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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.

Galion, Ala. - Jan'y 2nd 1895

My Dear Son -

This letter should have been commenced last night - but as we sat by the fire, Mor & I, (for Wase was out visiting & Llewellyn was off to the train for College) - it was a good time to write, but your Mother was not reading - so she without her knowing it perhaps was continually asking me questions, so I had to put by my letter.

The time Llewellyn was at home, this Xmas, there has been but little gaiety - for ourselves, times were so hard, we could not think of it, at Mr J. T. Collins' one night during Xmas, there was a gathering, Mr & Mrs McLesellom, just back from Japan had a reception & exhibited to an admiring & awe struck company the many little

2/ Curiousities which they brought home with them
some of which were interesting & peculiar - many
little pieces of petty devices on China ware &c.
We thought of course that the chief parties would
dress up in Japponese style & show the numberless
Evelins children (for the rooms were full of them) how
the natives dressed - The entire neighborhood &
their cousins were present, - Your Mother, Wase,
& Kewey went, but I remained at home too
sore & read by my self til they came home
Hamdale young people had a dance & was
not distinguished by any event more than
that John Mingo Jr's horse with buggy ran
away "after the Ball" - breaking buggy and
scaring the horse & occupants - throwing the
latter out in the public road. -

Jan 2, 1895

3/ Another do - occurred in
Demopolis the next night &
the unexpected happened - viz:
The people of Demopolis had
a nice supper, oysters &
plenty & to spare - a card
in the Demopolis paper had been
published, "That children under
the tender age of 15 - would
not be received at the enter-
tainment." - Surely people
are getting wiser than their
forefathers.

We had your Uncle Harris'
family to dine with us & was
& a splendid lot of select oysters
we had ordered, come safely & in
time. We have no company, only
a threatening from your Uncle & H
Minge & family, but circumstances
prevented.

4 Many of Uniontown failed, Skinner & Trigg
of Spring Hill also - & M. Ely & Co dissolved the
copartnership - leaving McCarty out - . Some
other failures & assignments are expected very
soon - some perhaps never home.

Llewellyn & I drove down to Spring Hill on 27th
to see T. J. Trubert & Miss Maudie Allen married.
They are now at home (Challion) in the little
cottage which Tom Trubert had built, & he was
his stock of goods to Trubert's store.

The postal telephone is now in our
midst - direct from Uniontown, via Hanns Dale to
Demopolis - Office at Davis Bros' store.
We can talk to Selma & Demopolis at our
own sweet will - by paying 25 cts -

5) On this ^{Jan 2, 1925} I send you \$3.00 please
order - spend it to help your
comforts - for I am sure
the terrible cold weather is
sufficient to render any
one uncomfortable - bring
something to keep you warm
some real warm undergarment.
I do not unnecessarily
expose myself - All this
cold bad weather, I have
been constantly thinking
of you & the ice & snow you
have to contend with. We
all send love to you. As
Wass is ready for the office
I must close hoping for you
a happy new year -
In Affection Nathan K. Thompson

p. m. Gashorn



Jan 9th 1896.

My dear Son

We are in the midst of the worst spell of weather I almost ever experienced consequently we have not had the mail since yesterday morning & your usual letter has not been received but I will not wait for it but write hoping to have a chance to the office this evening. Night before last we had torments of rain, all last night it came down slowly & today the same, a cold disagreeable wind from the west accompanies the rain & it is all we can do to keep warm in the chamber, I have moved the side table in as it is sitting room, dining room, library & all, your Father's recent purchases of books are piled up in chairs "to be convenient" to him. Sister remains as cook, Remy Shearer is house girl for the present, John leaves us to make his fortune digging in old John's field, no man

yet, I hope the boys won't have to turn out to feed in this slap. I don't reckon times are more pleasant with you as far as the weather is concerned but other things are. There is of course a dearth of news since we one we hear nothing. Reuben returned from Dr. Bette's on Sunday, found a little time when the rain ceased to ride up a boy came to take the horse back Dr. Bette is not yet out of bed, Sam made a longer visit than he intended.

