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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.

Sept 12, 1893

Dear Ben -

Had I not been so busy since my return from Mt. S. I should have written you at length. Our last letter from Mr. Fins had said he hoped you would come by Washington - but I can't help thinking that to go by Chicago is the opportunity of a lifetime. So you may also visit Chicago & then go by way of Washington. Why Dad is so anxious I do not know.

When I left home for Mont. I concluded that as Wase was so uncertain, that it would be best for me to have the money with me & send it to you by D+B - or Mr. Glenn.

We had a tough time in Montg. - as regards some matters - The Election of Mr Ross was made unanimous & Prof W. as 2nd act at an increased salary - was a kind of compromise - I hope that all may be well. Some of the Trustees besides myself have an inkling of how things are going - I was only afraid of a break and settling on a Northern man. I am more interested in the future of the Agric. Dept. than any thing else, & I hope J. F. may keep up & hold himself in readiness -

As if called on he may be prepared.

Miss Grace's death was a sad one to the entire neighborhood. She was not prepared to withstand so severe a shock of her nervous system & succumbed almost without a struggle.

Ware, on invitation of Sal Coleman of Painesdale, agreed to room with him at Mrs Edmonds' - but I think any where was better than the Hotel for him, altho I should have preferred his staying at Doct. Anderson's.

Last Sunday they had a big Baptizing at

This Church - 13 in number, Bob - Davis.
Allen, Tom, Walter - Willie - Katy - Bubb &
Woody Davis - one of the King girls - &
the two Reddings - .

I have not visited The Station - Since you
left it - nor have I heard much about it.
Put your money about you in separate
places so if your pocket is picked, it
may be only a partial loss - & be on yr
guard - Hope you may have a good time.
Go Father - A.D.

Leaf
enclosed with
Sept. 12, 1893
letter



Sept 12th 1878

My dear Son

I enjoyed your nice long letter this morning, wish I could give you such a one in return but I have only time to write a note. I have been sewing hard all day finishing up Waver's work & doing some for Lewis, it is now after supper. I am afraid Waver will not find you in Auburn, and very sorry he did not leave today as he first intended. It was well the money was sent you, Waver so suddenly decided to remain a day longer at home. I send the sheets, and sorry they are not real new ones, when I went to the wardrobe for them I found the new ones were on the bed or in wash. I suppose you will furnish your own bed. I will not send the blanket on the uncertainty of finding you in Auburn. I am glad

you will see the Fair, the five days will be
a very short time to stay. I expect Fred wants
to see you & give some of his fatherly advice.
We will not write again until we think you
are in Cambridge. I do hope you will have a
safe & pleasant trip, don't wear yourself out
right seeing, you will not have time to take
in every thing. I hope Mr Hoare will go with
you it is as much more pleasant to have a
friend along. Waver will give you the neighbor
hood news. Aunt Lucy, Elizabeth & Kate Bethune
dined with us Sunday, came over to the baptism,
13 went under the water, Grace's death frightened
a good many into the church. It is nearly
bed time, good night, with much love from
us all, & our best wishes for your safety &
success, ever

Yours devoted

Mother.

Sept 20th 1898.

My dear Lou

I can't tell you how glad I was to receive your card yesterday morning & know you had arrived safely in Chicago, this morning your letter came, & we greatly enjoyed it, I did not think you would have time to write more than a postal but I expect the Sunday morning's rest was much needed. I am very sorry we did not know there was a chance of a letter reaching you at the Fair, would certainly have written you. It is a pity you were alone but I hope you met some acquaintances, if we had only known in time we would have written of Alice Duggan & Bessie Stewart being there, maybe you ~~you~~ "stumbled on them" somewhere. Since your letter I regret more than ever that all the boys could

not go, but times are so hard just now,
maybe there will be another World's Fair
in reach before very many years & then
perhaps they can attend. From your letter I
suppose you will leave Chicago about today,
you did not say that you would go to
Washington so I will address this letter to
Cambridge, ~~the~~ it may have to wait there
for you.

I am feeling very lonely today, Lewis left last
night. I miss my boys so much! Ruben
too seems to feel at a loss without the boys,
he is going tomorrow night to a dance given at
Farmdale to Mary Bringe. Nina's Bethel
was thought very ill Monday morning, we
have not heard from her since that
time. We have had only a postcard from Waver
since he left. I am glad it so happened
that you could get the chests, I did not
think you would wait a day just to get
them, thought you would have left Montgomery
before Waver arrived. I hope when this reaches

Sept 20, 1893

you, you will have secured comfortable lodgings, don't get too far away from the College, remember the cold walks this winter. If you see Fred do write me how he looks & if he has changed much, somehow I feel as if he is not the same Fred he used to be, no, he never will be to me!

Mr Cobbs, Grand Mother, Uncle Waver & Uncle Ben dined with us on Sunday. I was as glad Service's last Sunday at home happened to be service day, I think we all enjoyed the services & Mr Cobbs' good, earnest, sermon was well attended to by the congregation, a good many were out. Uncle Ben says his John is so full of new notions now that he does not enjoy the services at Fannadale as he did here that day.

The boys, Allen Collins at the head, have been going to the swamp early in the

mornings, (3 or 4 o'clock) to run wild cats,
usually come back having had only a corn
race, Ruben went yesterday morning, they
run, & I believe "tread" three corns, caught only
one, Allen & Taylor furnish the dogs. Last
week there was a big fox hunt, which turned
out a big failure, only one person saw the
only fox that was started, the boys returned
about day tired & hoarse. The Guild meets
here this evening at 4 o'clock so I must be
ready to receive the ladies. I have not told
you how glad I am that you could see the
World's Fair, I know you will remember with
pleasure the time spent there, I hope the
remainder of your trip may be as pleasant as
the beginning & that you may reach your
destination in safety, with much love from
us all

Yours devoted Mother.

if you could get at your trunk.
I will be glad to know
when you are comfortably
fixed, & how you like the
Yankee ways? some of them
I think are good.
Whether your father or
Mother are in the house
or might have come
messing, with much
love I must close
Your devoted
Mother.

Sept 28th 1898.

I wrote to you on the 20th addressing
the letter to Cambridge, hope by this time you have
received it as I reckon you feel as if you would
like to hear from home, if we had known in
time that you would stay so long in Washington
we would have addressed the letter to Fred's care.
I am very glad you had such a pleasant visit
there & to Chicago, you have been quite a traveller.
Did you meet any one you knew at Chicago?
Willie Browder met so many acquaintances, Miss
Mary Taylor, the Harolds & others. I wrote you
Lorine Sprague had gone on, & Alice expects to
go, she wrote a pitiful letter to "Granddaddy"
& wound up by asking him for money to go, of
course Mother sent it. I am so sorry we could not
send Waver & Lorine.

I expect you are having very cool weather now.

the nights & mornings are very cool with us, in fact yesterday a thick dress was comfortable all day, your Father & myself spent the day with aunt Melville, my first visit to them, & they have been there three weeks, but the roads were so rough we waited for the wagons to smooth them down a little. Dr Stewart dined there too was sent for to see one of Mrs Profflet's cows, he says he & Mr Benton can't keep house as you did. Mr Barnes found his house in a much dilapidated condition, the underpinning had given away & the house had sunk a great deal in places, that caused all the plastering to crack & I never saw such a sight as it is, they have had blocks put under the house & are covering the back rooms which leaked badly, then comes the plastering, sister Sally feels as if they would never get through. They have covered kitchen, out house & several cabins, have several more to cover, Mr Profflet just let everything go to ruin, even the fence around the yard was gone & one or two wagon

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loads of dirt & rubbish were hauled out of the yard, I never heard of such carelessness & indifference to surroundings. I hope he will attend better to his present business than he did to that place. Elmer teaches Lucy, Fanny & Darry.

