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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.

P.M. APRIL 1912

Bluffton
South Carolina
Sunday.

Dearest Ben -

We arrived here
safe and sound - at last -
yesterday at twelve o'clock.
How I wish, dearie, you could
be here! It is beautiful.
The great May River is
like a big bay - salt water.
blue & clear like Little Harbor
at Woods Hole. The river comes
up & makes a bend right
here so that it makes a

harbor wider than at Wood's
Hole, we sat on the piazza
I watch the water & our view
is framed with great live
oaks festooned with moss.
You know it would make
an ideal winter home for
us. I was never so astonished
in my life at the beauty
of the place for I have
heard so much talk of
"little old Bluffton". It is
a large place, too, about
a thousand people. I can't
tell you how much I wish

you were here. I wouldn't have missed
coming for anything and am happy
now that I have your letter saying
you are so much better. How I wish
you could come down for the Easter
vacation. Can't you really? Only
don't come on a wild goose chase
like we did with Alice! We reached
Savannah after the boat had left
Friday morning to find that no
boat left again until Monday morning.
It is four hours by boat & the

steamer is owned by the millman
Wilsons & only makes three trips
a week to Bluffton. We could
have hired a yacht for \$20 to
bring us over! We stayed at the
De Soto hotel Friday night & left
on the 5.30 train next morning
for Hardeeville where we got some
coffee & hired two buggies to bring
us 17 miles to Bluffton. We had
to pay \$8 for the "carriages,"
but fortunately it was a glorious

AP. 1, 1912

morning and a fine shell
road & beautifully shady all
the way. By the way don't
ever telegraph to Bluffton because
it costs \$5. There is no line
here & they have to bring it out
from Haddenville. If you
need to telegraph send it
care of Capt Thomas Martin
Steamer Louise Savannah
& he will bring it over for
nothing. I had to come down
here to find out all these
things. The steamer leaves

Savannah for Bluffton
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
at 10 A. M. & gets here at
2 P. M. If you came by the
Atlantic Coastline you could
stop at Hardenville & come
on with the mail man
who leaves Hardenville at
12 o'clock & goes along three
hours or so to Bluffton. He
has room for one passenger.
As you may guess it has
cost something to get here!!
The jamminie covers everything &
is all in bloom. & the instana

violets & red-bird & with the big
palmetto trees & the long moss
drooping from all the other trees
it is really an exotic scene.

Mamma has a nice cook & a
man to do chores. The house reminds
me of your home only it is a little
better kept up. I imagine Mamma
& Daddy have done a lot since they
came.

Aunt Lura is very sweet but it is
very pitiful. She can't talk very
well as her fall has affected her
speech, but she is up & dressed &
comes out in the piazza. Old Miss
Sarah looks after her altogether.
It is sweet to be here all of us
together & we are enjoying it more
than I can tell you.

We could rent a house down
here for \$4.50 a month! And get
the best cook in town for \$2.00 a week!

Mamma says to tell you she is as
happy as a queen now that we are
here! She only wishes that you were
here too. She sends much love to

AP 11/912
you all + kisses to her little
Louie & precious Boygie.

Do Ben send me the
Cornard Corn cure in the
right hand small bureau
drawer of mine. I am sorry
I left the drawer in such a
state, but you know. You
will have to "root around".
I am sorry to trouble you but
we are all troubled with corns
& I need it. Also will you send
Daddy any bulletins or information
about the planting of alfalfa.
He wants to plant it & is so
much interested in you work

on the nitrogen cultures. By
the way in Savannah I saw
an office of the "Nitragin Co".

Agnes Heywood came to the
De Sota & took us out to
Bonaventure Cemetery, also bet
to Thunderbolt where we had a
delicious fish dinner at ^{Bananas}.
Oh! I want you to share all
these experiences! Alice leaves
on Friday for Haverhill
where she will be with Cross.
Can't you come in time to get
the Friday morning boat? Come
by Atlantic Coast Line & if
you find the train is late

get out at Handeville. I will share
my beddie with you! It is as warm
& delightful as the middle of June.
I am sitting on the piazza &
Mamma is playing the harmonium.
There is a lovely great large Episcopal
church here but they have service only
once a month.

Oh I do hope your cold is getting
better & that all is going well with
those more precious to me than life.

Keep your study closet locked.

Daddy says to ask you where to get
the best alfalfa seed. If you don't
know, Fred would, wouldn't he?
Could Daddy get some of your Entomogen
cultures? These people down here would
bless you if you can teach them
to grow alfalfa. What soil is best
for it?

I long to hear from you so do write
as often as you can & tell me everything.
Don't sleep in my hollow too much!

With all my hearts love I am

Your own
P.S. I haven't see "Tom" yet & from ^{Mamma's} what I hear
there is no chance for me. Agnes has been.

P.M. Ithaca, N.Y.