Levin arrived safely, says they have about as many students as they had before & more, new boys have taken the places of the old ones that left. Gen. Lee is in Columbus suffering from carbuncles but every thing is going on well. I don't think I mentioned that Mrs. Benton sent your Father word he would leave the Station next summer & if he wished it would try to secure the place for Levin, the latter says he would be glad to get it & make some money to

truly medicinal on. I suppose Mrs. Benton will not mention his wish to leave until near the time & then perhaps it will be easier for Levin to secure the place.

I don't know whether your Father mentioned the death of cousin Margaret Wilkins, she died very suddenly while attending combing her hair, Sally was near & caught her in her arms as she fell. We heard day before yesterday that cousin ~~Margaret~~ Carter's wife was very ill again, I do hope she will recover.

I am ever as much obliged to you for having the cups fixed. I have not heard yet of its arrival at Washington yet. From all accounts the baby is improving fast in flesh also in sweet & winning ways.

We had a card from Uncle Waver, Grand Mother has been quite unwell for some time Alice not returned.

I don't know about Minnie's Virgins engagement being so ridiculous, the family

are great lovers of money & he has it,
that is his only recommendation I am sure.
Dr Hill of Uniontown died a short time
ago of rheumatism & meningitis. Dr Ed
Steed with talks of moving up to Uniontown.
Wave is ready to go to the office as I wish
stop & send this this it is shorter than I
intended. With much love

Your devoted

Brother

Is there any
Coleridge work
in Boston Wave
could inquire
about?

not come to ride so far for as little fare. Of all our neighborhood people your
father was the only one to go. A good many ladies & little people & some from
Grafton & others were there, saying
their wives in the way of
refined society, teachers, & other
churchwardens, & some
from
houses of order, & others,
we &c. Many said we
had no idea we could
get so place in Elizabeth
Woods in Boston, & made
the evening. First we
sent you a good many
old pieces. The cup was
nice. Good. New Davis
day. The telephone was
the 10. Long as the stars
were, & are changing yet.
Every body stands around
trying to know what is
said, the folks around
there nicely yesterday, they

Another of our gloomy days is
upon, but was brightened by your letter & one
from Fash. I am glad your letter seems to stand
the severe weather quite well, but judging
from the weather here on Saturday, Sunday &
Monday, you had not had your coldest time,
here the ground did not thaw at all under
a bright sun all day. I don't see how we
will all stand such winter, will have to
rebuild our houses, stables, & every thing else,
lay in a good supply of fuel & be content if
we can keep warm.

Most of our potatoes were frozen & all the
cucumbers & pumpkins, nothing left in the
garden; had some late cabbages that were
just making such nice heads, they are
all ruined too. Storms were predicted for

yesterday & today, some snow & had
wind, rain, thunder & lightning last night
& have it now the same today.

I was quite surprised yesterday evening to
see a carriage at the gate, three of the
Misses Folsa, they were very "chatty" &
amused me very much, in a little while
Miss Lou Browder knocked & asked if
she could come in, then we "had it"
as the boys would say, such laughing &
talking had not been heard in this house
for many a day. They said the coast was
pretty good & I hoped to call on Mrs Torbet
today but could not attempt it after last
night's rain.

While I think of it Miss Adeline May
is betrothed to Dr. Hershfield of Mobile,
perhaps some of your Annapolis friends
have written you.

I think if Lewis could get the place at
the Station he would be willing to take it
for two years, your Father thinks it will

not be kept up longer than that. Your Father
thinks Lewis might devote some time to
the study of medicine if he should get the
place but I know from what you said
that he would have no time or if he
had any would be too tired to spend it
in study. I have not heard what Mrs Weston
wants to do.

Lizzie Collins came home yesterday, could not
attend the Jackson any longer, has never
gotten over her home sickness & could not
study at all. Val Taylor is Mayor of Annapolis
now. Did I write you Coleman & Waller
failed; Smith & Harris of Louisville, & today you
knew Shaheen & King have failed. I wish
I could attend the cheap sales, might get
some good bargains.

Mrs Folsa wants to buy a lot of the
Frederickton land to build on, up there by
the small Bovech house, or rather where
that was, it burned up some day.

