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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.

answer that, you will
have to, or we must
ask me about the
boys love affairs they
are all non committal
don't give me their
confidence.

July 3rd 1895

It is so dark in the house I must sit
on the porch & use a pencil to answer your most
welcome letter received this morning. I was so glad to hear
of your safe arrival & that you found an acquaintance
it must be a terrible feeling to go among entire strangers. I
hope "the woman in the house" (corner) will be no draw-
back - you seem fated to be with old maids, perhaps as
they are students they don't talk as much as our old maids.
& will not annoy you. You were fortunate in getting a
room so near the Laboratory but for hot weather I expect
you would prefer a larger room even if you had to take a
longer walk. We will be glad to hear how you like the town
& your work. I hope the people you are with will be pleasant
& your home as agreeable as it could be anywhere outside
of Boston.

Your Father left this morning for Fauske's where a
teachers convention meets I believe, his excuse for going was
that he wants to find a place for Lewis. Dr. Brown &
others he wants to meet will be there, I don't know

when he is coming home. Uncle John wrote for Reuben
to go down to see Mr. Chudwick as he went there
this morning, Lewis & my self are the only ones at home.
Uncle Wm invited us all to dine with him at Grand
Mother's tomorrow but I don't think any of us can go, we
had a terrible rain storm today, part of the time the
wind was very high & there was some hail but that
was soon over with, the road will be so muddy we can
hardly venture out. I was so sure we would go that
this morning I had some nice peaches gathered to
carry him & tomatoes, beans, & okra, one tomato we
gathered weighed 1 pound & $\frac{1}{2}$ oz, several others nearly
as large, it proves that water is good for tomatoes I think.
We have some nice peaches ripening now I am so sorry
you are not here to enjoy them. I made a little jam
today & canned some, quantities of peaches were blown
down today if there are many more storms some will
be left to ripen. It is nearly 5 o'clock but quite dark
another rain coming. No news from aunt Melville
since you left, I do want to go to see her but it seems
impossible, so much rain. Friday evening I think it was
we had a rain storm & a good deal of wind, large
limbs were blown from 4 trees, one of them the large
umbrella chinua near the front gate. Ben did you

intend to leave those specimens in alcohol that you brought from Spring Hill? then your little glass slides were left also, I reckon I was the cause of that trouble. I put them away, might have remembered about them if I had not been so busy that day. If you wish them sent, write me how to pack them. I expect we ought to hurry up with the boat too, wanted to know your O's & to find a suitable box.

I will enclose a letter from Fanny as you may be interested in hearing from the babies. We are so disappointed that Fred has again post poned his visit. I don't believe he is coming at all. I am very much afraid Prof. Guley will apply for the Auburn place & have the preference over Fred. Minnie went to the department to try to find him, as she was going in, she saw him going out & sent Mr. Macartney to stop him, he knew her at once & was very glad to meet her, Minnie wrote he was not looking strong. I do wish he could get out of that work, I believe it will kill him.

I neglected to say that Reuben returned Monday on freight from Hannedale. Wave stayed to come on the boat with aunt Alice & Fanny, we suppose they will reach Demopolis tomorrow, he wanted a chance to see the electrical men in Mobile, Reuben reported a

very enjoyable trip tho' there were much rain, duties
were light & they were permitted to go to town twice
a day if they wanted, living was good & friends
were kind sending ice cream & cake. Alice gave them
an elegant lunch, your Uncle Ben, our boys & Carter
Adams, Okey could not get off that day.

The rain is coming down steadily & will I think continue
all night, I will finish tomorrow.

July 4th Reuben came in while we were at dinner, he
talks as if Johnny wants him to help attend to the
home place & several others, nothing positive, & no salary
decided on. Wave writes that aunt Alice could not
possibly come on this trip of the boat & begged him to
stay until next Tuesday when she promises to come
up, he wants his citizens clothes expressed to him,
left them at Farns Dale instead of putting them
in his trunk. We could not go to Denopolis roads so
heavy & cloudy today. I must stop now & write to
Wave, with much love from us all

Your devoted Mother

You see what Fanny said about your trip, I can't

showing of the frost or put in his application he did so less recent one
or never yet. I wish he could get it. New Hampshire thought the ruling would be
between 40 to 50 dollars
for about 2 1/2 months
We must send the
township fund was 300
& they wanted to make
up more in order to get
a gentleman teacher,
have had a lady.
Tell me how to use for
the space slides, must
perhaps one paper &
put away. Nothing
more from Fred.
It is getting dark in the
hall so I will say
good bye, with much
love from devoted
Mother.
July 9th 1895

this morning, he may delay answering as I will write
this evening, the mornings are spent in putting up
fruit in some way, either canning, preserving, or putting
to dry, we are still having a plenty of apples (they have
increased in size a good deal too) & as many nice soft
peaches as we can use. I am so sorry they were not
ripe before you left, we have enjoyed them so much.
Today I put up both apple & peach jam for Aunt
Mabel's, she wrote they had no peaches. I wish I could
send or carry her some but the roads are too rough to
ride over, I hope they will smooth down some before all
the peaches are gone & that I can go up. The rains seem
over for awhile & I suppose the faces of the planters
will shorten, many of them were terribly low spirited
& predicted an entire failure in the cotton crop, well
it is very poor & some has suffered too from so much
rain.
I am you think you will like your work, the country

from your description of it must be very pretty & I
hope the climate & water will suit you. I am glad you
found an Episcopal church - Is Champaign a large
place? are manners & customs anything like Boston?
How about Prof Forbes is he pleased to deal with? I
^{reckon} you have more to do with him than anyone else.