We received your letter from Washington also your postal. I was much obliged to you for taking the time to write.

Reuben was at your Uncle John's Monday, the girls were to leave that evening for Truckee, your Uncle John & aunt Bessie speak of making a visit to Texas some time in October.

Reuben spent the night with "The", he & Brook expect to clear 1500 dollars this year, I can't believe it tho'. The helps Uncle John on his place for which he pays him 20 dollars a month. The young men & boys take a fox hunt tonight, expect to have 28 dogs, they have had several

lately but have not caught a fox.

Bob Collins says he has rented Mrs Woody Collins' house, lots below & pasture, & will open that little store there, but there is no believing Bob, a short time ago he came to see your Father about the red store, told him he & Charly would rent it, would begin fixing it up right away, that was the last of it. Mrs Woody will move back to the Tayloe place & work for his Father, he can't run a place himself.

Mrs Dickinson will be married on the 10th of October to Miss King, as he told Mrs Collins. He flirted with Lizzie but she did not seem to mind it, told it herself.

I heard from the boys a few days ago, they were well, Lizzie was made 1st Lieut in Co A, did not say whether he had decided to work in the laboratory or with Prof Tancey.

If you have to furnish your own bed don't you reckon you might rent some blankets? it will be expensive to buy as many as you will need, I am so sorry I did not send yours by Wave, had no

October 5th 1893

My dear Son

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed your letter today, the train was late owing to a "wash up" on the L & W so Reuben spent most of the morning waiting for the mail but was rewarded by getting your letter & one from Fred, however they may have come from Selma last night. There was a terrible storm on the coast Sunday, much damage to property & many lives lost, we had a heavy rain & some wind here, I suppose cotton was much injured & some planters were fearing their ~~new~~ low land corn would be overflowed but I have not heard that any was hurt.

I am glad you are fixed with a room & hope your companion may prove a pleasant one, but doesn't it seem high rent! & then have to rent

furniture too, how I wish I could fix your room up comfortably for you, will Prof Barnwell not remain there this winter? If board & other expenses are in proportion to room rent I think your savings will melt away - Certainly you should get a good praying place when you get through I expect the weather with you is beginning to get chilly, I had fire this morning until about eleven o'clock. I suppose you have to pray for your coal too & winter weather will last I suppose about six months. I will be glad on your account when it is over.

I had a letter from Lewis a few days ago, he said Prof Tracey did not want you to go by Washington for the thought you might get some place there. Lewis works with him now, I am glad he gave up work in the laboratory, he is so reckless about handling things that I feared to trust him with acids, gases &c, don't think that kind of work would suit him at all, he was made for out door work, Your Father has

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decided that as tickets to the Worlds Fair are down to 18.00 he will send Wave & Service, we are puzzling our brains as to how is the best way for them to get together, will have to decide quickly as time is short, the ~~xxx~~^{L & C} will give tickets from Meriden for 17.55 I think it is. There has been much talk of a party going from here on Wednesday, the Smiths, Miss Lou Bowden & others but they seem unable to decide positively about the trip. Minnie went Tuesday with a party from Des Moines. We are much obliged to you for all you told of your trip, I think the information will help the boys. Fred says he has his commission in his pocket, spends a good deal of time house hunting, has written Mrs Camp to go to Shannon to pack his & her furniture, the latter will go to Columbus, he does not say so, but I suppose the old ladies

will go to him, I wonder if Mrs Gageby can stand
that climate.

Bobbie Collins after promising your Father 75.00
rent for the seed store, went to Selma yesterday &
bought goods to open store at Mrs Woody Collins'
store "Bermuda Bell". Mrs "C W" said Woody should
not rent the house, store & fixtures to Bobbie, I
don't know how they arranged it but the goods
have passed here today. Woody wants to move
back to the Tayloe place & have his Father take
care of him, he needs some one to do it. Pearson
has at last heard from his examinations he is
on the list of "eligibles". Sometimes he says he is
going to California but I hardly think he will.
He is going on a crow hunt Friday night, hunted
all night long with Tayloe some nights ago, caught
two opossums & a crow, Tayloe has at last
consented to go to "Mrs C W's" tutor & his father
will bridge the canal in his field, to facilitate
his progress, makes the way shorter. Julia, the
girl I had the first of the year, asked leave to

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returns to us, with her help I have been weeding
the raspberries in the garden, you never saw
such a place, but I will finish this evening, the
weeds are taller than a man & the limbs of the
raspberries have fallen over & taken root, I carry
a knife to cut my way through them. The grapes
look badly in much dry weather & then the
worms.

Is the house you are in devoted entirely to the
use of students? My idea was that rooms would
all be furnished with everything but sheets &
towels. Well! I do hope you will keep well & that
after this you will be nearer home. Tell us all
about yourself every detail will interest us. Now
I must close & try to get this to the office tonight.
With much love from us all ever

Your devoted Mother.

P. I Uncle Waver & Grand Mother were well at last
accounts. This is our 29 anniversary -

October 11th 1893

My dear Son

I certainly was glad to hear from you this morning, will answer right away that the paper may be returned, they certainly leave a great deal of room about every thing but as you say I suppose it is necessary, there are so many to deal with & their characters are unknown. It is right funny to be numbered isn't it.

I am so glad your room mate is an excellent fellow" & an Episcopalian, my poor child's departure from our faith makes me very solicitous for the others, he would never ^{have} gone astray had he been more with his own denomination & I believe more firmly than ever, that we should keep to our own churches & with our own people.

From what you say I suppose you are not taking meals at the "dining parlor", you have mentioned

lunches, when does dinner come or do you have
only lunches on Sunday? I wish too Reuben
could have gone to the Fair with you, he is the
very one to see the sights but seems to have no
ambition that way. I offered to give him 15 or 20
dollars & your Father said he would help him
too but he does not care to go. He went to Mr
Smith's Monday to take charge until their
return, the little boy was left at home with an
aunt of Mrs Smith, as Reuben will not be home
come, I am the, last night when we came home
the old house looked as still & lone some.

After a good deal of writing to & from the boys we
thought we had better all fix to leave for
Chicago Tuesday evening, arriving about the same
time the Gallows party would reach there (Wednesday
evening) We could get nothing definite from Wave
as we telegraphed him through Capt Riggs, our
man was drunk & that was the only way to
reach him, no answer came, your Father pressed
& found fault with Wave, I made all allowances

Oct. 11, 1893

for detained letters & dispatches &c., prepared as lunch & your Father was to take it over on the uncertainty of meeting him in Selma, as I would have been at home alone I decided to go as far as Uniontown & spend the day so off we went yesterday morning early to the depot, waited & waited but no train, finally we heard there was a wreck near Points Lake (one of the L & W trains that have been running over this road since the bridge on their road was as much injured by the storm) after about three & a half hours delay the regular passenger came along, the party for Chicago & ourselves boarded the train & off we went, all in high glee. The Smiths, Miss Low, Susie, Mrs Richardson, & Bobbie (the latter had declared he would not go with Susie) composed the party. On arriving at Selma your Father found Waver had

been waiting there all night, & was wearing
his cadet suit, as he smoothed down his feathers
arranged his matters & saw them leave at
half past three o'clock. Well! to go back, I wrote
Saturday a long letter of advice & instructions to
Levie, enclosing a draft for 45.00, thought he
would leave Sturbeville last night but lo &
behold when we arrived at Gallien ^{last night}, a dispatch
was handed us from him, "our party will
leave Thursday, I have 20.00, please send
more" we were struck dumb, of course he had
not received the registered letter as we dispatched
at once, draw on "Parent & Robertson for what
you want", fortunately there was some money
there to your Father's credit. This morning we
hoped to hear of the missing letter but no
tidings yet. The draft could not be used but I
hate Levie to miss my letter & the one from you
giving some useful hints about the Fair.
I hope he will meet Waver somewhere, we told him
him to go to the Lafayette House as the Gallien

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pretty expect to stop there but may change their
minds. Of course I went to Mrs Warren's, they were
in much trouble about Willie who they say is
very sick, all looked as worn & anxious that I was
very sorry for them, it seemed as real pleasure to
them to have me tho' I did not see Willie.