Monday P.M. Sept. 1, 1912.

My dear Madrie,

Will you come over to tea
this afternoon? Creamed mushrooms will
greet you. They are coming up nicely, and the
first cluster had to be harvested. It weighed over
1½ lbs.

Your sweet letter written near Savannah arrived
this morning, and all of us devoured it. I am
so glad that Douglas is with you. Who is sleep-
ing on the dining room table? I do hope
that the Pullman and the damp weather
will not give you another siege of cold.
We are all as sound as new dollars
(deimes, I should say). Louise is going with
Miss Smith to services this afternoon,
and Boycie announces that he is go-
ing to take Miss Halsey to see the
Fire Engine.

Take care of yourself, Deane, give every-
body my love, but don't forget to keep a car-
load for my Honey.

Benj.

P.M. Pl. H. to n, 5C.
AP 3, 1912



Dear Old Ben -

Where is that
box letter you were going to write
me? Last night I got about five
lines from you!

I am crazy & hear all about
what you think - more than about
what you do. I want to know what
Prof. Bulow said - if you have
talked with Dr. Schumann

and Prof. Bailey & what they
said; if we are really going
to St. Louis; whether you have
rented the house for the summer
and also — if you love
me as of old.

I think of you constantly
& almost wish you were here.

Perhaps if you wrote me a nice
letter I might really wish it.

It is great fun being here
altogether and I wouldn't have
missed it for worlds. We have been
kissed with beautiful weather, so

warm and moist.

Miss Sarah has just run up to show me two beautiful little baby dresses, one that her mother made & one made by her husband who was afterwards Mrs Bannell - Rhett. In those days she says each husband and wife made for the first baby a complete set of baby clothes beautifully embroidered. The embroidery, hand quilting & darned lace are exquisite.

Douglas & Alice are out taking pictures of the live-oak trees, the Secession Oak etc.

When do you want me to come home? On Saturday night shall I leave here? Of course Emma would like to keep me from, so you must say. Tell me again just what I ought to do. Dider & your very note to Philadelphia for my birth? I get on the train at Annapolis & go through to meet Philadelphia. There I must take a local train to Philadelphia & change to the Redding Terminal & get on the sleeper for Ithaca. I am so happy to know

AP. 3, 1912



that you are getting on so
well. You don't say a word about
Blanche. How is she doing?

Do give all my regards and
friends very love. If I had the
children down here I should be
tempted to stay all Spring.
Dunc certainly doesn't need clothes
and it is a happy, care-free existence.
Don't you want to bring them down

here to me. & you can board
at Sage's & in the summer
when it is hot here we will
come back & pack up.

How would you like that?

Any way, I love you old sweet,
and long for you, and become
without you, and am always,
Your very own
Madie.

Here many, many times my
darlings for Mary & mother &
remember me to Blanche.

P.M. Apr 4, 1912

Bluffton, S. C.
April 3rd.

Darling Ben,
I didn't get any
letter from you, but do hope
that everything is going well
with you.

It is a little cooler & day
but so delightful. This morning
we took a long walk, Douglas,
Alice, Aggie & I, & took photos
of all the old negroes &

pickaninies along the road.
We tried to find an old
cemetery but saw no vestige
of it! We reached home
in time for dinner & after
that we went fishing
with one of the negroes to
row us. We only got two
fish & Alice caught both
of those.

To-morrow morning "the
children" are all going
for a long drive. I just

wish for you all the time.
So write to me my sweet
and if you only could come
down I would be happy as a
Queen.

In the distant future I do hope
you can come down here - you
to my little dearie - & we will
have a pretty little winter home
for February & March.

Mamma, Alice & Agnes are
all talking & talking, but to-morrow
I certainly will get up at six
o'clock in the morning to have a
few minutes to myself. The only
trouble will be that the rest of
the family will surely get up then.
Thinking there might be something
going on!

So kiss my darlings for me
& for your own precious, loving self.
Keep all the love in the world which
is in the heart of your Maria.

REHADA, N. Y.
H. BAILEY, DIRECTOR

B. M. DUGGAR
LEWIS KNUDSON

M. M. McCool
GEO. R. HILL, JR.

Count Madrie,

I have just received your sweet letter, written after "crawling", and I am so glad that you are getting out and beginning to feel like your full-grown sweet self. Boysie has just come in muddied from head to foot. Laurie took him out under her special wing, but the dear little soul forgot she had a wing; and so when she joined me as I came home (leaving her play with the little Kimball girl) she did not know towards which end of the campus Boysie had gone. Finally he strolled in, brought by the weight of his boots. It is real summer today, and the snow has vanished like smoke - only intensely wet smoke. By night there will be nothing white in view.

mileage left to about take us over. Our "eats"
bills last month were something frightful, but
don't you worry, as we are going to come out af-
right this month. It will be Mrs. Atkinson
who will have to do the kicking. The bill for
that new boiler was over \$40.00! I have not got
ten anywhere with renting the house for her,
and scarcely expect to be able to report anything
favorable.