Our house is very quiet now, only Lewis at home, I think
I wrote you Waver remained over with your Aunt Alice,
we expect him up tomorrow on the boat. Reuben went
in to Danapolis Saturday night, has not yet returned
sent word by Willie Browder that he would be out on
today's freight but did not come. Lewis will go to
Uniontown tomorrow to the tournament, bull, &c &c,
will spend the night with Mrs Benton, Reuben may
go from Danapolis, I think this it is probable Lewis is
coming out with him. Uncle Waver spent yesterday with
us, left Mother in bed, we want to go to see her but
cant brave the rough roads yet. I will have to go when
Alice comes.

I had quite a volume from Aunt Melville yesterday,
Mr H. & Lucy went to Tusculum Friday, Richd &
herself are alone in the day time, Mr Blake sleeps
there. Misses Ann & Pat, have not made their

met yet. Lewis drove the carriage to Newbern, in returning
the horses became frightened, turned short around in a
narrow road with a ditch on each side, broke the pole
& double bar, Lewis had to jump over the splatted board
& take her by the bridle to prevent a run away. I wish
that will put a stop to their driving her again. I had
a letter from Mrs Wren too she saw by the paper that
you had been in Vintonown & said she could not
help feeling hurt that you did not call for a few
minutes any how. Mrs Coffman the lady who wanted
board at Beech is still at Mrs Wren's, Beech will
decline having her now as Princes Waller, Virginia, ^{Harris} &
Miss Hill are coming to her house to stay.

Mabel & Lizzie are doing their best to entertain the
party. Miss girls, had a remaining party Monday night,
Lewis was of the number, they did not honor us with
a call, went to Dr Browdie's, the old Dr seems to be
failing fast, says he is. Old Mr James Lee Rose came
walking up Sunday evening, wanted to be sent to
Gallatin, was going to Lewis (his daughter) Lewis took
him down in the buggy & at night went to Mrs
Collins', one night last week the young men were all

am you think you will like your work, the country

invited up there & treated to cake & ice cream. I hear
"Mrs Joe" is going on a visit to Birmingham & Shrewsbury.
I am sorry for her to be absent from it for I am afraid
they will want me to take her place. We will send you
but by express as your Father fears its being crushed in
the mail, for as light a box the charge is very little, we
will put in an Advertisement that you may see how
Prof B - is being puffed, well. if the board allow him
to be retained I think they may as well let the ~~illness~~
rule the college. Your Father's trip to Tallahassee was rather
unsatisfactory did not see Dr Brown he having been called
off by the illness of his son & Mr Turner had left also, on the
way home he met Mr Lamborn, he told him they wanted a
male teacher at Cedarville as that evening Lewis mounted
the mule & in the face of a bad cold started for Mr
Ward's met him at his gate on his way to a meeting of
the trustees of the school, Lewis told him his business &
Mr Ward promised to do what he could for him, he is
one of the trustees, advised Lewis to write to Mr Godwin
there. Misses Anne & Mary were not made the



July 17th 1895.

My dear Son

Your weekly letter has not arrived but I will not wait for it, tho I will have to write under drawbacks & with many interruptions. For the first place I was up with your Father from 1 o'clock last night on to my usual time for rising, consequently don't feel very bright, then summer is being cooked & I have to overlook that, my work is good natured but not efficient as the whole responsibility falls upon me, I can't trust her at all to "go alone". But to return to your Father he was taken with nausea last night, the effort of vomiting threw him into a profuse cold perspiration & it was hard to warm him, at his request I called Livia (Ransom is not at home) & we rubbed him with towels & then dry mustard, gave chloroform & brandy but it was two hours before he began to warm up, then he had a terrible head ache & at day broke insisted that I should send for Willie Browder to put Morphine in his arm which he did & since he has been resting quietly will be all right when he sleeps off the Morphine. He has had several very sick patients lately & riding as in the heat of the day, coming to a late cold dinner when tired may have brought on the

spell. Mrs Hatch came in this morning early & sat until I thought there would be no chance to give out dinner, so I picked up news only she says Minnie is delightfully fixed & much pleased with her new Mother. Mrs B- looks young again since the burden of managing off her daughter is off her shoulders, it is a pity Mrs B- can't feel the same way. She is on a visit to Birmingham. Isabel & her pretty "friends" leave the Cambridge on Friday, I don't think they will carry off the hearts of any of our young men. Mrs Woody Collins has been very sick, better now, & Mrs Martin at the same place. Mrs Walker writes your Father that he recovered his health & gained 12 pounds weight with Cherry. Lizzie went to the barbecue & ball in Birmingham, escorted Lizzie Barber to the ball, was invited to tea at Dr Barber's four three quite stylish. Mrs Jane Bowden came over to take home one of her boys who has been sick at Mrs Barber's. I called to see her at Dr Bowden's yesterday, she is looking old & gray, the evening before Lizzie & myself called on Mrs Torbert & Mrs Cohen, oh it was so hot in Mrs T's parlor, you can imagine it. The weather for some days past has been stunning, too hot to look at the thermometer. How is it with you? Good weather for the cotton to grow so we had the needed shower a few days ago.

Saturday your Father & myself had a trip, we drove to Lanesville over the roughest roads I ever travelled, no truck at

all, sometimes a winding path in the middle of the road
which the mule took leaving the wheels at the mercy of the
clods that were like rocks, we found them all well. Mr Harris
& Lucy had just returned from Tuckaloo, he could find no
center for his place, the same man lives there for nothing &
every thing is falling to pieces, he does not even keep a cow now.
Mrs H. says many houses are closed, nobody wants them. The
Methodists bought Mrs Hills property, the house, six acres of
ground, the furniture including 22 pianos for 12,000 dollars.
She said she was compelled to sacrifice it, the man who rented
last year could not pay the rent, nor their expenses.