All made many inquiries about you & sent
all sorts of messages about your never going to
see them. I think they were really heart at it
& you must not do as any more. Miss Patey
said she had begged on you as much, & called
you her boy & to think of your never going to see
them!! I met Mr Stickney there, he talked very
reasonably of giving up his home, says the burden
(debt) is too heavy for him, he must get rid of
it, said he did not know where he would go but
must sell the place.

Reuben was at Larnville Sunday, Lucy had
recovered from her spell of chills, the covering of

the house was completed & they were anxiously
 awaiting the pleasure. Mr Fowler & Mr Welch
 asked particularly about you also Mr Thompson.
 Mr Dickinson & bride (Miss King) came on the train
 with us last night were married between 6 & 7 o'clock
 in Marion I think, spent the day in Salem & went to
 "Mrs C W's" last night, quite a tour was it,
 however she had previously been to the World's Fair,
 he was meant to let her take the trip & then take
 her. Oh Ben! I do miss you so much, those fortnight-
 ly visits were as refreshing to me, I almost wish this
 winter would gallop by - Don't study closely enough
 to injure your health, that is the first consideration.
 I have written a long letter but I feel as if you
 will be interested in all our affairs, as well as
 the neighborhood generally & I don't want you to
 lose your interest in us & our surroundings.
 I must close now & send this to the store, your
 letter was only 2 days & nights on the way, perhaps
 not that, may have come on the train with us last
 night, the mail is not opened until morning.
 With much love & warmest prayers for your safety I

are ever
 your devoted
 Mother

October 18th 1898.

My dear Lou

I was so sure there would be a letter from you today that I sent Jerlew down to the office but there was only a circular, no letters at all. I hoped also to have at least a card from the boys but none came. Warr sent us a card on the 12th saying he arrived safely in Chicago that morning, had taken a ride on the elevated railroad, been to the Midway Plaisance & had seen some interesting things elsewhere. Lewis wrote a card on the 10th, the morning he left college, & I have not had a line since. In his party there were 15 boys & two instructors, as the Gallien party could not get in at the Lafayette Homes where Lewis was to join them I am afraid the boys have not met. Lewis' ticket was only 15.00. Miss Lou Boarden was to stay with relatives, agreed to meet her party at a certain place the morning after they arrived, she went & looked & waited, but could see nothing of them, said she did not expect to see them any more. Minnie writes she is having a glorious time with the friend of her Mother she found living in Chicago, also met an old beau, none of them speak of the cold weather, we thought it must be very cold there, we have enjoyed

no one here but my self, got boys, with much love
Your devoted Mother.

fires for a good many days, it is warmer tonight, how is it with you? Did you get the paper? I told your Father I knew you would hate to receive such a bad looking envelope, he was in too much of a hurry to make one, we had one large one in the house. I had a short letter from Fanny Sunday, which I had not destroyed it would send to you to read, she said they had rented a flat, three rooms, thought it would be cheaper than keeping house in Hyattsville, they would have a gasline stove for cooking, which, I suppose, Fanny would do, as she said they would keep no servant, I reckon the rooms are warmed by flues, for she said there would be no fires to make & no rough work as they would not need a servant. Yesterday a letter (half a sheet) came from Fred, he said he had not heard from us for so long that he was uneasy about us & asked me to write at once, I did as best might, he also asked for your address. I have written as regularly as usual to him, don't know what has become of the letters. Reuben was here Sunday morning for clean clothes, went back to Mrs Smiths to dinner, we had aunt Melville Uncle Harris, the two children & nurse, Mr Colbs & Mother. I was as glad to see them all, in the evening Mrs Joe Collins called. Mr Colbs gave notice that a convocation would be held in our church beginning on the 15th of Nov. the Bishop will be present part of the time. This morning early your Father

was sent for to see Bessie Gwatthey, she was very sick indeed, he remained all day with her, left her better but says if she is not very prudent she may have another attack & that she will not be able to stand it, he thinks she has an ulcer in her stomach, vomited a great deal of blood, they were all terribly frightened; it seems they had a great burnt yesterday up there, all sorts of nice things were taken to the woods for dinner & Bessie ate very freely & quite a mixture, altho she knew she had suffered much lately from indigestion.

Well! my eyes are about to give out I must finish tomorrow maybe your letter will come by that time. I feel as if this one is very disconnected, for a wonder your father is not reading, or writing, & will talk to me, good night —

Thursday — You can't imagine how much I enjoyed your nice letter received this morning. I am very glad you keep well & that the weather continues pleasant, you certainly find Yankee ways quite different from ours, it is well you can adapt yourself to them so easily (I believe it should have an a) I find I am becoming very forgetful as to how certain words are spelled & the more I think of it the more confused I am. It was very nice of Dr Goodale to invite you all to his house, & treat you so nicely but I don't think I would very much enjoy a nice corner dinner, at that house, if I did I would spend a sleepless night I know. The Gymnasium may be very good exercise but I would not depend entirely on that but

go out some in the fresh air when the weather is good. Have you
a sleeping room & a study room too? are they swarmed by flies or
gnats? It seems very strange to ~~live~~ ^{live} in the same house with
persons & not to know even their names.

Not a line yet from our travellers, I think by this time they
must be turning their faces homeward & I will soon have ~~a~~ letters.
Levie said he expected to write a volume on his return, I don't
think even the sights at Chicago would influence Waver to fill a
sheet. I don't think I ever told you that Carrie May Spencer is at
some school in Boston, you know who she is, Flora Spencer's daughter,
she graduated in two schools but her Father wishing to keep her from
being sent her to Boston.

Well! this is Fael's first housekeeping day in Washington, I wonder
if Fanny gave him a nice dinner of her own cooking, I would like
to take a peep at them, he has never said whether the old ladies
would go on to them but I suppose they will & Mrs Camp will help
Fanny cook. There is no snow in the country every thing as quiet as
possible. I heard from our young ladies this morning, Willie was up but
Miss Patey had fever. Bessie was to send word if she was not
improving, as no messenger has come we conclude she is better.
This is a long letter but if ~~it is~~ ^{it is} ~~broken~~ ^{broken} ~~does~~ ^{does}, there is

October 23th 1893

My dear Son

I certainly enjoyed your letter this morning, it came along with one from Fred, just as dinner was ready, but it had to wait until the letters were read, housekeeping must be good for Fred judging from his letter, not longer, but more as if he felt some interest in what he was doing, Fanny must have been busy about house work & he had time to think of what he was doing. I am so glad you have a chance to enjoy the good weather out of doors sometimes, those botanical hunts must be pleasant this beautiful weather we have had, it is warm enough tonight to sit with doors open & no fire.

I expect they will allow you to become a candidate for a degree, they will find out what a good student you are & will help you along. So far I think the Professors have been very polite to you,

I don't suppose you enjoyed the tea very much,
well it was served in such small cups, that
reminds me, do you get any milk to drink?
if not I reckon you miss it very much. I hope
you will get along well with your several lady
pupils, I wonder if any are ancient misses, such
as you liked as much in Minnietown, did you
mean to say the College or rather University pays
you 100 an hour for the help you give the ladies?
some little help to you isn't it?

Reuben sent our mail up this morning as the
evening he rode up to hear what you & Fred
had to say, Mrs & Mrs Smith will not return until
about Friday or Saturday, the rest of the party
returned Sunday evening, Minnie with them. I have
not heard much of their trip except that Hobbes
said they had a big turn. Minnie looked very
much sunburnt. Reuben stays quite close with
the old lady & the little boy, he says he is the
worst chaps he ever saw.