The vacation is passing and I seem
to be getting nothing to show for it except
sleep, — and a rather lonesome sleep at
that, even if I do have your "hollow" as
well as my own; but sleep is good as
far as it goes.

I hope, Madrie, that you will not have
to journey around to Savannah via Hardeeville,
but if you do, why do you need to lose a day
by the transaction? There seems to be a train
leaving for Savannah in the early afternoon which
would put you in Savannah several hours before
your train leaves. Possibly the trouble lies
mainly in getting to Hardeeville early, that
is, by early afternoon. Since there is the chance
that you may have trouble cashing a personal check,
I will wait to send money until tomorrow, hoping to
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P.M. Delafayette, N.C.
AP 6, 1912



Dearest Ben,

We have just come
home from crabbing and I
caught two. Oh! how I wish
you could have been with
us. Agnes, Alice, Daisy &
I went & we brought home
2 lb dozen in about 3/4 of an

hours. It is great sport. It is
like summer & we are making
them dresses & savoury shoes.
Aggie says I tell you she
wants you to come down here
& take her cratting & I can
go home & take care of the
children!

The time just rushes away
while we do little but eat &
sleep. I am getting already.

I have just received your letter
written Sunday also
the precious children. Kiss

them for me & thank them. It
is most of you to want me to see
Charleston. But I'd rather wait & go
New until you can be with me.
Do send me some money, though.
Sweet before it is time for me to
come home for I am so afraid
I might need it in getting home.
They say they may take off the
boat as the Indians are retreating
their shores & I may have to
return so undesirable to go to
Savannah stay New on night to
take the Seaboard air line & you
know the dream from here I wonder
& hotel expenses etc might leave
me stranded.

Darkey Mamma looks them & as does
Daddy & it is a good deal on them to
have us all here. I mean the forwarding
is a nervous strain, but man all
having such a good time & they are
delighted to have us here.

Aunt Lucia says I must tell
you that she sends you a great deal

AP 6, 1912



CORNELL

of love and thinks you have
a very sweet wife. That's
me!

Daddy & Momma send you
& the children much love
and all the brothers & sisters
station you in the same.
I am so delighted that
your old is better & that the
children keep well. Boy &
I have bought my Spring clothes.

at? I write me everything
and with all my love
I am Your Son
Marian.

Tell Anne & Bozpie I am
now going to write to them.
My cough is getting better
& I am beginning to feel like
myself. Oh you old darling
how I love you!

Agnes says I must run
off now as she has something
else for me to do!! R.B.D. 542.

I didn't know the main
matter would be upon you
so soon. I don't know what you
can do about going to the
Stewarts. Bozpie's coat needed
cleaning & pressing before he
wore it again. Oh I am so
sorry I couldn't arrange all
those things before I left.

I hope you will now have
decided especially about St.
Louis. I don't think the surprise
is good for you. It was said
of President Houston, wasn't it

Phila. to Othaca in advance. Send the money in advance
 if you are sure of the date. Send \$100
 money order payable
 to Phila. & Co. But
 if you have not at-
 ready done so, it may
 be best to have them
 say and your
 tickets together then
 send it to you
 for it
 might
 not come
 in time.
 The children
 were full
 of ideas
 as to
 you
 tonight
 and then
 Othaca, N.Y. Apr. 8, 1912.
 Madrie,
 He reached home
 safely two hours ago after
 our little jaunt to Gen-
 era. Well, it was a nice,
 informal little visit, and
 the Stewarts seemed very
 glad indeed to have us.
 The children certainly en-
 joyed every minute of their
 stay, and I see no rea-
 son why there should
 be any evil consequences.
 He left home when the
 weather was still fairly fair,
 but as the predictions were

than when in the woods
and they did everything
to make the children enjoy
themselves. He slept in the
room, Boysie and I together
and Louise on a cot. We
missed you terribly all the
time, and I had the time of
my life combing hair, tie-
ing bows, and doing those
numerous other things
which only "dainty fingers"
should essay. At any rate
here we are again, and
the children feel as if they
had been to Australia and
back. Boysie captivated several
ladies on the train,
and Louise was a treat -
we as usual. I just thought
that with one exception

it is a mighty fine family -
the finest of all, though
being away, away - far
far away!

What do I think? Now,
sweet Louie, don't you wish
you knew what I think
and what I dream? I can
not tell you the trillionth
part, else you would think
that I am homesick at home
and lonesome with my hands
full. At any rate, Madrie, we
think that we cannot stand
this very long, although we
are getting along so finely.

