable letter, please
forgive it. D. I. is writing an account of the
reception for the paper & interrupts me with a
question every few minutes as I have made many
mistakes. I must stop now & write a little
letter to my dear little girl. D. I. has sent up to
Beires Louis to ask something about the dresses,
he would write with me in much love to you
all -

Yours loving
Mother.

John's Walkers
Thank you for
your kind letter
everybody is well
and hope you
are the same.

789 Prairie Ave.

October 23rd 1906

Dear Sir:

Only a few lines to
tell you how much I appreciate
all you have done for me and
how much good your visit
did. The Walkers are like differ-
ent people to me, and Jack is
as nice as pie, he has never

Anniversary so Jack has invited
me to meet him down town and
have dinner and go to the theater.
So I have accepted, and his family
seem to be much pleased to think
we are going. Miss Lambert (the house)
will take care of the children. Dear
you don't know how much good
your visit did. You are just the
dearest most generous fellow in
the world. My Brothers are so good
to me and as are the Sisters. I

was attached to you & your
will. Now he seems to and
his family are in the money.
You let them have all I could
when you came. for they did
not think I had so much
"spare" money, I have always
been everything and nothing.
But they think they know I
meant business. I will for-
give Jack right away with-
out a word is not to be said

received such a nice in-
teresting letter from dear Emma
this morning. They seem to like
Mountain Home very much so
far. Dr. Henry came last eve.
and he and Mac will leave
to-morrow afternoon for Boston.
Please let me know when
you write, if our "Chuck" is
on this side, or the other. I
still have my "jicky" unopened
but will celebrate with it to-
morrow. You were a darling

to give me so many nice
things. And that summer, ^{Oct 2-21 1906} gee
but it certainly tasted good
to me. I like to go out with
a "small" fellow like my "Bud"
that does everything so fine.
Love your pretty little wife
lots for me, also kiss the
children for me. And tell them
not to forget Aunt Agnes
who loves them. I will never
forget how affectionate Jean

was to me. Bless her little head.
With fondest love for your dear
self and many thanks for all
you have done.

Ever your devoted

Agnes

I did hate to hear you go back
to Buffalo and leave me. But
now I hope things will go some
smoothly. Remember me to your
friend Mr Keene, and love to dear
Doug. Bless his head.

Our Hotel & Taylor were confirmed. The Bishop, dined with the Kates & leaves on the 4 o'clock train so we will not have the pleasure of entertaining him. Minnie is there, just returned from Birmingham fair, a poor fair it was they say. Oh! what do you think better I say looking away the solo in our church today, Episcopal singers have nearly played out. Minnie would sit down, to think of it after cultivating her voice in Europe!! I often wonder if it never occurs to people that the gift of a good voice comes from God, & should be used in his service. We hoped to spend tomorrow at Dorset but the clouds are gathering & we may have rain, we have only a day or so of good weather & then the clouds come again. Jessie has had her sister Mrs Langhorne, & her husband with her, I think they had a great deal of assurance to come after their treatment to Johnny & Jessie when old Mrs Chadwick & Dary died in Texas. Johnny believed that was the cause of both deaths. Our neighbor Mrs Davis is much troubled about her son Elwood who he thought was doing well in San Francisco, he had not heard from him in some time so he telegraphed to his boarding, they could not say where he was, he had disappeared from there leaving his belongings, now they do not know how to get any information of him. Fred writes Ellen & Dorothy have had sore throats with fever but now better. They have not a servant on the place. Mrs Co- & Mary cook & clean the house & Fred is coal, wood, & water boy for the settlement, is out it too late with all the other work Fred has to do! The children I hope help some. I have almost looked my eye out for Benben but he comes not. Our barber told me he had noticed that James runs Morrisette's & perhaps he is taking possession; we want to know if he wants Mitchell's another year. Our barber says the place is not a desirable one, uncertain

1
Mountain Home, Baxter County, Ark.
Oct. 28 - 1906

My dear Marie:

Your Mother & myself are enjoying ourselves very well among the high hills of Northern Arkansas. In a time as the bird flies we are not so very far from you & soon by railway, it will only be a few hours ride from here to Columbia.

Our house is a good sized one & the rooms are quite large with open fire places. Lumber costs cut & delivered one dollar per cord so that we have an abundant supply & a boy taking it in & light the fires. We will be warm enough when we wish. We miss the bath room & the convenience the beds however are good & the meals are abundant. Very often we receive presents of game as it is very abundant here, Snipe, Quails, Duck, & Wild Turkeys are often sent around & we get our share as your Mother is a great favorite.