Sunday night just before train time a dispatch
came from Gordon that his grand Father was dead,

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& that his body would be on the morning's train from York, Fanny & Jimmy came with it, the funeral services took place that evening (Monday) at three o'clock, Mrs Bobbs was telegraphed for & came, stopped here just after a very good dinner had been cleared off & given out but I fixed him up something which he ate in a hurry & went round to the church, the cart was ready for us to go to the house & join the procession when Mrs Woody Collins sent in letters for your Father to go to his boy, I then went around to the church. your Father did not return in time for the services. The ladies of the Guild decided to send the broken window to New York to be repaired, it fell to my lot to attend to the taking out, & assist in packing the window. I am now superintending the clearing up of the yard, hired Richard Fletcher to do it, am having all the weeds & bushes cut, piled up, & burnt, for fear of

careless was I went over to see to the burning of some of the trees this morning, will go again tomorrow, must have a good job, it has been a long since any thing has been done there.

I intended to tell you about Mr Gordon's death, he had a chill but the Dr said he was doing well, ~~needed~~ ^{needed} no more medicine, about 4 o'clock in the morning he took a little toddy, turned over to go to sleep as they thought, some time afterwards they went to him & found he had been dead some time, the boy who was in the room said he heard him take a long breath, that must have been his last, poor old man he had little to live for, since his wife's death he must have been very lonely.

How would you like a Montgomery paper sometimes or have you time to read papers? Our little church paper had some good pieces this week. Who is your minister, & have you made his acquaintance? I would advise you to do so, he would feel some interest in you & if you should be sick might be some help or comfort. Since Mr John's return from the summer school he has so many high church

Oct 25, 1893

notion that most of his parishoners would gladly give him up. I hope he wont express any of his high notions when he come down here to conversation. I am getting quite a driver, have been out ~~two~~ evenings in the buggy, take Julia along to open gates, or to jump out if any thing should happen, yesterday I took my butter to the depot, then ~~around Mrs~~ Strivers as visit, think I must take the cows before this good weather is over.

I have not had a line from the boys since their return to college, Lewis wrote once from Chicago, said he was pleasantly situated in a hotel near the grounds, his room overlooked the lake, I think I mentioned his party consisted of 15 boys & two instructors. Minnie said Waver only saw Lewis once, Waver kept close to Mrs Smith I think. I hope Waver will favor us soon with an account of his travels. I reckon they are busy making up their lost time. Mr Joe Scott is to be married tonight at Oak

grove church, all the young men have gone over to witness the ceremony, most of the "white folks" sent him some little present.

We had quite a misfortune the other night our only pig laid down & died so good bye to arcsins of sausages, spurs ribs, & chins - from him any ~~more~~ Your Father sold 5 head of cattle last week for almost nothing, we still have a good many eating their heads off. Sadie sprained her arm, a good excuse for the cows to go back in milk altho' she has "Toad" to help her.

Mrs Charles Collins & Mrs Colburn Allen went to Chicago last Saturday, I don't think Fanny could have smiled upon him or he would have gone with her, she joined the Gallien party at Birmingham. I suppose you have heard from Fred by this time he said he would write to you. I saw Mother Sunday, she was as well as usual, spoke of spending a month in Selma. Alice & Louise did not meet the boys. Well good night, I hope I have ^{not} wearied you, with much love

Your devoted Mother.

Brother Waver says she keeps away from him & she did not ask us about me thought of it. I don't know what they will do with Ben Goss or whether brother Demopolis forgot to say we stopped Sunday evening to see Bessie's friend Harry & Anne there. Bessie has improved very much but I think Harry looks very old & wrinkled, she told me Willie Waver had lost his place, very unfortunate his sickness is from drink & I suppose the firm had to drop him. I pity his poor mother & aunts, all dependant on him they get very little. Leaving I am sorry to think I will not be business with the old ladies but I expected he would I know them as some we want to be helping we will send a paper asking Waver to put us if this is a very circumstantial letter you

to you, would have written today but hoped your father would come home & bring your letter. Ben told me he handed him one on the road this morning, he has been gone all day, it is now seven o'clock & he has not come in as I will wait no longer. There is nothing much to write of, no news or excitement of any kind except that the train ran off the track this morning near Oak the negro fireman was killed, the engineer saved himself by jumping from the engine, accidents on our road are getting too common, this being the second one in less than a month.

The talk of our town has been of the dissolution of partnership between Messrs J. T. & C. W. C., they are selling out their stock (how they say) to close up business. Mr J. C. Collins has bought the real store

& lot (to within 30 feet of the Steele store) from
your Father, will fix up the store nicely & I think
hopes to open by the 1st of Jan. I don't know
what Mr Charles will do, he has not treated
Mr Joe right for some time & the latter is tired
of it. Mr Joe promises to give your Father 400
dollars for the store & lot; we are in hopes after
a while he will want to buy our home, if he
keeps Bobbie with him he might want it.
We have at last had letters from Lewis & Waver
both express themselves as much pleased with
their trip. Waver says none of his party enjoyed it
more than he did, he stood the walking, change
of water, & diet finely, the only trouble seems to be
having back lessons to learn, I know that will be
hard on him. The party teased him a good deal
about being taken for one of the guides, I think
they wear a blue cap like his, several times he
was stopped on the shoulder & asked for directions, he
would turn his head & say in his gruff way,
"I ~~don't~~ know" you can imagine how he did it.
Lewis spent a day in St Louis, stopped over

talks so plainly & is not afraid of any one, calls
me "Daw ma", she is so different from Richard,
he is not at all social now. Sister Sally promises
to stay with us during convocations, I will be as
glad to have her help, as well as company,
preparing dinners, attending church & entertaining
company would be quite a task on me without
any help. If I had some of my handy boys now
they would be a great help.

Yesterday Ruben & I went to Demopolis, there we
met Uncle Waver, he told us Mother had bought
cousin Dottie Vaughan's house & lot, she was at
Mrs Hayden's having papers fixed, seeing a carpenter
&c. She says she wants a house built exactly like
this one, then I wonder what use she will make
of the house that is there, you remember it is
bricks. This is all for Alice's benefit I think, she
has said that if Grand mamma would move to
some town she would stay with her, then I suppose
Mother would leave her the place if she lives
long enough to be fixed there. She is going ahead
on her own hook, consulting none of the family.

time for more than a postcard with love but will try to make up for it after
coming home. With much
love, as ever
Your devoted Brother

Nov 8th 1898.

My dear Son

Your most acceptable letter reached me this morning & I have been hoping to be seated long enough to reply, but it is now three o'clock & I am only beginning my letter. I seldom have a chance to get my letters mailed in the morning as we did in summer, as breakfast & the train come about the same time.

And as you have had freezing weather already, well I am glad you have bought some winter clothes, hope you have good flannels, be sure not to stint yourself in warm clothes. I know your expenses are heavy but those things you must have & if your money gets low we must help you. The weather here is anything but pleasant now, damp, chilly, & cloudy, the we have not had much rain, a bad prospect for giving the church a good cleaning tomorrow as we intended. I think the northern people must be

more hospitable than I expected, they seem kind
to you having mentioned three invitations out since
you have been there. It must be very pleasant to
you to be able to hear so much that is interesting
& improving & if you can stand the climate I know
your time will be profitably spent but I do dread
the cold for you.