Blanche is good hearted, and
tries to do what she thinks
helps along, but much of the
time it is of that futile,

for unsettled and colder,
I did not, fortunately, change
their winter clothes - either
outer or inner. Before we
reached Geneva we ran into
clouds and it was pouring
down such torrents that we
had to take a taxi out
to the Stewarts. From that
time until midnight it
rained and blew, winding up
with a light fall of snow. Today
it was cold and pretty, so we
returned under comfortable
circumstances, reaching
Ithaca at 1³⁵, luxuriating
down town, as, in gen-
eral, making quite a park.
The Stewart family at home
is much more organized

Busy don't get done, - that it
is one reason why I am a-
way for a day. Tomorrow the
grind begins again, and I
shall start in with new vigor,
and shall try to clean my
desk at least.

I have made no arrange-
ments (complete) about the house
and have failed in some things.
A letter from Mr. Cowell states
that we may have the rooms,
and that proposition I am
accepting tonight.

I sincerely wish that the
St. Louis offer had not come.
On mature consideration, I find
that I am not invited to look into
the relations of things for my-
self at the Garden; I must

choose between the opinions of other.
Dr. F. now thinks that all things
are bad enough, and that Cornell can't
be any worse than St. Louis; but
Moore thinks that the Board of
the Mo. Botanical Garden is the
best ^{that} Board ever gotten together,
and they are public spirited and
honest. It takes inertia to move,
and unless I find that Mo.
is better than Dr. F. thinks it
is, it will take some outside
force to move me. Now, Madrie,
if you think we ought to move
why the quicker you come and
push, the faster we will move.
Had you heard that R. A. Pearson
has accepted the presidency of Iowa
State College of Agriculture? He
is going abroad and will assume
his new duties Aug. 1.

Tomorrow I will find out any-
thing new regarding your Philadel-
phia connections, and write you
forth from

I can manage that when I
need to.

Your sweet letter, dated whatever
day it was that "Miss Sarah"
brought up the baby dresses,
was a glad messenger on our
return, and we were all crazy
for those kisses from far away.

So you chide me about not
telling what I think, and then
my Ladye has neither told
me what she does, nor what
she thinks. What do I know
besides that you caught 2 1/2
doz crabs, that you drove
ten miles, and that you hunted
(round the sea?) for a buried
cemetery? I who do not know
what a tench is, much less how
he is caught! At any rate, I am,
I am glad that you are happy,
and I send you every day all
my love, and all my thoughts.
I have been very busy, and

7 M Bluffton, S.C.
AP. 8/1912



Dearest Ben - This is a warm
beautiful day and the water
is sapphire blue. Alice, Douglas
and Marvian left on their
morning's boat - Alice for
Hawkinsville, Ga., and Douglas
for his home. It is lonely
without them, and next Saturday

I will also be on my way
home.

To-morrow we are going to the
Easter celebration in the Negro
church. The minister sent a
special invitation & we are to
have reserved seats!

This morning I went over to Mrs.
Walker's. Her husband is a retired
Army surgeon & they have a
magnificent home. It is like an Italian
villa with its cement floor loggia
& beautiful garden though the
house is a low, shingled one.

The big palm trees are beautiful
here all along the bluff & the great
lido - with the sea makes a
very picturesque place. All I write
about is the scenery, but that is all
there is to write about. I should love
to with you in our own little cottage
for two or three months in the winter.

Again say, this letter must go until
Monday, as the mail man starts on Sunday.
You see he drives 8 miles to Kardinville.

with the mail every day & back. I do hope
I will have a letter from you to night to
let me know how you & the children are.
I didn't hear last night. Mrs Louise

& Royce for me many times. I long
to see them & to with you all. I
am getting homesick, although I
was more homesick the first night I came.

Oh I do love you very dearly. my precious
A' husband, and am your own, own
Marie.

PM Duff Home, S.C.
AP. 8, 1911

My own Boy - I was so glad to
get your letter last night.
I expect to leave here Saturday
April 13th[?] and would be
glad to have you engage for me
my berth from Philadelphia Sunday
night on Train 15 - leaving
Philadelphia daily at 10 P. M.
but on Sundays at 9 P. M.
I hardly think it will be
necessary to buy the berth

The ticket
fearing it, will not reach me
here in time, and I think the
reservation is all that is necessary.
But write at once, won't you,
dear?

Also send me \$15 in money
order. I won't use it unless
absolutely necessary.

I miss you so much and
will be so glad to get back to you.
You are so refined and clean
and nice. And you have such
pretty teeth ~~as a~~ look as a
gentleman should. I only wish I
could buy for you beautiful tailor-
made suits that fit you nicely.



and keep their shape, and could make
you rest more & not wear yourself out. —
— Otherwise you are quite perfect!

It is fine, though, to have your
work appreciated, and I am glad Prof
Bailey had sense enough to tell you
such nice things. You have the finest
department, and you are the smartest
man, and I want all the world to
know it. Don't think I am going to
blow your trumpet! I might if I saw
any need of it.