A mother party also wishes a lot, both to

p.m. ballroom

spoke in barman & had it all to themselves. It is only a little after three o'clock
& getting dark as it will show. I forget to say we have a very good room in hotel
place, but they
threw as home
girl but sandy
forget she took
Frank's leave.
With much love
from us all
Your devoted
Mother.

I am glad Uncle Waver
wrote to you. I have heard the report about
Lorrie's sickness.

Saturday evening Carter's wife was buried
at St. Michael's Cemetery, the weather was
so cold & winds so bad that only Perkins
went from here. I heard no particulars of
her illness, was so glad her little son came
from Washington to see her, her life with
Carter must have been pretty
hard, he drinking so, & then being separated
from her son, she had better have remained
poor mistress where she was.

We were quite surprised to receive an
invitation from Mr & Mrs Ward to the
celebration of their 15th anniversary on
Monday from 12 to 6 o'clock. It was
impossible for a buggy to get there so your
Father went on horse back, the boys did

January 24th 1895

My dear Son

This is Thursday & your letter has not come but perhaps Wams may bring it when he returns from Gallion, he drove down for your Father who went to Danvers on yesterday's freight & was to return this morning on the freight, the passenger comes by as early now. The cold a lot to Mr. Folsa & Mother had to sign the paper. I think I wrote you of Mr. Folsa wanting a lot next the small Bockh house on the right hand side after crossing the rail road. I have been busy getting ready some cases, candy, so to make up a box for Lewis want to send it off this evening but it looks very much like snow. We have had some very bright mild days but the ground too wet to begin fixing to plant

early vegetables as we have our snow cleaning up hedge row in the lower lot, he has cut up all the odd branches & the small ones near the hedge, gave Father tithes of plowing & planting the lot in millet to eat for the stock, if we don't make much millet it will help the geese to break it up. Our armen works quite steadily & I do hope will stay the year, we get him for the same we gave John & he does real good work, but does not stay on the place at night. Sadie promised to cook for us this year but she told me a day or two ago that she must stop cooking as I have before me the pleasant anticipation of teaching a new one if one can be found. I see by the paper great inducements are offered to the negroes to go to Mexico, 500 families wanted right away. I suppose some will try it.

I heard from Linnie Monday he mentioned having had a letter from you, I suppose

has replied as this. Our Bentons suggests we will not mention his having thought of leaving the State.

Your Father has returned bringing your letter which I am always glad to have. Waver & Reuben would have been glad to send you a memorandum if they could have known of the rule, but that is the trouble one never knows when he will have such an opportunity, the cuffs were quite a bargain. I am glad you met those gentlemen, is Prof. Mc Kee at Prof. at Colman College? Waver & Reuben are still trying for places. Waver sent off 8 letters a day or so ago to companies Fred gave addresses.

Abbie writes her grand Mother glowing accounts of her self, how beautifully she has sung in public & how much her voice was complimented, ends by saying she is not appreciated ~~up~~ here & that her Mother says she had better remain in Mobile. Mother is perfectly carried away.

willing to send her money to cultivate
her voices & she continues to live thus alone.
I think Alice & her Mother are ungrateful
& heartless, all they want is to get money
out of Mother & don't care whether she is
taken care of or not; if Mother lives much
longer she will have nothing to support her.
Our neighborhood is devoid of anything
interesting, I was to see Mrs Hatch Sunday
evening but even she had no news. I think
I wrote you of calling on Mrs Torbert. Bob
is trying his best to buy part of the nine
acres to build on, but I don't think he
will get it. Tom Patten would sell him a
lot next to Mrs Foldes but Susan would
not like to live down there.

You must excuse this short & uninteresting
letter, dinner is nearly ready as I must
close, with much love from us all

Your devoted Mother

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE.

Agricultural College, Miss.

January 27, 1895

Dear Father,

It has been quite a while since I addressed one of my letters to you. of course I trust they are of interest for the family regardless to whom they are directed.