I had a letter from Fred today, they had spent the afternoon in
the park with the babies, Frederic was delighted with everything,
& Frances is as jolly as possible. Dr Bacon has not answered Freds
letter yet. Reuben started yesterday to see Mr Hollenback, if would
need a man at the place near Wintonow next year, he said he
would. I suppose he stayed at Johnnys last night & today, may
reach home tonight. Reuben is under the impression his uncle
John will want him the balance of this year. Nothing from the
Cedarville school yet. We are still looking for Waver, Mrs Hatch
says Minnie went on a sailing party with Bessie, Waver, & others.
Dinner is over & I must take a nap before time for the Guild
meeting, excuse mistakes, with much love from us all.

Your devoted Mother.

them not, gave Mrs Stewart about half a bushel yesterday & then had the dairy table
 full & this morning as
 Friday more were brought
 down & they were
 not half that
 I could have been
 gathered, tomorrow
 I will care tomorrow
 work I could care tomorrow
 for sale, I must stop
 now & cut some
 cabbage for pickling -
 is going as fast, the
 hands at & drip off.
 Your brother says he
 will write here, with
 much love from us
 all. Your devoted
 Mother.
 July 1st. I forgot about
 the stamp I sent &
 don't know what to
 say don't you think it
 would be coming at
 such a time it is
 at about 9? it might
 not bring the 679 couple
 it would be as well to
 let Mrs Hope try to sell

Yours very acceptable letter reached me later than
 it should have done, having stopped over, or gone on to Memphis.
 I don't know which. How do you like the arrangement of
 work at two places? it is a nice idea to have a laboratory
 right on the river & a boat to take the workers to & from
 town. You did not say whether the hat was injured by the
 trip but I hope not & while I think of it tell me how to
 take care of the glass slides you left, must I wrap them
 up? or put in a box & let nothing touch them?
 Our house is very quiet today Lizzie & Waver went to Memphis
 to be shot & to have the buggy spring worked on, Lizzie was
 to see the principal of the Male Academy & see if he wants
 an assistant & Waver try what he could do towards getting
 up an interest in an electrical plant there, hoping to
 get a job. Uncle John would not say until last week
 what he would give Reuben, 20 dollars & board is all he
 offers, & he wants him to help him generally on 4 places,
 look after steam machinery, keep books &c &c, Reuben says he
 can't work as he would have to there for that, as I suppose

Johnny will get some one else, your Father advised him not to work for that, if you have a chance, keep a look out for him he certainly ought to go at something. Willie Browder has a situation in the Custom House Mobile, salary \$200 a year, he left last night, big son Charley (Whelan) has come down, what for we do not know but he took occasion to say he had a license to practice in Jefferson Co & had that transferred to Hale, your Father says it is all foolishness.

A vast concourse of people, white & colored, turned out yesterday evening to the burial of Mr Woody Collins (I think I wrote of his illness) the baptist church was full & from the sermon one would have thought him a saint, instead of a most unreliable, worthless, man. It is said his property will all be taken at once for his debts, I don't know what will become of his wife & little children, the youngest one was buried on Saturday, I thought it a blessed thing the baby was taken, leaving her two to take care of. Every one who is sick now will be frightened to death I reckon. Father King was getting better but yesterday evening sent to say she was worse & wanted your Father to come again.

Yesterday morning we went to call on Jennie Mc Donald now Mrs Stubbs, she is looking very pretty, has two sweet little children, will be with Mrs Stewart about a month.

to the collector be mentioned. I am in no great hurry if you think the entire note and
 determine, you know more about the business that I do & I am nothing to trust
 you
 your
 parent
 do what
 you
 think
 best.

Flora will be there in August with her two children.
 Beacie Stewart writes she may come up in August with
 Primrose, I suppose she will spend part of her time with us.
 Wave & Lavinia went Tuesday night to a very enjoyable
 German, in Haverdale, Mary Pringle was there with her
 5 visitors, expects two more this week as there will be 10 girls
 in the house, Beacie has gone off on a trip with her father.
 Reuben unfortunately was ~~in~~ called to Haverdale to
 the trial of Mr. Kellum for carrying concealed weapons, they
 did nothing with him, he acknowledged it but said his
 life was in danger & that was the reason he was armed,
 that three people had threatened his life. Reuben stayed with
 Green, he has left the Hotel (has rented it out) & is occupying
 the Carson house until he puts up one, with room begin
 building. Your aunt Sally too is going to fix her house, Potting's
 wife is sick there now. Mrs. Cobb & Uncle Waver were with us
 Sunday, we all got a wetting coming from church, saw the
 cloud but thought we could get in before it came over
 us. I was in Mrs. Cobb's buggy, if I had walked would have
 escaped it but we had a shower while service was going
 on & the grace was not. Mr. C. had to put on your Father's
 ducts & Wave furnished Uncle Waver a coat, he would not
 change pants. We are still having quantities of tomatoes.
 I am begging people to take them because I hate to see



Gallion, Ala.
Aug. 1, 1876.

Dear Ben,

Your letter was an interesting addition to yesterday's mail, and as mother is quite busy this morning putting up peaches, she has asked me to embody in this the news of the neighborhood.