I wish I could talk things over with
you and it is smart to think that you
need me. I do hope, though, Darling,
that you will go ahead & "match difficulties
against difficulties" and make your
decision at once. As far as I can see —
either place would be delightful to live in
& equally appealing, and the "difficulties"
concern your work & you yourself are the
only judge. I think in all ways it is good
that I am not home, as we have talked
it over already, and you have now quiet
in which to decide. (I wish I had a

AR 1912



little quiet myself.) Whatever
you do, I shall be happy so
long as I can be with you
and the precious children.

Mamma says to tell you that
there are plenty of fig trees
here, so you won't need to bring
any clothes!

I am so sorry Mr. Stocum
is sick & do hope he is better now.
Please give him my regards.

What awful weather you must

has had. I do hope to-day is
better and that you are enjoying
yourself with the Stenwate. I wish
I were home to be with you. It
is a beautiful day here and
the tide is high. We are
going to the colored church
this afternoon.

Mama is calling me to
dinner so I must close.
Kiss my darlings for me many
times, and for yourself keep
all the love of
Your very love
Anna.

609. W. 141st St. New York.

April tenth simultaneous

Dear Dr. Duggar,

Thanks for April
check - McManey's bill does
seem unaccountable - My rec-
lection is that the former "Cater"
was twenty-five - in - and
if the thing was only eight
and a half - it is of course a
preposterous charge. However I
trust you will do the best
that can be done about it.
I wrote Professor Stearns and
(as I might have calculated
for myself) found he was "sixty
one" - therefore no purchaser
of course. If you go to Woods

continued winter comes here. How can
not able to make arrangements for
work there next year - do I have hope
but he will find something to do himself
I suppose. Certainly Mr. Wright was again
been started down; an object of derision.
I suppose that winter in. I don't
let me know when your own plans
are carried.

With Love to Mrs. Duggar,

I am,

Cordially yours -

Elizabeth W. Atkinson.

"Hole" - is it a family party -
and when Ade's. There will
have to be plans made for
storing furniture and things -
and who will be in charge
if you are all away? We
set but a month ahead of
us, but I must do some
very hard thinking. Mr. Ade
is now in charge of renting
or selling, but I will not
begin to pay "commission" as
long as your lease runs
of course. I am sure Mrs.
Duggar found Savannah a
welcome change from the

Osageville S.C.
Friday April 12th
1912.

My Hearts Dearest,
I am more
sorry to 'disappoint' you than
I can tell, but it will be
impossible for me to get home
before Thursday morning. I
am wild & ~~to~~ with you and
my babies once more & am
delighted that Thursday is
coming nearer & nearer.



Notes for Louis



Notes for Boyce



Notes for Boyce

And a squeeze & no squeeze
And a squeeze.



only thing to do is to wait
for the Tuesday boat. I am
sending you a telegram
via the Capt of the boat
which I hope will reach you. The
Capt is now Capt St. Claire.
"Tom" has been superseded.

I hope you & the children
won't be disappointed too much
that I don't arrive Monday A. M.
I am very sorry to disappoint the
girls about Wednesday night, too.
Tell them for me, won't you. I am
writing them that it is altogether
Grand Lucas's account. I hope you
will go to the dance.

I must say goodnight very soon. Love
as it is very late. Will be writing you soon. Love
your letter. With all my love, your mother.

I have been feeling quite badly
& it must have been the change
to the salt air that delayed
the natural course of events.
Anyway Sat. & Sun. will be
my worst days & I know you
won't want me to undertake
that frightfully long & tedious
& lonesome trip under such
conditions. Then I thought I
would try going to Hardscville
Monday, but it is so expensive
& such a long ride all alone
with a strange man on
these lonely roads that I
finally decided the

Etter Apr. 13, 1912.

My dear Madrie, I have just received your telegram, and there is only time for a word, if this catches the afternoon mail. It is needless to say how sorely disappointed we all were on getting your telegram. I sincerely hope that no one is seriously sick. We were planning such a gay time for Monday, even down to postponing our chicken dinner and ice cream for that day! If there were any chance of getting a telegram through, I would surely send you one of inquiry. So you see how we are affected when deserted by the one we love. Indeed we are all quite ready to close up shop. Any way we shall cover up our feelings and only hope that nothing has happened - that neither Nance nor Daddy nor your aunt is sick. I must tell you though, that I have had ^{such} no time as I anticipated to get things at the house in some sort of shape for a move somewhere. Yesterday I determined that I would begin anyway, so with Blaine and a boy I started in to try to get the house in some kind of shape. By nine o'clock the two men from Kellum's Office, Washington, arrived.

ed, and I have had to be up and out with
them these two days. The boy proved a stick,^{and}
I let him go this morn before I went down
to dine at the Clinton House with Tall^{and}
Leonard. Beside, of course I have had the usual
lecture today and two on Friday. So you will
have to take the "will for the deed," for while
the house does look improved today, it will prob-
ably be completely upset by Thursday again.

