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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 Mercie,
Durham, N.H.
c/o Prof. Parsons
(N.H.) - 1908?

Dearest Persica

This is the blank sheet with which I was expected to hold sweet converse! At any rate, Sweetheart, it was quite worth the price of admission to see your handwriting on the envelope.

Yesterday afternoon when I made search for a blank check, I found my stock exhausted, and could not find one on the street. John Dr. Chilly loaned the one of the Ithaca Nat'l Bank. I hope you will pardon the appearance of it. Then, in order

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that my letter might reach you promptly, I took it up to the "5:34 E.C. & N. train", only to find that there is no such train on Sunday.

This all goes to show how much I love you, Dearie, and want to see you. There has been nothing unusual on our horizon today, neither north Pole nor aeroplane; but it is not yet night, and there is a pork roast slated for supper.

I'll have Louise fix the guest room tomorrow, and we will greet all of you with arms wide open whenever it is "convenient" for you to put in an appearance, my Lady adorable.

The coal man promises to be here this week, and the wood man too, so I hope to offer you good cheer for fingers and toes. At any rate, Madrie, the warmth of my heart is great enough when you really know the love of your old Benj.

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1908
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Union Sta., 12 M. Friday.

You will think that I am living at the Union Sta., I fear; but I can assure that I only use it as a convenience when in this part of the city. I am writing under the pressure of a crowd on all sides, and although my penmanship will show the effects of the many physical shocks and thrusts of passers by, my love runs on as smoothly and as deeply as the homogeneous depths

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of ——— deliveries itself.
I had such a dear, sweet letter
this morning from my Madine;
and one which reached me
on Tuesday was likewise
the best she written until
the next. I could just im-
agine you looking straight
on through Mrs. Sears out
into the backyard when she
told you about having "our"
weeds cut.

I am so glad that my
sweetheart and little Louie are
both well. You are in my
mind and heart all the time,
and I am terribly eager
to get back to my d'little
home and you.

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I verily believe that yesterday was the busiest day of my life. After breakfast I spent an hour at the phone trying to trace up my dress suit, which had not appeared on the scene and the absence of which had already cut me out of two receptions. I could get no track of it. Then I hurried to the meetings, and was just in time to hear the distinguished Gobel and Bowers. Back again I went to town to overhaul the Pacific Express Depot. I got no satisfaction;

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and it kept me on the jump to get to the grounds, after lunch, in time for the P.M. exercises in which Mrs. Duggar's Husband was to take part. It is all over now but the cheering — that continues! The applause was so great that the vibrations in the air shook down the Philippine exhibit, burst several telephone wires into a heap, and splashed water out of the pitcher and glass on the table before me!! Why certainly, it was alright, and the crowd at the end was longer than at the beginning. After that pen-

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formance I went down town and rented a dress suit which fit me like almost anything or nothing. On reaching 5016 Professor Norris, who had heard of my predicament offered me his, which fit me to a T. I did not propose to miss the Shaw banquet. Really it was the finest thing of the kind that could be gotten up, I'll save up to tell you. All the big bugs were there — Big Dick and me, But not J. P. —.

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I had a nice time, Sure! That Pure cult. Spoon Co is taking some of my time this morning. I have had no time to go to Pacific, and suppose I will have to go tomorrow A.M. getting home on the Katy at about 5 P.M. It hurts old Benj not to be able to get in Saturday at noon, it does deeply, for he loves his family so much - so much. Au revoir, sweet love,

Ben

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1 Aldine Square, Chicago Illinois

1908

My dear Marie:

Your mother informs me that Ben's Father & Mother are visiting you at present. It must be a great pleasure for Ben & yourself to have them. Ben's father will find plenty to interest him about the University especially the Hospital & the Medical Lectures. I hope while they remain that you will be favored by having competent & good natured servants.

How is little Louise & her dear little brother getting along. I think of you & them every day. They are both so healthy & strong & beautiful.

Ben I suppose is very busy with his college work. How is he ever going to

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get the time to pack up for his moving to Ithaca. I feel for him. And then my darling how are you going to fit all your duties & trust so many responsibilities, My Sweetest heart to you every day & your mother & my self are talking to each other about you morning noon & night. God bless you & keep you all through the days & all through the nights.