With today's mail came a letter from Fred, the
only one in two weeks, their furniture had not arrived,
had been on the way two weeks. They had not
purchased their gasoline stove, were taking meals
at a 15th restaurant, some times cooking some little
thing on the kerosene stove, they are practicing
economy now enough, had attended a cloth sale
& purchased a beautiful piece for an overcoat
which Fanny expects to make, two years ago she
could not dream of any in her dress, or even in
gathers, & now the idea of undertaking such a job
is more than ridiculous, would it you like to see the
cut & fit? may be the by the time she is ready to
make it. Father's camp will be there to help. Fred
has never written us whether the old ladies would

Nov 8, 1893

be with them this winter. I have heard from both Waver & Lizzie this week. Mrs Smith told me Lizzie was looking as thin when she saw him in Chicago. Waver lost some surplus flesh there he says. Mrs Smith & Lizzie came home with terrible colds, are not well over them yet.

Mother worked at the church yard Saturday & Sunday was quite sick, was not out of bed yesterday (Wednesday) when your Father called on his way from Danapolis. I went with your Father Monday to see her she was evidently suffering from cold. She told me Bessie Stewart was quite sick when little Alice wrote. We saw by the papers the death of Mr Stringfellow of Montgomery, both bishops & many ministers were present at his funeral. We were doubtful whether Bishop Jackson would meet his appointment here having heard his wife was ill in Richmond, she must be better as he is in Montgomery. Mr Stringfellow was buried yesterday, & Dr Bailey & Miss Georgia

Charles was married right before last, you know he is very deaf, he had learned the marriage ceremony by heart & when it came to his turn to repeat he got ahead of Dr Harrison which caused a good deal of merriment. I think she must have been much at a loss for a companion to take him.

Reuben went to Genesopolis with your Father, called to see the Michaels. One of the chrysanthemums you gave me is a beautiful white one, the other has not bloomed yet, my common ones are quite pretty but the fine ones are only in bud & I think will be killed before opening. I expect after this we will have cold weather. I ought to trim the grapes I reckon but have not been able to do so, did not you tell me to leave one straight one in the middle, & cut off all limbs but two, leaving only two eyes to them? We had a snow storming them yesterday did not quite get through, I suppose the dampness prevented his return today. It is nearly dark so I must close & try to get this to the office. I know this is a very uninteresting letter but there is nothing of interest to communicate. I may not have time

Gallien, Ala.

Nov 14th 1893 -

Dear Ben -

Your Mother has been & is quite busy this week, as tomorrow she expects much company. You may have been informed thro' previous letters that the Convocation for this portion of the diocese is to be held at St Andrews Ch. - We are told that Dr Harrison & perhaps Mr James (Ministers) will be with us, and how many others to dine & c we can't tell. The Chancel Window has been repaired - in fact made new - & today we had it put in - the church cleaned up - & things in general put in good order - even the Cemetery has had a clearing, which only occurs once every two or three years - Your Mother thought that perhaps her Sister Melville & family might come up this evening - but unfor-

Unfortunately the weather has changed from beautiful Indian Summer to a cold East wind & rain - it is still raining & blowing & by morning the freezing point may be reached.

I had quite a green garden - some German snap beans were blossoming nicely & I had hoped time would allow them to mature. The Chrysanthemums are not as pretty as usual, but ours are so much better than those at Dr. Bowditch & some other neighbors - Miss Lou B. you know generally had very pretty ones - Several of our prettiest have actually perished from excessive dry weather & hot sun.

I hope by this time, you are very well into the merits of your Harvard course. Flewzy writes from his College that their new Commandant is quite strict in discipline. & has recently urged the corps to purchase blue MacIntosh overcoats so as to be uniformed throughout. He seems to be getting on quite well, sometimes his position as adj't brings him in $\$7.00$ per month.

Nov 14, 1893.

We had a letter from Ware also today & really it was the best letter, taking every thing into consideration, that I have ever read from him - Perhaps his extended trip to Chicago has widened his field of vision & increased his resources.

The personal pronoun "I," with him is an absolute part of speech & writing.

We have a fine fat Turkey for tomorrow & many other things too numerous to mention, but we can't come the several special courses that your Boston friends indulge in, when they entertain distinguished ^{Southern} students. If we had our old well drilled servants we could get up as stylish a menu &c as any one in the country. Equalizing the former days of our month. Wednesday will be our dinner day, Thursday is for Capt. Smith, Friday for Mr. Eaton & Saturday Mrs. Robinson Collins, & Sunday Mr. Hatch will have company. The preachers will be surprised.

Your presence would add special pleasure,
but we hope your engagements will truly
occupy your time, which is so valuable.
Fred & his Grand-Mother are enjoying
themselves hugely I imagine in the great
City of Washington, watching the antics
& didoes of the foreign Ministers and
grandukes & fathers. It was sad news & was
actually when we heard that it was agreed
upon for all of them to go to Washington
to live with Fred - but great is a service
Cousin I suppose, & he certainly is a much
mothered man.

The vast change in the complexion
of Politics, New York, Mass - Iowa & Father
was somewhat expected & we think the Dem-
ocrats have been nicely tricked.

Will write you particular later on as
to neighborhood news - & how things develop.
It is late now & wishing & hoping you will
take good care of yourself I must close -
Remember to keep warm & dry feet & avoid
exposure - extremes &c -

Yr Father -

Robert Morris & Co. N.Y.

Wm. S. F. F. F.

Nov 23rd 1898.

My dear Son

This is a cold, dark day & every prospect of worse weather but I have been cheered by your letter, am always so glad to hear from you. I think you must have enjoyed the visit to the coast very much, on the whole I think you have some right pleasant times in Yankee land, there seems to be something of interest or pleasure nearly every week, you certainly have a chance for improvement, I wish we could all enjoy such lectures, the evenings with us are as long & nothing to break the monotony. Ruben goes out procuring hunting & I read & write until my eyes give out then I retire, as a matter of course I rise early, usually about 6 o'clock. Yesterday afternoon I walked up to Mr Joe Collins to a Social meeting thought I would be very tired but I was not. Ruben had gone to Danapolis promising to be back in time to dress me up but did not come & your Father had a patient to see.

Our meeting was to settle up for the window & see if we had money enough to buy wine glasses to protect it we found we had \$10.00 so the wine will be ordered & put up. You have no idea how comfortable the church was after putting in the window & fixing the inside doors so they would stay shut, it looked so pretty lighted up at night & services were as well attended that we were sure there would be no trouble. There were some disappointments we had a very pleasant time. The Bishop was prevented from coming by the illness & death of his wife, all the ministers came during the time but were not all present the first day. I set a long table, 14 seats but only 9 were occupied. Mrs. Cobb, Dr. Harrison, Mrs. Barnwell, Mrs. Smith, Brother Ware & Mrs. Goble were the only guests, I would indeed have been glad to have you, all seemed to enjoy themselves & remained until night service. Mrs. G. - spending the night. Sister Sally was prevented from coming by Lucy's illness, expected to leave her with Mrs. Harris on Sunday & bring Elvira down but an untimely morning put a stop to that arrangement, the sun came out