Yesterday aunt Melville, uncle Morris, and the two children came up and spent the day with us. Of course they arrived quite early (as they usually do), and would have stayed until late in the afternoon, but a slight sound of thunder in the far north-west hurried them off about half past four. Uncle Morris had only one horse, now of which they are very much afraid, and so they have been trying to rid them-

Let ^{for} some time in order to get
a pair of horse dealers from Demop-
olis met them here and after
some agitation a trade was made
by which uncle Harris secured a
black and a roan 'plug'. Aunt Mel-
ville has two of the 'young ladies'
from Uniontown visiting her, but
very unfortunately they were unable
to bring them down with her
yesterday. They have been there
over two weeks and no symptoms
of leaving have yet been shown.

I have written to the Superintendent
of Education in Ala. and Miss., and
would write to Prof. Lipscomb,
but he is spending the summer
in Chicago. Chas. Lee advised me
so earnestly to immediately take
up the study of medicine that
I am loath to write to him in
regard to work; his policy is, too,
you know, to look out first for
Mississippi boys, many of whom

are looking for this kind of work that we have in mind. However, if work in any other line turns up, I will eagerly take it. Some time ago I wrote to the principal of the Demopolis military academy, but as he is out of town, I haven't heard from him. Later I went in there to see him and Mr. Prout, one of the trustees, found the former still out of town and the latter too sick to transact business.

Altho this neighborhood is very quiet, Faunsdale is the scene of much gaily. There are so many visiting girls that the boys are continually giving something to entertain them. Today there is a tournament and barbecue in Geo. Adams' grove, and a game of baseball between Faunsdale and Demopolis this afternoon. A ball to-night completes the program. None of us go down today, but I be-

live all go to the ball tonight.

Miss Lavinia Grimes has a friend from Mobile, Miss Nellie Prince, visiting her, and ~~Wade~~ and myself were invited to come down and go on a hay ride with a party of Lanevillians. Tho it was enjoyed, they went so far that we were out all night.

There seems to be a good deal of sickness in our neighborhood now, principally, I believe, from imprudence in diet. Charley, Allen, and "Mrs. Chow" have had spells. Charley was dangerous all two days ago and is still in a precarious condition. Jeter has also had a spell of short duration.

Crops are improving a great deal but still the farmers are despondent. All here all well.

Yours off, L. D. Duggoo.

about 40 times more or less, oh, the news now is that Clara & Ralph are to be married in Oct, Ralph & my dear Robert bought

Rochester & son, take a dwelling house together in the city of Danvers;

that is what we knew, I can't wonder for the truth of it. With much love I must close

Your devoted

Mother.

Wish not any thing you think wrong in the "history" & be sure to

tell me if my stamp was a 2nd & say it was, your father says not.

On my return from Danvers this morning your letter was received, I thank you very much for it & the check enclosed when I think the amount has been collected I will send you a check, don't say no because a laborer is worthy of his reward & you have certainly worked to sell the stamps for me. Now the next consideration will be how best to dispose of the money, I will consult with Fred & your Father about that & decide, not hastily I hope. Perhaps it would be as well to help the boys ^{subv} ^{particularly} now as to invest for future use, what do you think about it? While on the subject of the boys I must tell you we are very sorry there is no chance of getting Clara in with you, that was an unfortunate error for the department as well as yourself & Mr Johnson as I expect the want of an assistant will increase your work.

You ask what I think of the conditions upon which Mr Ayer sends the check; on first thought they seemed hard but really amounts to nothing because we

know the stamp is genuine, has never been seen,
heard of, or handled by any one but ourselves & I
have never seen or heard of but that one, of that
denomination. Would a short history of aunt Melville's
& Mrs Wren's help in the sale?

Your letter was written on your birth day, did you
remember it? Fred came that morning & we all
thought of & wished for you to make our circle complete,
it was, in thought - I made a birth day cake
& we were to have had ice cream but the ice man
disappointed us so we had stewed pears instead, Uncle
Wave was with us. Aunt Melville & Uncle Harris knowing
Fred was expected, came down Monday & spent the day,
Tuesday soon after breakfast Bessie, the twins, Chas. & Dick
& Louise drove up to spend the day & in a little
while Byron & Fred Sprague, so we had 13 in all
to dinner, Fred said it seemed strange to him to sit
at such a long table & all near him. He left us
yesterday for Montgomery & his visits to other places near
there. He spent Saturday at Mr. Smau's, drove into Gales-
burg & saw a good many friends, spent two nights at
Akron with Bolling. When the buggy returned from the
depot yesterday morning the horse was changed &
Wave drove me to Genoa, it was cloudy but we

have had as many threatenings & little rain that we
ventured any how, a heavy cloud came up before dinner &
it continued cloudy & raining until late in the evening, as
much so that I remained at Mother's & let Waver come
home, this morning I came out on the passenger train
with Limer Hatch, had told Waver I would be out
on the freight, however Charley Whelan was at the
Station in a buggy & gave me a seat, his Father
left this morning, came down to see Dr Browder, the
old gentleman is better today but we think his days
are numbered. Your Father will leave for Montgomery
Sunday, the meeting will take place Monday at 12 o'clock
so they (he & Fred) will not reach home until Tuesday
evening, then Fred will stay about a week at home, his
leave will be out on the 27th - poor fellow we are
now confirmed in our opinion of his being a hen
pecked man, he is so thin his ears look like nothing
& there seems no blood in them, he is nearly bald,
not a little place, but the whole top of his head,
in fact he looks need up & we are so sorry for him
it makes us sad to see him, I think his heart is
much set on the Auburn place & if he doesn't
get it I know the disappointment will be great,
be sure to avoid girls with Mother & Grand Mother
- my accuser we

to be supported. The Duggan cranks show out on Fred
too, he will not eat any nourishing food hardly,
takes pears & buttermilk for breakfast, a few butter
cakes added, about the same for dinner & supper,
it is enough to kill him, to say nothing of poor looks,
but he thinks he knows as we let him alone.