I am going to write to Richards & to Mr. Brown that it is time to do the assessment work for this year on the Sapphire Mineral land, The man who does the work has just written to say that now the weather is favorable for doing good work & he advises that we begin on November 1st as we get so much more & better work for our money in weather like this

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I am not going to call on you for Ben this year as you have had such heavy expenses, But if Richards or Mr Brown say anything you about calling on them just tell them I have also written to you on the matter. That when I do all the work in reference to the mines & land the other Locators ought also to do their share of the Assessment work We had splendid results last year in the work I done on the "Columbia" Claim had fine showings of Lead at every blast As soon as our assessment work is done, We will begin to lease the land to practical miners & draw the Royalties from their work

Now however Mr Richards & Mr Brown must each put in a hundred dollars, I let them infer that ~~the other~~ you are doing the same also, just as I the other Locators do,

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I am getting along splendidly in reorganizing the Kimberley Company & next year that Company will have its machinery & drills & we can do our work on Lappin at a much Nominal Cost. As soon as the assessment work is done we can sell or lease the whole or any part of our 320 acres on good terms. Encourage Mr Richards & Mr Brown to keep up their interest in the work as there will be only two more years after this & we will get the government patent

But now your Mother say Give my Love to Marie & Ben & the Children also to Ben's father & Mother & then quit writing & get ready for Bed, so Pol has to obey Good bye Sweetheart

Your Loving
Daddy

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Wednesday.
1908

Dear old Sponge -

I have had two sweet old letters from you to-day and feel very gay! I am sending you the "Lucy" drawings, one of which I couldn't do, but I sent the bulletin as you could do it. I didn't know what kinds of cells to put in nor how they went & was too much at sea. The others I hope will be

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satisfactory - especially those
of Louise! If you want any
alterations made please say
the word & send them on
P. D. 2.

I enjoyed Mothers letter which
you enclosed. You didn't enclose
the two papers for Daddy however -
neither of them.

Thanks for the check. I will
send it right on.

Mrs. Hilly & I had the time
of our lives last night & didn't
get back home until 10.30. P. M.

You must certainly drive

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up to the George Junior Republic & take Dr. Hilly with you. We had an spree up with Theon & staid to court which is held at 8 P. M. The moon was fine coming home & we told ghost stories & Mrs Hilly called out "man behind that tree" act the way. We got so worked up that we even got on the wrong pair of horses & she came around this morning before I was up "& swap back". She certainly is handy.

When I came in I found Mr. "Iggy Anderson" of Columbia calling on Mr. Knudson & being regaled with grape juice. He stayed a few moments after I came & says the Missouri Alumni want you back & he wanted to consult my views in the matter! He said he wanted me to work for them & which I replied that you worked me enough & he went off saying he knew I worked you!

Boyce seems to be cutting another tooth but is a perfect little darling. He is so cute.

Am very tired & I can now shampoo my hair, write Mrs Craig tell Emma etc.! I miss you every minute. Do get & be a big fat fellow & come back loving you as Mother.

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1127

Sunday -

1 Aldine Sq.

Chicago.

Dearest Ben -

I hope I get a letter from you, or at least a postal tomorrow morning, saying that you arrived safely. I hope that you had a pleasant trip and found every thing O.K. in Columbia.

I miss you so much. I do wish you could have stayed

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longer and we could have had more time together. As soon as you had gone naturally, I thought of a hundred and one things we hadn't had an opportunity to talk of. One was, how did you like Maeterlinck's intelligence of the Flowers? Don't you wish we had written our book nine years ago!

Agnes invited Lewis, Baby & I on to dinner to-day as the Weatherons Senior were to be out. We had a nice dinner and I enjoyed so much being with Aggie. After dinner Jack showed me his office. I wish you could see them & you must when you come. He has had quantities of difficulties to contend with & has evolved a most unusual suite of rentable hall, office & inner office. His office is somewhat as you had planned your study & I know you will envy him it.

I enclose Mr. Moore's & Fred's letters which I suppose you will want in answering them.

Write to me soon & tell me everything first of all how much you like me!

Madrina.

Louis & Baby is sends most kisses.

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1908?

Ben dearest.

A letter has come from you to-day as I imagine you know who many indeed. Last night after writing I & you we played cards. Mama, Papa, Mrs. Symes + I, and Mama and I beat them with small bets.

Perhaps you will be interested in hearing of the many

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title to record.
Will sent me a pretty handkerchief & to Louie a book. Doug & Alice sent me a tie and & Louie & Bessie my pretty dolly. Dear Mama sent me a hat in Bluffton. She also gave Agnes one! Hooray for us. I don't think I can speak & you when you come I am so proud of my real estate! I am land proud not land poor, you see, but you can pay the taxes!!
Isn't that a fine present? I am so pleased and appreciate

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Nan's generosity greatly. Daddy gave me a lovely coral pin & Nan gave me a lovely scarf which she embroidered and a button chain & I used at serving table. Alice sent me two very pretty brass jardinieres for the table & Father sent me a calendar. Mother & Father sent me a beautiful silver crumb tray & scraper. Agnes gave me a lovely belt & Jack brought a bottle of perfumery & me Agnes gave Louise a teddy bear & & Boyce a pair of tan shoes & two pairs of stockings. Alice also sent Louise shoes and Santa gave Louise a goat, a doll, and a rattle. Louise received so many things & mentioning but you will see them Saturday.

You will be here Saturday, won't you?

I just long & see you.