Nov 29 1893

about tea, & after all, the day was a pleasant one. I think the same cause prevented Bessie & Johnny from coming. I had a splendid turkey & other things in proportion but only Mrs Cobb & daughter & Mr Bailey to dinner. I was interrupted here by company but will tell of them presently. Thursday your Father dined with the ministers at Mr Smith's; Reuben & myself were invited to Mr Hattick's as there was no one with us we went, returning in time to have Mr & Mrs Cobb to tea with us. Friday Mrs Smith invited young people to dinner in compliment to Ralph, Mrs Dan Bow had the ministers. The Cobb girls took tea with us Friday night. Dr Harrison stayed here. We were much pleased with Mr Murray, a man young in the ministry tho' not ~~young~~ years. He preached two splendid sermons, Mr John & Mr Barnwell also, the services were well attended by the neighborhood people few from other parishes, it was rather a strange sight to see our church full. Prudal came to help

with the singing. Sent here I had to stop for dinner
hope now I will be able to finish my letter. The visitors
I mentioned were Louise Birchall, & her two cousins,
children of Mrs Henderson, Beile Vaughan that was,
the girl, (she looks to be about 16) was married only a
short time ago is on a bridal trip, her husband an
Ohio man was with them, there was no fire in the
parlor & "Toad" our horses raised at present made such
a bang of making one, that we took them into the
chamber & I wonder what they did think of things,
your Father had everything lying around as usual
& there was no time to straighten up. I never dreamed
of any one visiting such a day. They appear to be very
matter of fact people, will be with the Michaels until
Thanksgiving day. Your Grand Mother was not able to
attend any of the services, we were to see her Saturday
evening, she was moving about the house but very
weak. Miss Willie Walker was to have been married
& I suppose she was) on Wednesday at St Michaels
church to Mrs South of Wintown, of course you
know him. None of us were honoured with an invitation
not even Ruben, I thought he certainly would have

had an invitation. Mrs Walker was opposed to the
match & never allowed him to go to his home until
the day before the wedding, then she was sick in
bed. Mrs Goble according to her account had the
decorating of the church & every thing to do, helped make
the wedding clothes &c &c. I think they will keep house
in Clinton town, do any of your friends there write to
you? I heard that Willie Warr had lost his place but
afterwards his employers took him back & sent him to the
Keely cure. I do hope for his Mother's sake he will be
benefitted.

Oh me! it is getting colder. I know you will have
cold weather now. Warr's last letter was mostly about
the foot ball team, they play ball more than they
study I think. I wish I had the letter would enclose
to you, sent it to Lewis. I think the letter is lying
today over a nice boy I sent him, good weather for
things to keep. He says the Commandant there is an
old bachelor, slow, cross grained, & exacting, I know it

wishes Lewis to leave as much to do with him. I
think all the slow people should be put into a big
chain & chained. The Advertiser had so little in it
I did not send this week. Well! here comes the letter to
be worked as I must stop, do excuse this disconnected
uninteresting letter. Rembert is waiting to go to the office,
do be careful this cold weather. Foe's Ma, & Grand Ma
are with him, poor fellow I am sorry for him. Write
much love

Your devoted Mother.

Nov 29th 1898

My dear Son

Your very acceptable letter came this morning, I always enjoy your letters. I have thought a great deal of you this last cold spell but you say you do not feel the cold, well! I know the houses are more comfortable than ours & that you need not be much exposed still. I can't help thinking of you, one thing, you have not the sudden changes we have, Sunday we could scarcely keep warm & tonight we hardly need a fire but I think the wind is getting around west & tomorrow may be as cold as Sunday. We will have service tomorrow morning, I hardly think Mr Cobb will remain to dinner he never does on Thanksgiving, dines at home. I think your Father & myself will be all alone, I wrote inviting aunt Melville & family up but have no idea they will come, it will be well for me if they do not.

for Sadie took her bed today & I will have to
hunt some one to cook in her place. I filled it
today. Reuben went this evening to Mrs Torbents to
be ready for an early start hunting tomorrow, they
will hunt on the river, expect to be out all
day, took his dinner along. I am sorry he will not
be at church, the hunt has been talked of for some
time & the others fix ed the day. Mother will hardly
come, we were to see her Saturday evening, she was in
bed, the very cold day the Michaels were out they stopped
at her door, would not get out, she stood there
talking to them some time & when they left she had
to go to bed, it was enough to make her sick, that
was a dreadful day for strong persons to be out.
Your Father went early this morning to Uncle John's.
Sonies is a little sick, he returned at dark having
stopped by to see cousin Carter, he is trying to sell out
what he has & return to Montgomery. Will Joffies is
teaching Chas Wick & Davy at Uncle John's. John is
still in California, seems to be in no business, I don't
know who supports him, don't suppose his Father's credit
extends to California. I heard the church was beautifully

Nov 29, 1913

decorated with chrysanthemums when Miss Willie Walker was married. Champagne flowed so freely at the reception given there by Mrs Davidson that the gentlemen could scarcely get home. My chrysanthemums were much prettier than I expected & at Convocation time I had all the vases full & a pyramid of them on the dinner table, the cold has not killed them all yet I have some very pretty ones for the table tomorrow & several vases besides. The house protects those in the front yard.

Yesterday evening I invited Miss Lou Bowdler to make a visit with me, drove up for her & we went to see Mrs John Walter Collins, met "Mrs Jackson" there, she looks as well now & the little girl is quite pretty. I have heard from both Linnie & Waver this week, nothing from Fred for two weeks, he must help to cook; wrote that Fanny was quite a good cook & liked the gasoline stove very much, when you go to housekeeping you must not lay your

Mother by as completely—

Thursday evening— I must try to get my letter off
this evening but will add a few hurried lines. We
spent a very pleasant day, Aunt Melville & family
came before us, we went to church & then for once
had a nice time until just a few moments ago
they started for home. My Pior happened here last
night as she cooked breakfast & dinner for us, but
I feel rather disconsolate now she is gone & Lizzie
has gone home for her health instead of staying
here for your Father to attend to her. Eliza her
sister is my only help. The Harris family are all
looking well now, the children quite healthy, Rich
amused us a good deal today even much more
than he ever does. Today's mail brought a
letter from Fanny, Fred has not been very well
lately she writes. I must stop now & try to send
this off. I hope some one invited you to a nice
Thanksgiving dinner today, with much love

Your devoted Mother.

Andover Ala
Dec 30/893

Dear Mother

Glad to
receive your letter yesterday.
a very hard rain this morning
kept us from church. many
of the boys go to the Episcopal
church because they get out
earlier. many go to the Methodist
to hear the preacher talk about
football. Our team, boys & town
people went down to Monty.
to see the game, went on a
special for the purpose.

Suppose you saw an account
of the game in the Adventure?

about their descent descent.

Our butlers and maids have been changed 8 times in two months.

The Veterinary Hospital is nearly complete, this is on the campus.

Professor Dr. B. sent father an illustrated catalogue of this college which has lately been gotten out.

Money was so scarce at the treasury that I could not get the check cashed until yesterday having to pay 2000 for collecting Dynamite. Much both finished, please send my reports.

By your sketch over the secret it is to look to write it, to be so write upon my drawing board at the window, with love to all, Yours off son

Dec. 3, 1893

the score was in our favor 40-16.
Tuscaloosa tried to hire 5 men from
Middletown Conn. to play with them
the only reason they did not come was
the Presdt. would not let the men come,
\$200.00 having been sent to pay expenses
down to Tuscaloosa.

Nearly half of the boys went
to Montg. where waited anxiously
for telegrams of the game.
The Spaniard is getting along
seemingly well.

I suppose you will have
plenty of turkey on hand
when Benben returns, with
Irene at home to enjoy it; seen
turkey here only four times.

lies in bed. I think I wrote you New Orleans had brought the red stove & lot - but he has
 trusted you Father about buying it as Mother did about visiting. Total how he wanted it &
 what he would give, your
 Father agreed to his proposal &
 thought the matter was
 settled & the money would
 come out. So forth-coming but
 now we know he has
 wanted the stove he is in,
 from New L. W. & there is
 no depending on any one
 it seems. I must ask you
 to excuse but writing my
 fingers are stiff from hard
 work in the kitchen, good
 night. I take care of you
 my dear boy, with much
 love. Yours devoted
 Mother.

1898.