Your aunt Alice came up last Thursday I think it
was, will be up a month, promises us a visit, I
rather dread it but must go through with it, will
be glad when it is over. Alice & Tommy are expected
up from Bladon on today's boat, Lovie is looking
quite fat & well, received your letter last night.
Mother is looking very thin but goes about as usual.
I have written out a history of the stamp & intended
to make affidavit to it but thought I had better
send it to you to read first, if it is what you
think it should be, return & I will send back with
affidavit. I have a piece of poetry in the same bound
writing of the envelope if that would go to prove any
thing. Mrs Macartney is up, I must call this evening.
You must excuse this letter I have been interrupted

Wave dove me

Thursday Aug 8th

They should see as little
com bread when
word as as about about
but I don't reckon you
mind it. Well I have
written in a great
many as please
know I have this
letter with much
love from us all
Now I have
written.

It is so cloudy I can't see
across the house as I take this paper &
prepared to write on the porch. I am very
sorry my letter last week was delayed, it
will be the same this week I fear, yesterday
I could not write because of a visit to
Union Town, this morning was taken up
with a funeral & immediately after dinner
there were some things to be done that I
could not neglect. I will try to get this
off tonight however.

On my return home last night I found
your letter which was very much welcome.
I write you of the sickness (or rather I have
write for me) in Mr Collins' family. Allen
soon became better, that is not dangerous.

the top of it looks quite new. It is always

all, but Charley had a terrible time, the
fever left him a day or two ago & your
father had great hope of his recovery, but
yesterday at 10 o'clock he died, his brain
was dreadfully affected & your father says
he thinks if he had lived his mind
might never have been the same it was.
He raved like a maniac, & still knew
persons who came in the room, at the
last he was conscious & asked if nothing
could be done for him & if they had his
black suit ready & what sort of a case
he wanted. Poor Mr Collins is nearly crazy,
he relied so much on Charley, we all
feel very much for him, two sons & a grand
son (his favorite), in about two weeks.
Your father went down after the funeral
& has not returned. I hope Allen is no
worse, they had not told him of Charley's
death but expected to do so this morning.

3rd
Your Father slept at home last night
for the first time in over a week.
Reuben had fever two days & was looking
very badly I feared he would have a
spell but he is getting over the attack
now looking better. Rector Peffer was
barned Monday she had a long spell of
fever & cancer they thought by a fall from
the porch, you will think my letter a record
of sickness & death as I will change the
subject & tell you why I went to Wainwright.
My old friend Miss Bethe Sample was
there on a visit & expressed a great wish
to see me, we both enjoyed the meeting,
your boys were little fellows the last time
we met. Mrs. Wren seems very unwell, only
herself, Miss Mary & Willie were at home. Miss

Ann & Patsey are still with Sister Sally.
Mrs Nelson sent her 20 dollars on three
stamps & wrote he hoped by & means to have
some thing nice for them, I hope he will.
There was a bird on the train coming home,
Vince Hunter married his brother in law I
think, cousin Ida & Mr Michael were on their
way home from N. to where they have been
for his health. Uncle John got on at
Hammonds, going to Blount, said the
young people at home had run him nearly
crazy & he was going to join aunt Bessie &
Mr Chadwick at Blount. Mary gives a
large party tonight, Sally Selden & John are
to give "grace & dignity to the gathering", the
only married people, Mary must have a
great deal of confidence to undertake such
an entertainment & no old folks behind
the scenes. Waver & Laura are going down.
The boys pointed my buggy, blackened up

1875?

Larnerville Aug^{12th}

My dear Sister,

I promised to write
& let you know when the old ladies
left, but I havint had a moment for
several days to do any thing but help
Olivia, she says she never would
have gotten ready if it hadnt been
for my help. Thursday morning
Melville brought her party dress
over she was to wear to Harry's party
that night for me to help her fix it
but that work all fell on me & I
one thought she mustnt be left out
so she brought a white dress that
had to have a great deal of dar-
ning, those two jobs took me all the
morning & the rest of the day I sew-
ed as hard as I could for Olivia

the next morning (Friday) to our
perfect joy the ladies left, then I
went over as soon as I finished dinner
& served all evening, & the same thing
the next evening, I now never saw I
such a rush at the last, then Fie
declared I must pack her trunk
yesterday (Sunday) so as soon as
we finished dinner I hurried to
go over but such a storm came
up I had to wait, as soon as the
rain held up a little I went & I walk-
ed over in the mud, I found Fie
waiting for me, two beds piled up
with clothes, but we soon got them
all packed, & they left this morning
will go by Richmond instead of
Washington, Mr Evans could not
get the horses that way, I know
she will enjoy her trip, I hope you
can come down now to spend the
day & night too if you will, I want
to make some visit myself if Mr

Aug 12, 1897

He will drive me, I am sorry to
say the horses do not suit us, we
will keep them until we can ex-
change them. Wasn't Berta Ruffin's
death sad? I went to see her Friday
she talked to me & Sunday she
died, I left the ladies again & went
to the funeral, thought every body
would be caught at the grave in an
awful storm, & we had to hurry off
so I didn't even speak to Johnnie &
Bessie told me how dreadfully he
was looking & feeling, I am very
anxious about him, I was so glad he
left before that party, he told Bessie
the noise & confusion & running
about nearly ran him crazy, he
& Bessie & the old man will be back
Wednesday, We were fixing the book
case this morning & found an old
envelope with two Union Town
stamps on it one with a corner torn
entirely off, & the corner of the other

torn off but there, so I send you
the envelope & want to ask you to
send it to Ben & ask him if he
thinks any thing could be done
with it. ^{No. 11} H. I thought it might
be taken off & carefully put together
but I don't believe any thing can be
with it but thought it no harm
to try, I would take the first offer
made for it, & pay Ben a com-
mission. I don't know whether it
is the kind of stamps that are want-
ed, so it like yours? I don't know
Ben's address so send to you, Beech,
& I are going to see John Wilkins'
wife tomorrow, she is spending a
few days with Hinge. I must close
this to send to the office. All join
me in love to each of you. As ever
Your aff Sister
Melville