I had the two Washington men, ^{also} Messrs Wal-
son, Puck, Knudson and Allen over
last night for a chat, — and served them
some coffee and cake; all I could scrape up.
Unfortunately, after I had invited them in, I
found that Sears was in town, leaving at 10:20
that night, and Thilly and I were invited to come
with him up to Crighton's. I was sorry, of
course, but was able to shake hands with him
and ask after the family. He sent kindest
regards to you, and was really sorry to
miss you. I suspect, by the way, I should
telephone you girls that you will not be back
for their dance on the 17th.

Now I must close, the clock is striking and the postmen
are here. The boys are just about to go to bed. I will write again soon.
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Mrs. Horner called up yesterday to tell
you something. And by again, make.

Bluffton S. C.
April 14, 1912.

Dearest Ben. I. If I were in the
train I should be almost to
Bethlehem Pa! And here I am
staying so late. I just hate to
disappoint you, and hope
you have received my telegram
safely. You were the darling
& held me close into I wish
last night with its wrap of
Philadelphia you had so

thoughtfully marked. I wrote
Friday night to Sacramento
& Philadelphia for further
Monday & Wednesday nights.
But now I think I shall
stay until the Thursday
spot. There doesn't seem any
particularly urgent reasons
- thought my heart suggests
many - why I shouldn't miss
another Boat (as I have
already missed one.) and
Mrs R. T. Wilson sent on
to-day to ask us all over

to luncheon with herself & Mrs Cornelius
Vanderbilt, & to see the old cemetery
of our ancestors, and as it is an
opportunity once missed I shall never
get again, I know you would tell me
I might just as well have stayed &
that you would like me &. I only
wish that you, too, could be with me.
Your friend Maria told The Lord & R. L.
Wilson who is a millionaire & a brother
of Mrs Cornelius Vanderbilt who also
has a summer home down here across
the river from us. Young Cornelius was
here to day with the message.

In this way I can't be home until
Saturday, and I do hope everything will
continue to go so beautifully. Can't you
exchange the Plant Industry Conference
with the boat for next month, then I
could see about the refreshments for
you.

Aunt Lucia was very ill all
yesterday. The doctor here twice, but

APR 14, 1912

to-day she was up & down
for a short time. She has up
and down. Mamma is so afraid
that she will die & decides to
have us leave her. Agnes will
be here a little longer any-
way. I don't know how much
longer.

I hope you have decided
about which is the worst! Conell
or St. Louis. I am afraid you
will lose your friends if you
don't hurry up. St. Louis seems false
to me.

Love my little darlings

many times from me,
and be my most precious
Beloved One take a Remembrance
from her who loves you
so truly & thinks of you
constantly & is ever
Your own
Percy.

help you in some way. I am
glad to tell him about your
self & then too it may pass
the way & his knowing you &
giving you a Botanical. Garden.
Wouldn't that be just fine!

I am just beginning to feel
the good effects of my change,
and if the long trip back doesn't
tire me out you will be glad that
I am. I do nothing from noon
to night & my mind is a
perfect blank. That ought to be good
for me!

Saw it it dreadful about the picture
Mr. read it in a - night's paper which
is yesterday's. I can't read it hardly
want until to-morrow night to see
if the passages are saved.

P.M. Apr. 16, 1912
Tuesday 3. A. M.
Ridgelyton,

My own Lon,
I can't sleep for
thinking of you so must write
you. Your letter seemed so
discouraged, so disheartened
that I feel you are misunderstanding
me & feel that I am staying
away just on caprice &
because I am selfishly thinking
only of myself & not of you &
the children. Indeed it is not.
That my darling. The reason
I altered my plan about coming
home on Saturday, is that

just place was that I was un-
well & knew I should have a miserable
journey & be worn to a frazzle
instead of able to have a happy
meeting with you & the children.
on the second place Aunt Anna
was very ill on Friday. She is
so weak & looks like death when
she is sick, poor soul. Then
on the third place I had
left on Saturday I should have
brought Dorothy home with
me & that I didn't think it wise
to do at this time.

About postponing now my
return until the Thursday that
that is just because of this
invitation of Mrs Wilson. It is

a great temptation and I
know I should regret not seeing
the old cemetery, the only place
the opportunity of perhaps making
friends & your leaving ~~and~~
Portsmouth under your own.

I do wonder what you have
decided about going to St.
Louis. I felt that you had
given it up until the letter
in which you speak of leaving
in order to make a move
somewhere. I must admit I felt
relieved when I thought you
were not going to St Louis
for, for no reason at all,

I feel afraid of the St.
Louis proposition.
You however know better
than I for you are in
touch with every thing & whatever
you decide I shall be perfectly
happy to do. It is only the
surprise which is troubling.
So go ahead & do whatever
you think is the right thing
& let's have it over.