2

The young ladies are quite fascinated by her & as many of them are good musicians they come in & sing with & for her. Already there have been 2 musicales in her home this Sunday afternoon. I hear her singing & playing on the piano with & for some of the boys.

I have been quite busy since I have been here, & have at last obtained an option on the land which contains the largest spring water power in Northern Arkansas. The river is 300 feet wide & from 2 to 6 feet deep the whole width. The current is four miles & it will I am told easily develop 100,000 horse power. A Boston Engineer was here as an expert for a Boston Corporation. He was trying to purchase the tract of land we have just secured. We were both after it, but he had to go to telegraph for money to buy. While he was away we got the old farmer to let us have it in preference as we had the money to pay. This is a great bargain & will I hope enable

OCT 28, 1906

3

your Mother to live comfortably at
the rest of our lives -

One of the beautiful features of it is
that there is an ideal place for the
terrace. A high cliff for the house where
we can sit in the piazza & look over the
windings & rapids of this great beautiful
river, back by distant hills, above the
beautiful sapphire sky, & at the foot of
the cliff a 25 acre field of the richest &
most productive land west of the Mississippi
for Ben's experiment garden. River full
of fish. Forest immensal with birds & wild
turkeys & ducks & geese & alone.

What more could you ask. Century Oaks
for shade. Black Walnut trees for the
squirrels & the children. Vetches everywhere
for building the house & ceiling, all on our
own land. Mail passing the house twice
a day & the main telephone wire strung
100 feet from the house. We have only to connect
the wire & attach the machine.

4

We will build large enough to entertain
Company when we want it & we can
sell building lots or lease them to such
as will make a good neighbor. My dream
is now probably to you & I Marie & the house
can dwell in a perfect paradise. The air
is so pure & the cedars & will flowers so fragrant
that you can invite without fear all your
French & German friends & professors.
But I will say no more now, on that score.
Tomorrow the Mills begin to work on the
Sapphire mines. Will you please ask him
if it will be convenient for me to draw
on him for his statement. Yours or will
it be easier for him to pay ^{me} \$100 Dollars &
the other on the first of December.
Your mother joins me in love and kisses
to you all. I will draw a map of the place
as soon as I have time. Good bye my love
May God bless & keep you by our loved ones
in health & happiness until we meet, until
We meet again. Your loving Daddy.

I suppose there will be
Gladys from far & near.
I wish you & Minnie could
see the old fountain
Wendy has built down up,
it is beautifully done
by a young woman
working on the house.
My Mother's old sideboard
has Mother's old cupboard
set up to be kept
above as the dining
little tables &c.
You must spare the
remains of spirits, I have
been tempted to give
+ my father's finger is kept
+ some what pinkish lips
with a
little for me, but he
wants to know how a letter should
be written, & wants to be to be
you do not write.

Very acceptable, I am glad you did not wait
for Minnie to write, her intentions are good but
she is such a busy little body she can't always
carry them out, like many of us house keepers.
While on the subject of writing I will say Minnie
was here a few minutes Sunday evening, asked
about you all & said she must write to Maria,
but Maria is constantly "on the go" after the
reception she went to Birmingham & now is
going to London to the Fair, how she does dress &
"sport" amongst ourselves, &c &c !! Will go to London
to have dresses made, & after & come to be to
to wear them I suppose, well that is all right
if she likes such a life, plenty of money!
I am glad to know Columbia has made such
improvements, the artesian water is a good thing
to have is set, & street pavements too. I know you

are much interested in the building of your greenhouse + I hope it will be arranged to your satisfaction. I saw very early signs of crop, one thing ^{about} it is that children out grow the tendency to it. I never had the evaporated turpentine fail to entice crop symptoms. I began with the very first cough. If your cold weather has begun already you will have a long winter of it, we too, for fires are quite necessary now, but I think we will have warm spells. We have had some lovely days but this morning was very cloudy, the sun is now trying to come out but does not stay long. Your Father is off to Hallin to see about some roofing he purchased in Salem for the shed corner of Ornithology store, + for our back porch. I hope he will get it up before spring. Thursday he says he is going to the fair. I will have to go some where to spend the night, have not decided where yet. Last Friday when he went over I went to Haverdale, found Johnny there + went home with him, the girls, Wray + Beccie drove over to Haverdale Saturday to meet your Father on the noon train as I thought, to