Aug 14th 1895-

Dear Ben:

As I wish to get this letter off to you this evening I must use my pencil & scrap paper. We have had quite an epidemic of sickness in the neighborhood, and an unusual thing, it has struck the Leckins family, heretofore almost free from disease & disaster: but misfortunes come not alone, & Woody & Charles both succumbed - Allen is better & walking about. But - Davies was taken down a few days ago, I paid him only 2 visits - Charles & Allen were so sick that Dr Bailey & I attended them together I at night & Dr Bailey in day time.

For one solid week I was there every night -
it of course has been hard on Mr. W. L.
This has been an unusual year and I am glad
you were in a cooler climate. Had a letter from
Fred - quite a document - a quart of questions.
He is very much in earnest about trying for
the position of Prof of it at Auburn. And I
think he has a good showing now -

Bro Waverly is tying his horse at the gate
& I am afraid I can't say all I wish to this
evening.

Louise is here, has been with us for several
days - The boys have had a very siege of it -
in going to dances &c. Sunday Dr Goodloe
brought Linda out Sunday morning to Newfott.

Aug 28, 1895 3

The babies in the neighborhood
have been sick also - Mrs Hill
& Mrs Stubbs from Texas (her sister
Jennie)

Willie Browder quit us &
accepted a position of clerk
in Customs House in Mobile.
He was right as he gets cash
for his work.

Mrs Whelan & her daughter Juliet
are visiting Mrs Browder. Juliet
& Louise Porter are very well.
Your son Wm is on a visit
to John Minges; where are
several girls, two Searey's
from Tuskalooza & two Snows.
- We have had more fruit
than we can destroy - some
one expressed an opinion that
the large Le Conte tree had more
than 20 bush^s on it. -

None of the fruit is good this year & I seldom
ever eat any - but your Mother has been very
busy canning & preserving - and I believe
Louise is about to try her hand.

The grapes were very good and Prof
Hoy sent me a double crate of excellent
grapes from the A & M -

My lots around the house have made me
more frogs than I can put away - and
on Sunday last - My Man came to me &
said he had to get higher wages - I told
him he was welcome & he left me. I had
been looking for a break - but gave him no excuse.

Can you propose any way to ⁵
help Fred out in his course.
When you were on the train to Selma
once with Judge Haralson, what
was the subject of conversation
chiefly? - I think about that time
Fred had some idea of offering
for the Auburn Professorship.

It is raining again this
evening & is so bad on the farms
as to saving fodder & hay - a good
many tons of hay have been burnt
- getting wet & useless - so they burned
them to get them out of the way -
I am so hurried now, I shall
write again soon - Let me
know what work you have to do.
& if you will have a class -

Yours affect Father -

H. Duggan

307 Mass. Ave, N.E.,
Washington, D.C., Aug. 14, '93.

Dear Ben;

I should have acknowledged the receipt of your letter containing check, but have been exceedingly ^{busy} looking for a house to live in and writing some letters relative to Auburn. There was no need for you to hasten the payment of the sum borrowed; I hope you have not cramped yourself in sending it from your first month's pay. I return the interest as I had never the slightest thought of charging my brother interest.

By the number at the head of this letter you will note that we have chosen a house, but we will not move till tomorrow or next day. It is in a very pleasant locality, and though a nice house does not exactly suit us, as its front yard is not enclosed and some conveniences are wanting.

Father does not seem very hopeful of my
being the man nominated and thinks if
success comes it will come from bringing
influence to bear on the trustees individually.
Col. Armstrong has never noticed my letter
and this forebodes no good, I think. Dr. B's
long-delayed acknowledgement of my
letter was exceedingly brief.

I am now asking some of my
friends to write personal letters to indi-
vidual trustees commending me and my
work. Those whom I have asked to write
are Dr. Andrews, Gov. Seay, Thos. Knight,
Ed. Vaughan (to see Col Rich of Mobile), Rev.
C. L. Brunscom, a Greensboro collegemate &
recently pastor of a church in Decatur,
J. H. Minge, ^{Charles Coleman of Monticminy,} and Uncle Harris (to ascer-
tain if Judge Somerville will lend his
endorsement.)

I think also of writing to Judge
Willie Taylor, Norfolk ^{Dr. W. Brooker} Harris, and
Rev. Frank Peterson, now of Selma &
formerly a teacher in So. Univ. I may also
call on others, especially on some friends
near Snowden. Should you have any
influential friend with whom you are on

Aug. 11, 1895

on such terms as to justify your making a request, you might consider the ^{advisability} ~~desirability~~ of asking him to write to some one of the trustees.

Are any of the Uniontown (Ct. Sta.) trustees to be thought of, for example Mr. Munnings Walker? I suppose Col. Davidson is not an intimate acquaintance of yours.

Do not feel morally obliged to write to anybody, but consider whether there is any opportunity to do so effectively.

It appears that Prof. Newman may support Col. B., as in a recent issue of his paper the former greatly praised the latter & his work & made a ^{mild} stab at Dr. Brown.

I am willing to go home now and canvass the trustees if satisfied that my cause would be helped thereby. What do you think of it? I have several times asked father's opinion, but he has not referred to

it since.