With all my heart I
love you old Suet, and I
must crawl back to bed
now. You don't know how I miss
you & how many times I have cried
myself to sleep & been so blue
with our sweet little kiss to you
& many to my children in your ^{madness}.

April 22nd 1912.

My dear Lou

I was so glad to have your letter this morning. I can imagine what a time you had trying to decide about the position, whatever way you decided. I hope will be for the best. Of course we would be glad to have you nearer us, but would want you to do whatever would be best for yourself & family. I suppose Marie has returned & you & the children are happy. I am so glad they had a glorious time at Easter, think you must have enjoyed it too. It is mighty good of you to take charge of them, for so long too. No Louise did not send a card from Geneva, at least I did not receive one. I expect she was too full of play to write & I would not have expected it of her. I hope Marie was much benefited by her visit, tell her she must try to find time to tell me about it, but I think she will be working now to make up for lost time.

The sinking of the Titanic was a terrible thing,

we have read a great deal about it. I said to your
father "I wonder what Ben thinks of safety on a
steamer now?" I think it was a pity to have so many
women & children to be widows & orphans & dependent
on charity.

We reached home from our trip Saturday on the 9.30
train, had such a time getting a conveyance home, finally
Frank Stewart sent over for his 4 mule wagon to bring
us up, there had been rains every day or night & the
road was in terrible holes, sometimes I could think the
4 mules would not get through but we reached home
about 1 o'clock, right hungry & tired, & sand which
having been our breakfast, not even a cup of coffee, but
I will come back to that presently, will return to the day
we left home, Saturday week. We expected to leave in the
morning & be in Auburn at 8 P.M. but your father was
sick & Ed had not come so I thought we would not go,
I wonder if I wrote you this - well only how we got off
at 7 P.M., spent the night in Selma & went on to
Auburn Sunday morning. With only a 10 minutes stop at
Montgomery we reached Auburn at 10.30. A Mr. De

one to meet us so we walked up to the hotel to
inquire if there was services at the Episcopal church
intending if there was to go right there & to Freds after
wards, there we met Mrs. Sellers, he planned to the house,
the last load was leaving for church, in the mean time
the agent seemed to remember our telegram (sent the
night before) & sent it to Fred at the baptist church,
he came over & offered to take us up to the house but I
told him no, I wanted to go to church, as there was no
services at our church he asked us to go with him & we
did so, & now comes the queer part - When he first wrote
inviting us he said Fanny joined in the invitation to us, so
of course I expected at least a kind reception from her but
instead (she was seated in church & Frederic took our in)
she gave me the most indifferent shake of the hand (of
course I did not expect her to kiss me there) & said not
a word of welcome, after church I was put in the carriage
with her & she took no more notice of me than if I had
not been there, when we got out at the gate she did not
say "come in" or anything but I went along with the
crowd. Mrs. Camp was very kind & cordial & took me to my
room. Fanny never came near or spoke a word to me all
day, sometime after supper she came & sat on the same
side of the room with me but did not make a remark.
I thought I would meet her more than half way by asking

something about her last summer's trip, she had better
to say & presently left the room & did not return to say good
night. I did not know what to think of her conduct. It
knows does nothing to her but I decided not to notice it &
to get all the pleasure I could out of Fred & the children's
company, but they had not much time from their lessons.
Well, she kept up perfect indifference to me all the time I
was there. When I would be in the sitting room she would
go out on the front porch & if any one proposed my going
out there, she would go in. I don't know whether I was
right to make my visit out or not. I felt very much like
leaving but I knew that would hurt Fred. Whenever I
had a chance I was pleasant to her, but I think now
I should have asked her why she acted so, that story teller
Ernest Bailey may have written her something.

I found the children much grown, & the boys much
improved. Frances is there & still has that dreadful skin.
Margaret has been so delicate that they stopped her from
college. She is a very careful girl, straightens up the house,
helps her father with his papers, (keeping them in order)
looks after the yard, & flower garden &c. &c. She will have a
teacher come to the house to give her lessons that she may
catch up & be ready to enter college next session.
I went over the new agricultural building, Fred has a large,
airy, & well furnished office, the dairy is nice, & the green

houses small but there were some nice plants, not many flowers.