Mother's lengthy and interesting letter was received at its accustomed time. I am glad to see that Dave is making such efforts to secure a place. I hope he will be successful. Please thank mother for the box that she sent a few days ago. It was indeed a treat and was enjoyed very much not only by myself

but also by many of my friends.

During the latter part of the week I was very busy working with Dr. Butler in taking a large part of the college dairy herd for tuberculosis. This work is being done by the Experiment Station to show to what extent cattle can be free from the disease that is so prevalent in the north. Sixty-two head of cattle, occupying one barn, were tested and not one showed the least sign of the disease. Now perhaps you would be interested in how it was done, so here it goes. The cows were numbered in their stanchions to prevent any confusion and we began to take their temperatures at eight o'clock

Jan 27, 1895

Agricultural College, Miss.

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Thursday morning and continued this every two hours for twelve hours and again at twelve midnight in order to get their normal or average temperatures. They were then injected aseptically with from 1.5 to 2 centimeters of Koch's tuberculin or synph (you know that this is now regarded as the most delicate test for tuberculosis). After the lapse of six hours we again began to take temperatures every two hours for eighteen hours. It was intended, when the experiment was begun, to kill any infected animals; it was thought that one or two at least

would have to be slain and we
would have the advantage of a
post mortem examination. But we
were disappointed. Only one animal
showed any rise of temperature
and that of only one degree, known
to be the result of other causes.

Prof. Tracy is very much pleased
with the result of the experiment
and will have several other herds
in the state tested and then pub-
lish a bulletin on the subject,
which he thinks will be of great
benefit to the cattle raisers of the
South.

You may imagine what an
amount of work it took to per-
form the operation, though there
were six of us and ^{we} left ^{four} ^{thermometers} ^{running} ^{continuously}
in operation.

Jan 27, 1895

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after working sixteen hours, sleeping
three, and again working sixteen
hours, you may also imagine
how weary we felt. I have hardly
recovered yet. This experiment was
on the large a scale though it was
a perfect success. Dr. Butler wants
me to go to Vicksburg to assist him
in testing a herb next month.
There is good experience in it, but
a great amount of work also.

Well, the greater portion of this
letter has been devoted to a sub-
ject in which perhaps you all are
not interested, but as you may infer
it has interested me in the last
few days.

About five hundred new looks

are just in at the library and I
shall try to read more wisely than
usual. I have just begun
Kingley's Hypatia, which I think
is very good.

Judging from the amount of
rain we have had and the state
of the roads in this section as
compared with them generally,
the roads in our neighborhood
must be in a very bad condition.
I look forward to the next two
weeks with dread on account
of the work that must be done
in that time.

Again thanking mother for the
nice box, I am with love for all,
Your aff. son,

E. V. O'G.

Living

January 30th 1895.

My dear Son

I have just finished ^{reading} your letter
& must thank you for it, you must be
getting tired of ice & snow, as tired as we
are of mud, for a few days we had some
good weather & the ground was getting in
good order but then came an all day hard
rain & mud again. Presently the today the
sun is very bright, sufficiently so to induce
your Father to ride up to Van Dorn to
see Bro' Waver & attempt some collecting on
the way. Bro' Waver has not been very well
during the past bad weather & has kept
very close. Waver went to see him yesterday,
he told him how much he came to getting
his bed on fire a few nights ago, wrapped
a stove top in paper & put it in the
bed, when he got in it felt very warm

but he changed it about, finally he smelt
the paper scorching & before he could get to
the fire place with it the paper was
blazing, he might have fallen asleep & been
almost burned up before he knew it. That
reminds me, an unoccupied cabin at Indian
town burned up Monday night, the work of a
trump we think, as one was seen creeping
morning with his coat tails burned off,
we think he must have made fire in the
cabin & probably fell asleep before the fire &
perhaps the chimney took fire, it was an old
stuck & mud chimney. The country seems
flooded with those trumps & it is really
dangerous to be alone at night I think.
Two of them killed a store keeper beyond
Gassemboro last week, it seems they had been
around there watching the old man for some
time & that night went in, made him catch
his cups & give them all the money he had
took his watch & left on the train for N. O.,
next morning the man was found dead

tied to his bed with 3 beds stuffed in his
mouth, a hole was cut in the mattress & his
head stuffed in that. Some think they did
not intend to kill him only to keep him from
raising an alarm before they could get away.
A negro who was getting clothes at the store
who is now in jail said he heard the man
begging them not to kill him & offering to give
them a thousand dollars if they did not. The
same negro told of their making him open the
safe. The men were arrested in New Orleans,
New Wilcox's watch found on one of them & a good
deal of money.