I wish I knew your plans for next week. Agnes wants to know if you will go down town with them New Years eve & see the crowd. Tables in the restaurants have to be engaged a week ahead. I told her I didn't think we would want to go - on account of the baby.

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1907

What about the New Hampshire College Alumni dinner Jan 4th at $2 per plate? Will you go? I think Mrs S & I will take my $2 out of my allowance but I am afraid you won't care to go for only $2 with them will be so many things you will wish to go next week I suppose. Hence suggests that I could go with Chas. as I suppose he will surely go & the alumni doings. I will wait until you come. I suppose that will be time enough & notify them.

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I am going to telephone Mrs. Barnes to-morrow.

In the afternoon Agnes has asked me to go to the Club with her & take Louie & Willie. They are going to give shades etc & then a dance for the children.

Can you find out Mrs. Mann's address for me? I should so like to see her.

Write me all your plans, quick, especially at what time you will arrive. I love you & my own sweet heart and long to see you. Nanna & daddy send you their love and Louie & Boyce send much love. Boyce is learning about milk. Jane is happy & gay. Good-night, dear Zoe,

Your Bessie.

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1908?

Dear mr Dearest-.

Your most-
little letter has just arrived
and alas no from Mrs. Moore.
I know you are glad to be
getting through your lectures.
How busy you must be finishing
up! I think of you constantly and
hope you are not working too hard,
but are trying to save yourself a
little for the start in new

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Home's last night & enjoyed it tremendously. It is Booth Tarkington's play & Wm Hodge makes a typical Hoosier & is well supported, The play is very clean, & altogether I wanted you there every minute. The play is laid in Sorrento & the scenery was exquisite.

Mrs Moore wants Mat- she & Mr. Moore & Hamel- many want us in May or June. Will Mat- be free

When are you coming? What- date do we set sail for Attic Heights, my helpmeet? Write soon

To you in Madrid,

Poopsie sad as ever. No news with spel-

house.

I am so glad Dr Jane seems better. I do hope he will continue & improve & Mat- there will be no more sickness or anxiety for dear Mrs Jane.

Daddy asks you please & send him the last of Jane (Cat-Cat!) by freight & send him the freight & bill in one of your letters to me. He hopes it will not put you to too great inconvenience. Please do it, dearie. He will be so glad & have seen & heard the last of it.

I must & see the Mann from

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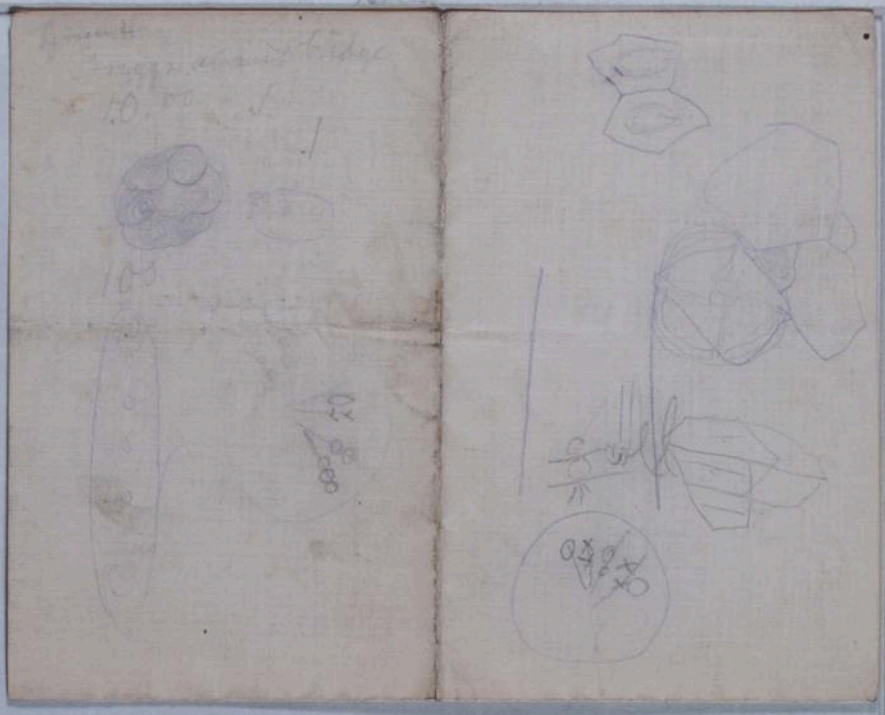

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1908 ?

To D, Columbia, Mo

Sunday.

Dearest Belle -

I wish you could have seen Babyphone to-day he was so sweet and good, - like a different child. Agnes came up this morning with Babsie, but Will did not arrive. He will get in to-morrow.

Aren't you getting your

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with your Harvard affairs!
Impress this will be my last
note before you arrive. Tell everybody
good-bye for me.
Dearest, I love you devotedly, and
am your own Pascal.

Bon voyage, my Love! I know
you will be rushed these last few
days. With all my heart - I am
Your own.

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