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My surprise I found him in Hammond, he came over the night before & stopped at the Hotel, we took the noon train for home. Beesie & all of them begged me to come back when he went to Selma but I hate to put them to the trouble of sending me back & forth so often. I can't go to Mrs. Browder's now that she is sick. I think I had better go to Selma with him, since he next time he will stay at home. There fair as not much any way. This morning's mail brought me a letter from Henry, he is full of another purchase he has made, 448 acres of timber land mostly, (20 acres cleared), a large house on the place, barn, fences horses &c., 33 head of cattle 15 hogs, mare & colt 100 bushels of corn & other forage, the main feature is the timber which in 2 years can be made to pay for the place & yield a profit, really the timber should more than pay the cost of purchase & leave nearly a million feet of merchantable timber

he says. He may put up a temporary still as that article will be high next year owing to the great destruction to the turpentine timber by the storm. Alving seems to have quite a scarc of finding investments. I think the next best investment for him will be to get him a suitable life companion, he has been a bachelor long enough. If he has decided upon one he has not let me know.

Fred's children have had sore throats & Dorothy was threatened with pneumonia so Harry wrote me. I send proofs of her picture for you all to see, you can return them when you write.

When I saw Ruben last he had not found a place to rent, did not get the one he expected the Mrs Garber told me he had rented it.

Mrs Brewster is much brighter, but does not raise her head from her pillow, the Rachel Grand Mother is in a worse fix than Mrs B. cases very similar. For want of a wedding garment we have sent regals to the Walkers. I did not care to be in the crowd much any way.

P.M. Bullalo
To Mrs D. Columbia

199 Anderson Place

10/30/06

My Dear Marie -

Two weeks ago I visited Chicago and spent three days visiting with Agnes, Jack and the Matthews. By visiting I mean that most of my time was spent with them. I stopped at the Great Northern.

I let them all talk to me and after listening to them came to the conclusion that lack of money was the underlying cause of the trouble.

Jack felt that everytime Agnes was nice to him it would be the prelude of a touch - Or if he was nice to her she would take the opportunity to owe him for money.

Agnes believed that Jack was making a lot of money and was wisely. As a matter of fact he was in debt. His practice has never been large and the collections at times miserable.

When he decided to give up the flat it was necessary as he owed two months rent, three months living bill and in addition about eighty dollars to tradesmen on bills which Agnes had seen, but had left behind for him to pay without saying anything about it, and he thought all the time she was making both ends meet with her allowance.

Both were to blame for the conditions that existed - Agnes because she was not frankly honest about her financial matters, and did not believe her husband's statements as to his resources.

Jack - because he failed to appreciate the higher cost of living and the increased expense due to two children. - He also failed to realize that while a woman will shut herself in and hide her poverty, she will not willingly permit her children to do without the necessary clothing to make a decent appearance.

There is a vast difference in temperament between the two. Agnes is hopeful and is willing to risk a good time and the expense incident thereto believing the future will care for itself. Jack, on the other hand, is morbidly afraid of debt and hates to spend

a cent until he has it in hand
and knows that current bills are
paid and something saved toward
the next month. -

Agnes went to Chicago expecting to
have trouble with Mrs. Weatherston and
she got it. - The Weatherstons are not
of our kind, but after living eleven
years with them she should have schooled
herself into overlooking their smallnesses,
and crediting them with their good
qualities, of which there are many. -

Both Agnes & Jack are inclined to put
on a little too much front for their
means hoping to be considered well
a word I hate. -

To make a long story short I urged
each one of them to be patient, to be
courteous and thoughtful, and for
the sake of the children and the

12/30/06

199 Anderson Place

years spent together, to be governed more by their minds and less by foolish and childish impulses in the hope that they would be able to reconcile their differences.

The old folks were anxious to bring about peace and I feel sure that if they fail it will be through lack of judgement and not of heart.

On behalf of Doug, Chauck. and myself I arranged to send Agnes an allowance of thirty dollars a month for the future. - This removes the necessity of her asking Jack for pocket money and clothes and gives her a chance to do something for her

spontaneously.

They ought to be able to get along.
The enclosed letter from Agnes is en-
couraging - After reading it send it
to mother.

When leaving Agnes I assured her that
she could count on the support of
her family and that after giving the
matter a fair trial she found it impos-
sible to longer live with Jack she
should draw me for whatever money
was needed, pack up her kids and
come with herself and kids to our home.

I have done my best, I have tried
to be just and sincerely believe that
all will be well.

With love to all, believe me
your affectionate brother
Billy. -