I am glad you are enjoying the lectures &
symphony concerts, which we could relieve the
dull monotony by attending some such entertain-
ments, the evenings are long & hard to get
away with as the boys express it. Harry
wants to go to Uncle John's tonight & on to
Uniontown tomorrow, I think he wants to
see Miss Lida Laine who is staying there.
We had two cards from Fred Thurneday saying

Frederic was ill with Broncho pneumonia,
of course we felt great anxiety about him,
Saturday a letter brought the good news that
he was better & today a card says he is about
well. The Dr must have made a wrong
diagnosis, he could not have recovered so quickly
from that disease, it must have been
severe cold. Mrs Camp is sick from cold & loss
of sleep nursing Frederic. Dr's bills run always
our hand for Fred, Washington must be an
unhealthy place.

I will enclose Lewis's last letter it may interest
you, your Father advised him to go to Dickburg
with Dr Butler, besides the experience he
wants him to have the trip. We received
your paper & are much obliged, if we understood
the subject doubtless we could compliment
you on it, being presented by Dr Farlow is I
suppose a guarantee of its worth.

Reuben is ready to leave for the office as I
must close, with much love from us all

Yours devoted
Mother.

Jan 30, 1895



Dear Ben - I add a few lines to your Mother's letter, - in looking over the "Exp. Sta. Record" I see that C. A. Grossmann, (Mass. State Sta. Rpt. 1893 pp 218 - 219 pls 4) gives Exp. Sta. with fringe plants, and I should like to get it to read over - so if it is easily obtained or I know where to write or how to address my letter I should not trouble you. We are having a cold snap again, some frost this morning & still cold - more than 18 1/2 inches of rain this season, & every thing is full of water, & now the wind is blowing & we will have all our newly bedded land baked hard, I have cabbage, tomatoes, peas, snaps, radishes & corn up, just planted Irish potatoes, some of our neighbors, who planted early, have found their potatoes rotted, so have to plant over again. The pear trees, peach & varieties of plums are partly out in bloom; The leaf buds are broken & make but little show.

Letter from Fred reports baby doing well, poor fellow he has a time of it, with his 4 babies more & less. I will not interfere with news as reported by your Mother, or close til another time. Yr affectionate Father, W.D.

P.S. Yesterday I planted - "Lentils" - "*Lathyrus*
Sylvestris." Will plant Vetch and soja beans -
this evening; if you have any literature on
Lentils send please.

Our "help" about the pericises is more sa-
tisfying than none, & I think your Mother
is satisfied with her cook. Reuben has helped
me wonderfully in getting all my lots in
order. -

S)

and as you have sent me (see letter) as well as last week, collect on these letters I have in
 mind to you. I have spent a day &
 day at the books & others
 also, all were well & I had
 been down to Richmond
 Virginia. That has gone to
 the top of my head & is being
 sent with a letter to the
 show on that foot, and
 be still & let it get into
 the air as it seems as if
 it will clear with much
 of you as well
 as you are all
 Yours devoted
 Brother
 1895

I am very sorry you were somewhat troubled.

about the examination, would it they gave
you a chance to make another reply to that
question when you found it was differently
interpreted?

Is there a symphony concert every week &
do you still assist in ushering? I am glad
you enjoy the museum as much, it is a nice
recreation for you.

Tom Fether went out to see Brand on the
freight, to know Brother signs the deed for the
lot sold to New Folda, remained until yesterday,
Brother is still alone & at the mercy of the
darkies from all around they come in & take
off her old lumber & anything they want, she
has a cook now but she lives off the lot.
Mrs Derstane is putting up a very convenient
house for herself, I think her lot is next the
C. P. church.