Even if I do not go some weeks in advance of the meeting & thus see the trustees in their homes, I may decide to go and be in Montgomery during their meeting.

Give me the benefit of any suggestions you can, and if you can shed any light on the personality of any of the trustees it may help me. Father's idea is to send an outline of my past work (no testimonials) to each trustee, if I do not see them personally.

If Fannie were with me she would join in love to you. Frederic is suffering greatly from heat these terrible days, but I hope cooler weather will soon come to his relief.

Your aff. brother
J. Duggar.

Aug 14, 1895

List of Trustees.

Gov. Wm. C. Cates, Montgomery.

J. O. Turner "

D. F. Culver, Union Springs.

J. C. Rich, Mobile.

H. Clay Armstrong, Auburn.

R. H. Duggar, Gethen.

J. G. Gilchrist, Hope Hall.

Wm. Smau, Bogiee.

C. C. Harris, Decatur.

Jonathan Hurlson, Selma.

Thos. Williams, Wetumpka.

J. A. Bulbro, Gadsden.

Aug 14th 1895-

Dear Son

Our Father claims the pleasure of writing to you this week as I will only put in a few lines to thank you for your letter received this morning. I was sorry to hear you were not well but know how prudent you are & hope you are feeling better by this time. I am glad to say the health of our neighborhood seems to be improving Mr Bart Davis the last on the sick list is much better today & Hattie King also, she has been sick over a month. Allen is up walking with the aid of a stick. We have had some refreshing showers that cooled the earth for awhile but now a storm is brewing & it is hot, Uncle Waver dropped in as I had to stop for awhile, he is here but while talking to Louise I will finish my note. Dr Goodloe brought Louise out Sunday morning, we expected them that evening & when they arrived just after all the breakfast was consumed & fire gone out there was rather a commotion in my department on finding he had not breakfasted, Louise had. I had a fire made & fixed up some breakfast for him, soon after he left. Juliet & her Mother are at Dr

Browder's, Louise was there several days & judging
from the noise they had a lively time. I wrote you
how longy is there - I don't remember whether I wrote to
you after my trip to Uniontown, I enjoyed seeing Miss
Betty Sample (Sister Elizabeth) as much carried all
my boys pictures, Fanny's & Frederick's to show her & she
seemed to be pleased to see them. We had a long letter
from Fred today, all about applying for the Auburn
place, he has heard nothing satisfactory from Dr Brown
or any one he has written to. Your Father thinks the election
will take place the 1st of Sept but has received no
notice yet, that was the time last year. Frederick
has been raised 100 dollars since Mr Lane returned
from Denver, that will help him. He did not
mention the children so I suppose they are well.
The rain this evening prevents Louise & Lennie from
calling on Jenny Stubbs. I must close, with much
love

Your devoted

Mother.

August 14 - 1895

My dearest friend I have
wanted to write to you
for several days, I hope
met with what I hope
is a piece of very good fu-
ture, have found a Union
~~Local~~ Local 54, it was
posted in the back of a
Book I lent to you. If
Ben will undertake it
had rather get home to
attend to it. I am any-
one, in the first I don't
know he is honest, I will
not charge more than
is right for any trustee,
and am sure he is
a person of good sense

and judgment. I flatter myself, that he does feel interested in me, & do his best for me. Mr. Wams was greatly interested in it. Says a lady in Greenboro has a h. t. local has been offered 600, for it & says she is holding it for 1000. It seems to me that - is holding it pretty high, will you be so good as to write to Ben, right away & ask him if will under take this, please write me just what to do, how to send to him & the stamp had not been used, it is pasted on a blank leaf of a book

I can just cut it out, & send the leaf, I do not ask you, to excuse my not being you, for I am sure you will do this for me. I hope you had a comfortable trip home & found well going on night - feel anxious to hear if R. had any return of fever, till him Willie got his note & letter enclosed has attended to it, & we hope it will meet with success. Mr. Wams name is B. W. Wren, address is Savannah Geo. Plant System, better by Personal. Sisters returned Sunday. Mr. W. was very foolish, thus well, I have not seen Betty, she is at Mr. Kingfords, for long a walk for this hot weather.

had a note from her
yesterday she was quite
sick Friday & Saturday
well as usual they
has to be home - by
28 I wish she could
stay longer tell the
boy he know how
glad we were to hear
you. he wd send you
up flowers. I wish you could
see how nice the Deans
you bought us look preserv-
ed, you must not forget
to express any. I have
been making some ph-
bs, today hope to make
some jelly tomorrow. I hope
you will excuse this humble
writing on united &
wound I wish you could
ever fondly affly
yrs L. A. Allen

Dear Son

Aug 17th 1895

The enclosed notes will explain themselves, I fear sister Sally's will not sell as it is torn, tho it could be neatly mended. I suppose you will write to Mrs Wren about hers, if you undertake this selling, tell her how to send it to you & will write her to hold on until she hears from you, but I should not think it necessary for her to pay \$2.50 express as I did. There are so many "finds" I had better take what I can get for mine I reckon. I would take a commission if I were you because it takes time & trouble to dispose of them. Yesterday morning cousin Jane Dunsen came in very unexpectedly, stayed until the freight for Demopolis passed, will return to Selma Monday, visit Louise in Birmingham & then return to W B, she is much thinner than when she left but better looking on that account. I enjoyed seeing her, heard so much of the cares of house keeping at the North that I would be almost willing

we try to make if the same with us, all
well - I wish you had some of our
own grass, I could ought to be here
now. With much love from us all

Your devoted Mother.