I fear you will be disappointed again
 Sunday as I will be unable to have this mailed in
 the morning, should have written last night but
 was waiting for your letter which came this evening.
 Reuben went to Demopolis this morning so we had
 no mail until later this evening. I was very glad to
 hear from you, have thought so much of you since
 the very cold change in weather. We had rain
 Saturday night, & Sunday turned very cold, the
 frosts since have been the whitest I ever saw
 fully equal to Tarkenton frosts. I am truly glad
 you have short walks to take & that your study
 is warm, how is it heated & your bed room, is
 that warm too? Fanny says their rooms are warmed
 by hot air, I don't like that, want to see the fire,
 the I know rooms are comfortably heated that way,
 mine was at boarding school. You did not say

what the subject for your special study would be. Fred hopes you will not attempt to take a degree in one year, thinks it will be too much study for you, I expect he is right so don't study yourself to death. I will send you the cotton seed. Fred writes their table expenses including groceries are only 20 dollars a month, I am afraid their fare is rather poor, Fanny cooks two meals a day & I suppose they have cold rippers. Mrs Camp & her Mother are with them.

You asked about Waver's class standing, his last report was pretty good your Father thought, 1 on geology & electrical engineering, 2 on Mechanical engineering & three on three other studies, his letters I think are better than formerly. He wrote his speech & dynamics were finished, I suppose that was a relief to his mind. Auburn foot-ball team played Towhee over in Montgomery on Thanksgiving day, Auburn beat, numbers went from the college & town. I think they are carrying that too far now, the young men had better devote that time to study & then too the game is such a

Dec 7, 1893

rough one, your Father was reading this evening of a
game in Ohio I think it was, a man had his
neck dislocated & died from it. I hope none of our
boys will engage in such sport. I am very much
afraid if a team is gotten up at Stauchville Lewis
will belong to it but I will have a chance to talk
to him at 4 o'clock, he will have 10 days holiday.

Your Father was sent for Monday evening to see Uncle
John he had been in bed several days, suffering
from cold, bad fever, your Father spent the night,
next morning when he was coming back Beanie
put a boy on a horse & sent along with him to
bring me a large bag of fresh meat, a tremendous
shoulder & face, some feet, spare ribs & tenderloin.
From the shoulder I made a nice quantity of
sauce, converted the head into chess sauce & the
ribs are here enjoyed for breakfast & dinner. I
wrote you & Fred had come. Mrs Davis sent me
a backbone the whole length of the hog, also some

cracklings, Mrs Hatch sent carriage & space as
you see we have been feasting on hog. Mrs Harris
enjoyed the carriage we had on Thanksgiving day.
I think I wrote you that Sadie was taken sick the
day before Thanksgiving & has been ever since, I have
Patsey's girl to help Toad (Sadie's sister) milk &
help me in the kitchen but as she has never
cooked I spend most of my time around the
stove & I tell you it is awfully cold making soup
bricuit in the morning. (flow is said to be the
coldest thing I know of) but it is a great help to
have her wash dishes & clean the kitchen. Parker
went on a hunt Thanksgiving day, did not get a
turkey but brought home (after dark) 10 squirrels,
we all had to turn in & skin them, it was the
first time I ever took part in such work, the
quarry killed 60 squirrels. Your grand Mother expects
Alicia & Berrie up soon, I don't think they will
much enjoy their visit as she has no cook & the
roads will be getting bad. While Mother was sick
Uncle Waver sent aunt Harriet, Mother's cook off
Mother is very often sick for days at a time

Dec 14th 1893.

Let from Mrs Shivers & is digging a well, they say he is to be married to a Miss Mundy of Illinois. The lot is down there near the blacksmith shop, bounded on two sides by the road, not a very desirable place I should think.

It is quite late as I must close & get a little fresh air before night. I enclose Shivers but

letter not because there is so much in it - but because you address me a letter from him. With much love

Your devoted

Father.

You sent out return the letter.

I wonder if any of my boys have thought of me on this my 54th birthday, how time flies, faster & faster the older we grow, a year seems so short now, & the weeks literally fly. No letter from you this week but perhaps Reuben will bring one this evening, he has had a terrible cold & ought not to be out in the wet wind which has been very unpleasant all day, altho the sun has been bright & warm, too warm I suppose for those who killed hogs that cold spell. I have so often wished you had some of our nice sausage & back bone, does the northern climate improve your appetite?

Your Father went to Mr Harris' this morning to see a servant I would like to have gone with him but I have some work I must finish before 4 o'clock & could not spare the time, not knowing I would be so much interrupted. I put off making two dressing gowns for Lewis & Waver until lately, & I have been sewing every spare moment & until late at night, to get on with them, have nearly finished, but have some dressers to make for Lewis to take back with him, I hardly keep my seat half an hour at a time. Sadie has not yet returned & the help I have need so much looking after & reminding, however, Mary, who cooked for us many years ago was here today & promised to return tomorrow to cook until Sadie is well. Another woman has been here three times to see us about the place for next year but I don't

think we will take her, for all we can learn she likes to be
mistress. Aunt Melville has Miss Anne & Miss Patsy staying with her
now. Aunt Lucy is to have a novel entertainment at her house
tomorrow evening, a "Communion Tree" for the benefit of the church,
25^{cts} admittance. I would like to be there to see what they do, perhaps
our Guild might try something of the kind as a 4th annual entertainment.
I expect our neighborhood will be very quiet this 4th annual. I will not
attempt an entertainment, had such a cold time last year & so many
disappointed us. Lewis will reach home on the morning of the 23rd
& Wave probably on the freight that day, between 12 & 2 o'clock. We will
miss you very much at our 4th annual reunion. I hope you will think
of us & enjoy the day with some friend, perhaps some Professor may
invite you to his house.

Reuben has come in bringing your letter which I was very glad to
receive. I know the boys would be glad to hear from you. I reckon all
have the same excuse for not writing. I think Wave is improving in
letter writing & makes better grades in his studies too. Mrs. Suzanne
will return to town & take boarders, Wave will board with her after
4th annual. I don't think he very much likes his present boarding place.
Your Father went to Memphis day before yesterday to see Mr. Rindick
about building the house for Mother, he did not make a contract
tho'; she went in yesterday we heard, hoping to meet Alice who was
expected on the boat. There is not a pretence of snow or anything
interesting going on in this neighborhood, oh yes! I forgot, Josie Collins
is "Justice" in place of Mrs. Bleeker, & Mrs. Tobert has bought a corner

Dec 21st 1893.

My dear Sam

I enjoyed your letter very much yesterday, also one from Fred, he actually wrote nearly 4 pages of large size paper. I wrote to him last night & now comes your turn. I fixed up a box for Fred this evening, he mentioned at Thanksgiving time that turkeys were too high for them to indulge in, so I thought a nice fat dressed turkey, some fresh sausage, butter, & a meat cake might be acceptable as a Xmas present. I hope the box went off tonight & will reach them in good order. Some one asked why I did not send you one, I told them situated as you are I thought you would have no use for ~~any~~ such things. You have arranged for a very quiet Xmas day I think. I was as sorry to hear your overcoat was stolen, strange that yours was the only one taken. I expect a good overcoat costs a good deal & to have to buy two a season is right hard on you - I am truly glad you do not suffer from cold & that you have fire places in your rooms, I don't think one ever feels as warm when they do not see the fire. The weather here has been quite cold morning & evening for some days, the sun warms up everything in the middle of the day. I never saw such white frosts as we have had this winter, like a light snow.

You asked about Jossie Collins, he did not return to Gainesville after Grace's death, has been at home doing nothing, has in the last few days been made "Justice" in place of Mr. Bledsoe. Ruben was saying

thought that Josie talks of going to Gambone, I think it is only talk, he is content to be supported. I told Reuben if Josie gave up the Justice ship he had better try for it but of course he would not. It pays 5 or 6 hundred dollars a year.