Levin writes he will go to Weehawken if he
possibly can to assist in testing the bread of

Feb. 6, 1895

3

Dr. Bates, your Father is well acquainted with him & glad for him to go. He has 4 papers as he says to get ready this month two regular college work, one for the Reflector & one for the society, says if your Father can assist him in the latter he would be much obliged, "Real and that value is deteriorating", I hardly think he will get any help from home, what I was able to write out his debate for him as he has no much on hand.

Reuben has been much interested in having the school house lot plowed, worked part of yesterday with our horses but this morning they balked so he exchanged horses for a mule to put by Jackson but with no better success in the barnyard as you, now he is trying the late back of the crib, but the rain is beginning

& they will have to stop, it seems we can't
have any arrangements & I am afraid will
never begin gardening.

I had a letter from Nettie Warner yesterday
telling me of the death of Pinkie's daughter
Oliver, she died of consumption, the same
disease her Father had. She was Pinkie's only
child & a most devoted daughter, her Mother's
constant companion, she is heart broken,
Nettie has been in Rome with her three
months, hopes to bring Pinkie home with her
says that I go over to see them. I don't know
what I can.

The chimney chimney smokes as we can't
see the room at all & I feel like an out-
cast, sitting in the dining room, it is as
dark & cold. We will send for a brick mason
& try having the grate fixed. Have had the
chimney cleaned out & thought that would
do but it smoked badly as ever. Perhaps I

Feb 13th 1895

dear Lou

Your letter for this week has not come yet but I will not wait for it, bad weather may have delayed the mails up North. I hope you keep well all this terrible weather, it must be almost unendurable in Mass. There never was such a spell of weather in this country as we have had since last Wednesday night, (a week today) cold, high, west wind, sleet, snow, frozen every thing, rain, sleet again, hard freezes &c &c, the thermometer down to 6 the coldest day. Today it is still very windy & cold but the sun is out some & the ground thawing. Ice on our ponds $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, if we had an ice house could easily have filled it, think after this we had better fix one & try to stop the air holes in our houses for it is hard work keeping warm, coal is getting low & our man is busy (all the time he is not "mowing") chopping mulberry & cherry tree limbs to help out the coal. Capt T- had some, which he readily sold at 6.50 per ton. Calves, pigs, & chickens froze to death but I have not heard of any little deer going that way, have been expecting it for they are so poorly clad. I reckon Mr Woody Davies has suffered, he went to Va about the beginning of this spell, his 7 others died, they kept his body until he arrived. Bob & Lennie are still at his house. I hear "Mr C W" has sold Bob 10 acres right at the

Waver says now - he supposes you are ported on Spanish weather - There is not enough margin I must take another piece of paper.

corner opposite Mary Matthews house & that he will build as soon as he can haul material.

Yesterday your father had to visit Ben Hatch, he preferred walking to a ride down in the wind, got on fairly going down but made a long visit & the ground began to thaw so that getting back was tiresome & slippery. Reuben walked to the Office today, Waver can only hobble to the store & back, his foot heals very slowly, I believe I wrote you he knocked the skin off a place on his instep. I feel anxious to hear from them all in Washington, hope the baby will not have a relapse this bad weather.

We are hanging up our meat today, it has been so frozen we could not put it up, is very salt but maybe we can soak that out. We cant do a thing in the garden, there is nothing green to be seen there except some leeks & Texas blue grass, nothing kills that. The violets have not bloomed at all since 4 mcs & are nearly killed out. Lewis wrote the thermometer was down to 2 at the College & some classes had to be excused from recitations because the rooms could not be heated comfortably.