all night, your Father started home, was caught in a
storm, darkness came on & he had to stay in a negro's
house all night, the man had a spare room ^{ready} fixed
up & he said he was very comfortable, I was glad enough
I had stayed, don't think I could have slept a wink in
a darkey's house, I have such a horror of them. Yesterday
after I sent one home in her carriage, I got in just in
time for a scant dinner ordered by the boys. I left both
patients much better, have not heard from them today.
Ward went off this morning to the Station to be ready
for a German in Uniontown tonight, the others did not
care to go, there was one in Hannsdale Tuesday night,
the storm prevented Ward & Lewis from going. Louis left
on Sunday evening having spent a week since I wrote we
have had a visit from cousin Sam Deaneau, who spent
the day & night & we sent her to the freight next day to
make Mother a visit. She seems much pleased with the
convenience of northern house keeping, but according to her
usual custom she never went out to see the sights, with
others some times in Sept. Your Father liked your ideas
so much that he sent your letter to Fard, he had
advised him to visit D. B. but said after reading your
letter he thought best for him not to do it, some how and
he seems not to look at all points in considering a question.

Gallien, Ala.
Aug. 27, 1885

Dear Ben,

Your letter of the 18th inst. was received yesterday, and after some consideration, I am ready to reply to your proposition. We think it a good one and I am anxious to enter into it. I am very much obliged for your offer as to the money for fees, but Father says he can defray the other expenses, board, lodging, & laundry being covered.

If all should come out "O.K." what are the possibilities of performing enough work to secure M.D. in one year, and if this be so, what could I expect there another year - i.e. would there be any opening?

I have ^{been} encouraged by cousin Eire Duncan to write to Prof. Cunningham of the Bloom

public schools for a position. She said
he spoke favorably of our opening. I don't
know how this would turn out, but it
is good to have more than one in view.

Father seems very anxious for me to go
to Illinois, and so of course I am, for
my only object in going to work, you
know, was to help our finances.

Let me hear from you if anything de-
velops.

Aunt Melville and Rich have been ~~well~~
well, but I guess mother has embodied
the local news, so I will hasten to post
this.

Yours off. Broq.
Levee

p. m. Gallions

Wednesday Aug 28th 1895

My dear Son

Your letter was gladly received this morning, we are pleased to know so much of the University & think more than ever that you were fortunate in securing the place you have. I would like so much to have Lewis with you, your Father thinks he will be able to furnish what he needs. The circular letter was quite conspicuous & we were glad to see it. This morning's mail brought a letter from Fred giving us his route home, he leaves Washington today, expects to reach Gallions Sunday morning. Will go up to Montgomery Tuesday evening spending the day in Selma, will visit Wetumpka, Snowden, Popo Bull, Union Springs, then back to Montgomery on Saturday, to remain until after the meeting. ~~Now~~ I suppose he will then return home for a short visit, get cheap rates to Atlanta & from there possibly reduced rates to Washington. Prof Bondeurant sent a whole budget of letters from the farmers & others saying how much he had done & how well he had filled the place, to show you how much they know about it, Capt. Elmore of Decatur was one

of the men. You know your Father was afraid Col
Armistead & Mrs Colburn would be against Fred & did
not know who could influence them - Sunday evening he
drove down to Johnny's to call on Mr Chadwick, spent the
night, in talking to Johnny he told your Father that
both those gentlemen were under political obligations to
him & that he would write to them in Fred's behalf,
Mr Ed Wainham saw Mrs Rich for Fred & learned he
had not committed himself to any one as we have
hopes of him, Judge Wilkes wrote a nice letter to your
Father, thought if Fred wanted the place he should
apply by all means but did not say he would support
him, your Father thinks he will vote for any one Dr
Barrow recommends, the fact is I reckon it all hinges
on that. It would be a pity if after all Fred's trouble he
should be disappointed. I suppose he wrote you what
a pleasant home they have & how they enjoy spending
themselves. Fanny gives glowing descriptions of the
children & their sweet ways, the little girl has been
sitting alone some time, they are only half a square
from a park which is as pleasant for the children &
grown folks too I reckon. Fanny invites me to return
with Fred but of course I have n't an idea of doing so,
much as I would like to see the children, they have now

Aug 28, 1895
p. m. Gallion

six rooms. I have been trying ever since you left to go in to see your Grand Mother but have not succeeded yet, would go tomorrow but the boys want the buggy to go to Greensboro to a base ball, & go away tomorrow night. Wave returned this morning from a day & nights visit to Uncle John's, Reuben went to Fumess also yesterday morning to spend the day, has not yet returned, it is now about 5 o'clock. Mary's company has left at last. I have not seen her or the twins this summer.

Uncle Wave spent today with us, said all were well at Mother's on Sunday. The sick at Lenoirville are all up, I am expecting sister S. down to spend the day, will try to keep her longer for the change might do her good.

There are some new firms at Gallion now, Mr J T Collins is moving into his new store, Mr Taylor Hobbs & Herbert Collins have formed a partnership, will open at Mr Torbert's old stand with 100 dollars!! worth of goods. Mr R W Collins Sr & Mr Willis Beasley will combine & keep in Mr J T's old store, "Minnie" will clerk for them & I suppose Mr Beasley will ride down

occasionally & look after things. Nothing for Reuben &
Wave yet. Dr Barnden has been quite unwell for
several days, just gradually failing I reckon. Mrs Whelan
left yesterday for Birmingham. The health of our neighbor
hood is improving, no sick on hand now. I went up to
see Adèle Du Bois a few evenings ago, she talks as grand
as ever about her matters & prospects, handed us some
new ice cream. It is getting as dark I must conclude,
with much love from us all, I wish you could be with
us while Fred is here, our circle would be complete

Your devoted
Mother.