I sent down to Mr Charles Collins to buy some sausage meat, she ~~would~~ sent about 8 pounds but would not take a cent for it, said we must take it as a game present, this evening Mrs Davies sent over some, I know since will enjoy it tomorrow morning, he will be home to breakfast. Wave will be here to dinner Saturday. Mrs Collins sent us all a verbal invitation to an experience meeting at her house on the evening of the 27th. Some time ago the ladies of the baptist church met & nearly all of them pledged themselves to make as much money for their church, 1 or 2 dollars each, as I understand it, they give in their experience at the coming meeting, tell how they made the money. I cant think there will be much fun in that for us but if a good night I may go. Aunt Lucy's "conundrum tea" was quite a success, with admittance 25^{cts} they made 27 dollars & had "lots of fun". I would like to have one here for our church during game week but it will depend on the weather & whether the ladies all will agree to help.

Sunday we had service, I was rather surprised to see Alice come in with Uncle Wave, she arrived on Friday, they declined to dine with us as we had only Mrs Cobb, after she left your Father & myself made a visit to Mrs De Rose she was right rich with gripps, is better now. Monday, Reuben & myself spent with aunt Orville, when Beiss heard we were there she came down to dinner, Misses Anna & Patsy

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were there also, we spent a very pleasant day. I stopped a little while to see Annies Waller. Uncle Harris is still fixing around the place & yard. They had received invitations to Homer Somersville's wedding, he is teaching in Birmingham, is to marry Miss Steele, she is also teaching there. I don't know whether it is Charlie Whelan's Miss Steele or not.

How do your teachers get on? do you still assist them on Saturdays. Every one around here is crying hard times, Mr Joe Collins is so worried he can't sleep at night, he's had to break up renter, take in old and back mules, old carriages & buggys & every thing else, now he is doing his best to get rid of them. The negroes all say they have made nothing & collecting is a sweating work. The Mings seems to have come out better than any one I know of, he paid his rent & paid for his mules & cow but I fear another year he will not do as well, he has gone in with Mings Selders, rented a good deal more land & the two expect to work 30 head of mules, of course Mings will get every thing out of The Johnny, Beebe, & many others advised The not to go in partnership with Mings but he would not listen to them, will learn by sad experience I reckon. I have never heard how Mings managed to hold on to his land it was advertised for sale some time ago.

Uncle John had to sell Mr Skinner's stock out a few days ago in Demopolis, good mules sold for 45 dollars, a cow & calf for 5 dollars, that shows how hard times are. Mr S. is tax collector I think, he had mortgaged his stock to Uncle John. Mr Rudisell will be here

Tomorrow to see about the contract for the horses (your Grand Mother's)
your Father has drawn the ground plan & is authorized to make the
contract.

If the weather continues good I will ask aunt Bullock's family to spend
a nice day with us, if she comes I reckon it will wrap up her waiting
for the winter, her earnings doesn't suit this mood.

No, we have not decided about servants for another year, Jimmie
who works with "Mr. Bob Wood" says he is coming to us. We do not know
about Sadie, she is here now, we have the promise of a house girl but
I never rely upon what they say.

Being you will find enclosed a small amount present I did not
know what you needed so we as you think best. I wish it was ten
times as much & would be a help to you. We all wish you as many
of us, with much love very much tho' we did not leave you long last
year. With much love from us all.

Your devoted Mother.

Dec 27th 1898.

My dear Sam

The boys are off to an entertainment at Rev Charles Collins' & your Father & myself will have a great time. I will spend part of it in writing to you - First I must thank you for the pretty & useful presents to us all, we appreciate them highly I assure you but I felt as if you would be depriving yourself in sending as much to us. I know your means are limited - I am sure we will enjoy the books, the cravats were much admired, & Lewis thinks he is nicely fixed for study with slippers & a dressing gown (I made one for both Lewis & Waver). The packages came safely, reaching us yesterday. Fred sent a bundle which came almost without any paper around it, a flat box containing two cravats was torn open & one cravat gone, I don't know that anything else was taken. He sent your Father an excellent piece of goods for pants. He wrote of having bought several nice pieces of goods at auction, I suppose this was one. We all missed you very much one or more day, our family gathering was small. Mother, Brother Waver & Alice dined with us, the morning was rather cloudy, that may have prevented sister Sally from coming or she may have been sick. I had a note from Mrs Harris written on the 23rd saying she then had fever, but if well enough would spend a more day with us. I have heard nothing since then from them. I hope you enjoyed the evening with the Professor, it was as pleasant that we sat on the porch & watched the sky rockets that were being sent off.

all around. There have been no ^{social} gatherings in the neighborhood until tonight, the whole neighborhood was invited to Mrs Collins'. We thought three sufficient to represent our family & that we would stay at home, I never care to go there any more, I can't fancy Mrs C -

Lewis arrived Friday morning, Waver came Saturday to dinner, both looking well but not as stout as when they left home.

Sunday Lewis & myself went to Fannettsdale to church, we had rather a late start & as we drove Goshens were a long time on the way, I was quite ashamed to walk in church just as Mr Johns was concluding the ante communion service. We dined with Lucy, stopped on to see cousin Margaret Wilkins on our way home. While at Lucy's I learned all I could about the "Communion test" & decided I would get up one for the benefit of our church, as Monday morning Lewis drove me around to see the ladies of the Guild & to get contributions for the supper, we will have it Friday night. I do hope it will be a success. I am sure we will draw a good deal of fun. I will tell you how we will manage it. The company will be entertained as pleasantly as possible, music, conversation, &c; at supper time as many as can be seated at the table will be invited in, each one paying 25^{cts} on entering the dining room. The table will be set with only plates, knives & forks, glasses with napkins prettily folded in them, salt, & on each plate a small "button^{er}" tied with a colored ribbon, bills of fare I suppose you would call them like the one enclosed will be laid around, the waiters (Lucie & Lizzie Collins, Waver & Lewis) will have little tablets & a pencil, each person will be asked to select 6 numbers which they take down under the persons

names, they bring their orders to me in the dairy & I fill them, sending in as many as possible at a time, when our tubs is through strings will be straightened up & the tubs filled again. Lucy said it was as amusing sometimes as persons would get coffee, water, tea, onions & some other thing for supper, of course after laughing over it she would give them something more as they might get the worth of their money, if ~~any~~ we will do the same. There are some waiting girls in the neighborhood, Willie Manspin, Lena Hatch & Lina Birchall. Alice spent last night with Minnie to join in a corn hunt, boys, girls & all started out in such high glee & kept such a racket as Rebekah said, that the dogs would not hunt, however after awhile they struck a truck & tread a pole cut, the girls soon had enough of that & proposed to return which they did. A bird hunt tomorrow morning was planned by the same crowd but I think they have given that up. Waver & Lina took a hunt today went up to Oak Grove, killed 4 rabbits & 2 prairie dogs. I think tomorrow I will send one of them up for Elsie, she can help us make chicken salad, fill lamps &c &c. How I would like to have your help & company too! I saw Mary Kings on Sunday, she was looking very well. Uncle Ben intended spending his holiday (4 mens day) hunting. This morning I received a pretty letter from Mrs. Gholson, this evening two pieces of beautiful crochet

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transmission, a booklet, & 4 more cards, from the Stone family, perhaps
in return for a cake I sent them. Brother gave me a book also,
Fred sent four, so I am well supplied. Sadie presented me with
a cup & saucer, the motto "Think of me." She will continue with
me but I don't think I can stand Liz as her sister, who has been
with us since Julius left. The boys & my self fixed the dining table
evening for the supper we took out the sofa, old tape & everything
except the table behind the door, we covered over the wall, making a
table of that, will have plenty of room for the dining room side
table in the corner next the kitchen, the three tables will I think
hold all we will have, for contributions have not been very
liberal but I hope there will be enough. It is late so I will say
good night, with much love & wishing you a Happy New Year ever

Your devoted

Brother.

I forgot to say your letter received your
Father says he will hurry & return the
bond -