Waver says Miss Lida asked how you were getting along, he replied "I thought you could tell me", she then asked for your address as

Feb 13, 1895

Miss Lou Browder was over Sunday evening, Mrs Spencer called also & Mrs Rob Coleman stopped by to warm & ask Reuben to go to Mrs Joe Collins with him, but as there was only one young lady there Reuben declined. Mrs Coleman was in good spirits if he is out of a job. Did I write you that Chadrwick Minge has gone to Auburn, a little fellow to go there -

I had a note from Beanie a day or two ago, all were well, she wanted to know if she could supply my customer with butter until I can send again, has much trouble selling her butter. I had already written Gertrude about Aunt Melville wanting to sell here, country butter is very hard to dispose of this winter. Now I wonder if you could find out from the steward I suppose, at the Fox Craft dining hall if he would buy dried skes for next winter in quantity sufficient to pay us to raise & dry it. I don't want to put you to any trouble about it but if it is an industry that would pay I would like to try it. I am sorry to send such a badly written letter but have to sit by the fire to write, it is as cold at the table. I do hope you are well & comfortable, with much love from us all

Your devoted Mother.

Feb 21st 1898

My dear Son

I wanted to write until your
letter came so mine will be late reaching you,
the steam mailed Thursday evening I think
it should reach you by Saturday I am ^{glad} to hear
you have had some sunshine, we too have
had several bright days & certainly enjoyed
them as much as we could in the house,
walking has been terrible, I tried it but
unless on the grass I could not get along at
all, the melting of snow is so much worse
than a rain. I don't know that I told you
we had two nights & a day of continuous
snowing last week, the depth was over 4
inches. Charles Collins & Mr Richardson rigged
up sleighs & went out on sleighs Friday evening
that put Reuben & Waver on the motion &

Saturday morning they pulled out the old
cultivator pole & wheels, took off the wheels
put on runners & a boy & started out late
in the day but the snow was beginning to
melt, they broke down several times, because
deranged & returned minus two bells which
troubled your Father very much, but his pat
was found & that reconciled him for the
loss of the other. Today Reuben has the man &
the old pump plowing in the schoolhouse lot,
he drives & the man holds the plow, it is such
hard work they can only plow a few hours at a
time. Your Father says he wants to plant the
lot in sugar millet to cut for feed. We thought
yesterday evening Rochett would die, he was the
sickest horse I ever saw from 1 o'clock until about
10 last night, I certainly am thankful he
did not die for nothing of the other horses would
do for your Father to ride, Hunter slips down any
time & Jackson is getting stiff. We had a letter

Feb. 21, 1895

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from Fred yesterday, Frederic was a little sick again. Fred is contemplating a more restful or if you will, says his health requires more active work.

Of course we had no services Sunday, the road too bad for Mrs. Gibbs to come, hope he will be here this 3rd Sunday in March, it will then be three months since we have had a service.

Warr & myself keep each other comparing with our lame feet, he still wears a slipper & I have had to put on one too, had chilblains badly & heels so swollen & tender the skin was rubbed off so that now I can't stand a shoe on my left foot.

Ruben happened at the depot yesterday when a fruit car was there bought a nice bunch of bananas which we are enjoying very much. I don't know how you can ever have any

fruit up north in winter, should think it
would freeze. Fred sent Harry's photographs.
I don't think she has improved in looks since
I saw her. Fred wants us to pick out some
strawberries for him in case he should have
to take to a farmer, poor fellow, I am afraid
he will "gather no more".

Miss Lou Bowdler leaves soon for a long visit to
Birmingham, I will miss her very much, she
so often comes in for us that in the afternoon,
always has some news. The old Dr. nearly froze
that cold weather they had to keep bottles
of hot water to him all night.

I have not heard from your Grand Mother
for some time, suppose she keeps up or some
friend would write us.

I know this letter is not worth sending, but
since you want to hear from home, I send one
& hear no news. With much love

Yours devoted
Mother.

110 N. Conception St.
Mobile, Ala.
Feb'y. 25th 90.

Dear Ben,

Your letter of
two weeks ago has been
at hand, requiring response
for several days, but I
fear that interesting sub-
ject matter is unusually
scarce.

I cannot the celebration
of Mardi Gras, which took
place last Tuesday, was
quite an eventful one
in the annals of Mobile's
current events. Though
you know I never witnessed
the occasion before

Feb 25, 1896

I have always heard that there is a spirit of universal filiality and general good feeling indulged in. This feature was plainly demonstrated and forcibly impressed upon ^{my} mind last Tuesday. Of course lectures at the college were suspended on that day and everybody "took a day off."