Yours Father went over to Birmingham Tuesday morning, was not much pleased at the meeting & went down to Montgomery Thursday evening. Alamy was not at the convention. Fred went with me to Montgomery (he had business there) Friday morning. Your Father met us & we went to Dr. Shippen's office where we had to wait until nearly dinner time, then he examined my eyes, fitted glasses & we went to the jeweler to have them fixed, then to the hotel to dinner, the afternoon was spent on the street, at Rose mount gardens, & the moving picture show, your Father was very much amused, I liked it too. At 8 p. M. we were to leave for Selma but the train was 1 1/2 hours late, we waited at the depot. When we reached Selma we found the Arcade crowded had to take a room in this 'annex' several squares away, expected to go over to the Arcade to breakfast but at that time the rain was pouring down, (the last part of a storm that came up before day) so we hailed a hack that was on the street & went right down to the depot without breakfast, your Father said we would get it in the hotel room but by the time we got there he was out of the nation, about train time brought a sandwich a piece, he is a terrible man to travel with now — We boarded the train in a hard rain & oh! the

water we did have to come through! After passing
Hammadales I looked out & Cotton Wood creek was like
a river all over the Walker fields, all were planted.
Now you must not think I had no pleasure in the
visit there was much to enjoy. When I said good bye to
Fanny I wish you could have seen her she put out her
hand & threw her head away back, she said not have been
so stiff, I did not intend to offer her a kiss, but invited
her to come to see us. I don't think I had thanks for it.
She wanted the family genealogy & one of the few times
she spoke to me was to ask me while I was waiting
for Fred, to get it for her. This will be my last visit to
Fred unless she makes some explanation or apology, don't
you think I am right. I don't know whether I should
have written this, but just could n't help it. I have no
unkind feelings towards her, just think she is foolish.
The bushes are full of roses but the rain has injured them
so much, one bush is almost turned over by the weight
of roses & the wind together.
I hope your decision has been made & that you have a quiet
visit at last. Father writes with love in much love to you
all, kisses the children for me. Your devoted
My glasses suit so well & will
be a great comfort I think. Mother.

PM AP. 23 (?) 1912



Thursday -

My own sweet Love & Friend, I am

sitting here in the sweet morning
in thinking of you and loving
you, and wishing we were together.
Perhaps this is the last letter
I shall write you from Bluffton,
or perhaps one to-morrow. And
then Monday morning I will be

with you! Aunt Lucia seems
better. She is quite weak, however.
I have lots of funny little things
to tell you when I get home.

I head the long trip home close
I leave here Saturday morning for Methuen
& don't reach you until Monday.
I long to see my dear little Bessie
and Louie again, and only
wish I could bring them home
with me. I have some things from Savannah.

We are going crabbing after
dinner. This is a lazy easy life
which makes a pleasant change
but I could never stand to live

down here.

I am going to leave this note open
hoping to hear from you. The one mail
a day gets here about five or six o'clock
in the evening. Last night I didn't have
any letter from you.

I don't sleep very well down here, I
think I must be overcome! Every night I put
myself, Bougie lying in a dear little
boat, Louis with her long black lashes,
& dear old you. I wish you could all
have had this trip down here with
me. Auf wiedersehen, old sweet!

Mama calls to Christian Pui!

Thursday morning - your sweet, darling letter
has come giving me an inkling of
some of your thoughts. You are such
a precious old being that you deserve
the sweetest wife in all the world -
wherefore you shall have me! - but perhaps
not until next week! I will write you definitely
to-morrow. I am crazy to come to you -
much as I hate to leave Daddy & Grace. You
are my own love, and my True Love - I am
Yours very devotedly to your sweet persons.
Kiss Louis & Bougie many times for their Mamma.

Please & Anne
 to come & begin
 If it is very warm
 let Anne wear
 her velvet coat
 to school & her
 white straw hat
 with the white roses,
 else coat & hat
 to school
 Anne has a
 pretty little
 coat just made
 in the street
 trade, I hope
 you can help
 give, if you don't
 mention it
 with all my love

through, that you are not
depressed over the falls & not
getting more work done in
your vacation & the condition
of the children's wardrobes.
I was as long as to return that
perhaps it is better for me not
to forget the nurse. But don't
be surprised if I don't have
to return. There are enough
depressing things here and as
Aunt Lucia is worse I may
not be able to get off on Valentine's
boat. In case of her death
Mamma can't bear to think
of my going. In case I don't

leave on Saturday's boat there is no
boat until Tuesday so I would reach
home Thursday morning. I can't go by
Henderville as it costs too much.

I have still a bad cough &
everyone thinks I should stay down
here until I get rid of it, but I
am homesick & long to be with you
& the children - only I need cheering
& not depression. If you can make
ends meet at all this year you ^{will}
ought to be happy & next year I
am satisfied that the only thing
to do is to take a little flat &
retire from the world - or I can
bring the children down here to board
& we can save something & not have
to worry.

I shall try to send you a telegram
via Hawaii by the captain of the boat
on Saturday provided I cannot get
away.

But you old darling thing I am
going to make a big effort to "get away."
You are a dear sweet darling to me, so good
& considerate & thoughtful & I love you &
smash. I won't have any more where I see
you Monday morning. With all my love. Alice.