The town seemed to be literally crowded with visitors, "dagos", negroes, and dogs. So about midday you may imagine the motley crowd that filled

Feb. 25, 1896

the streets. The parades
were very good especially
those at night, many of
the floats exhibiting great
beauty and wonderful
design. On the whole, how-
ever Marki Gue, I must
say, was a disappointment
to me. While the perform-
ance is evidently quite
a business advertisement
for the city, there is
really very little in it all.
In the great ball of the
evening, the crowning event
of the day, I did not
participate, firstly, because
I did not possess the

Feb. 25, 1896

necessary acquaintance in
the form of such goods.
secondly, because there would
have been but little pleas-
ure for me, being yet a
stranger in Mobile society.
I go out very little here
except to see relatives or
a short list of acquaint-
ances, though there are
many pretty and we suf-
fice charming young la-
dies to entice the Scotch
Heath. Social events have
however, been very pleas-
ant for first to the
celebration of the Carnival
in Mobile's Irishman's

Feb. 25, 1896

season. Exceeding few good
entertainments at the theatre
have been presented so far.

No. I am not kept at all
packed in Starkville news, it
has been several months
since any of my friends
from there have written, &
what you embodied was
all news to me.

Dr. Webb, Sr. was seen some
days ago and was very
concise in his inquiries
of you. I must soon go
out to his home and call,
a duty that I haven't yet
accomplished.

I in the line of medicine

Feb. 25, 1896

I am pursuing branches
fundamental branches on
which the science is based.
I have always been told
that a first cause man never
accomplishes very much, and
I now believe that to be a fact.
Our regular picture class
on the 3rd of April, not yet
decided when I will re-
turn home.

I have tried for communication
common work, but have so
far failed. I will have to study
during the vacation but would
be very glad to get work to do.
With best wishes.

Yours off. Bro.
Lewie.

proceedings today. I am afraid our work will be
stopped by rain for it is quite cloudy this
morning.

The very day you were writing to Waver, Fanny
& Fred were rejoicing (I suppose) over a little
daughter born that morning Fred wrote. Little
Francis (they are fond of F.F.) weighed 8 lbs &
is plump & strong as I hope she will not
give them as much trouble as Fannie has,
to think of two babies to take care of at once.
Fannie can't walk yet & is only 13 1/2 months
old, I am sorry for Fred, he will certainly have
to leave the city now & be where he can raise
food for his family.

I suppose you greatly enjoyed the Grand Opera,
& lecture on 18th Century art, and had an Opera
too, or rather Demopolis had, "Michas," by the
Selma amateurs, persons who went from
Gallatin pronounced it quite a success, one of
your relatives took part in it, Page below. A

Feb. 28, 1895

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special train came out from Detroit returning
at 12 o'clock. Round trip rail road ticket &
admission to the Opera for 1.00, of course there
was a crowd, the house was full. Some of us
had any spare dollars to invest that way. How
would like to have gone but for his foot &
finger, has quite a bad place on the latter,
his foot is better. I don't expect to wear any shoes
in some times, wear a low heel slipper & standing
much is painful, don't know how I will get
on now. Sadie leaves this evening & as there
is no cook engaged I will have to take her
place, don't relish the idea at all.

I sent the books you requested the next day,
postage was 17^{cts} I was rather doubtful about
the pamphlet but sent Dec 92.

It's the Freshman class in Botany the work
you expected to get later in the winter, with

such ignorant as to back I hope they ^{should} pray
you well.

Mr. James Collins will resign his justiceship
here & put up his sign "Attorney at Law" in
Danvers, we want Reuben to try for the
justiceship but he says he would not be bothered
with it, he is so much afraid of a little responsi-
bility, & the place might require some little reading
of law. I would be so glad for him to have some-
thing to do that would keep him with us, it
would be terrible on our part to have both the
boys go off.

We had quite an unpleasant visit last night
& the house is hardly habitable today, the cat
was scratching around over Reuben's head last
night, he very unwise knocked on the wall
& frightened it, we must try & devise some
means to catch it or my eggs will all go before
I get sight of them. I have many little jobs to
be attended to today so I must bring my letter to