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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.

Since you left on
Mrs Nelson either
Good night, with
much love
Your devoted
Mother.

Jan 2nd 1896

My dear Son

I received the enclosed letter from Fred today, think he will handily write you so full an account of his trip & that you will be glad to see it, there are some messages for you too, then you will be glad to hear from us I reckon, the probably a little sooner than you expected a letter.

You had a pleasant time for your trip after all & I was so glad for you to have good weather, it was so cold & unpleasant while you were with us. Your visit & Lewis' were so short I felt as if I had hardly seen you, the I was thankful for that much.

Wm went to Bobbie's store Tuesday morning to stay until his return, you may know

miss you all, it seems right hard to raise
a whole family & then have to give them
all up as soon as grown.

As it was quite cold day before yesterday
(Tuesday) your Father had 4 hogs killed &
yesterday & today I have been busy with
lard & sausage, have another days work
with it tomorrow. I wish you had come, I
think it would fatten you.

I was much surprised today to receive a
card from Gertrude, She is "prepared to do
shopping of every description with taste & economy
"Latest styles in dress goods, millinery, books,
pictures, artists materials &c &c." West Washington
St. N. Y. She said not a word about her
horses. We have not seen Uncle Wm yet if
weather keeps good I think we will drive in
town soon to see your Grand Mother, but there
is a strong east wind tonight. Did your bottle
make the trip safely? Nothing from Reuben

Auburn, Ala., Jan. 5, 1896.
Dear Mother,

At last I am able to use ink, - previously only the pencil has been practicable. This improvement is a sign that we are beginning to find out where a few things are. We are still in dire confusion. As we expect to use the Columbus furniture largely and as this has not yet been hauled, we have not unpacked boxes, etc. The Columbus furniture was pre-paid in full, about \$30, - now the agent here claims that was an undercharge & hold the furniture here for a balance of about \$19. So far I have refused to pay, hoping to get the initial railroad, the N.R.C. to adjust the matter in my favor.

We are in the Bonaventure mansion. I wish I could draw a plan, but no plan would do justice to the structure. It must be a delightful summer house,

but is voted "the coldest known" in winter.
Keyless locks, catchless sashes, ^{fallen fastenings,} & glass blinds
broken & without fastenings are however
the greatest drawbacks, next to the
absence of closets. We are pleased
with our room, more so with the
premises than with the house. However
it will take considerable expenditure to
keep this place in the repair & state of
cultivation expected of a professor of
agriculture.

Fannie has been in bed two days
with an inflammation of one eye, -
inducing severe headache, inability to rest
in a lighted room, & other inconveniences.
She is up this afternoon and I think the
inflamed lid is much improved. We attrib-
ute the trouble to night care of children, con-
sisting in loss of rest & excessive poking of
open fires, - also partly to a severe cold & to
indulgence in meats three times a day during
our sojourn at hotels & boarding houses.

I began work on the 30th, took
charge of station property & lectured on the

31st. This term I have only a few hours class work ^{per week} but as I find it necessary to do ~~all~~ of this work for the present by lectures considerable time will be required in preparation.

Station work, or rather farm affairs, will require most of my time. Correspondence is large & of a nature requiring considerable time. Accounts ^{records of} experiments will take some time. The most discouraging thing is the fact that the agricultural dept. has only a small unfunded balance to run on till June July. In fact only less than \$900 for the half of the year when expenses are highest & receipts almost nothing. Indeed the expenses that can be certainly fore-
^{in the conduct of the farm simply as a farm} seen, largely contracted for before I took charge, are in excess of the amount available. So my chief work ~~till~~ for the present is the ~~the~~ initiation of such experiments as add nothing to expenses and a careful study of means of economizing. Moreover there are now two departments, Agr. & Hort., to run out of.

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this balance, ^{much} the ~~less~~ more than half having
of the original appropriation having been expended
in the first six months of the fiscal year by
the ^{then} ~~one~~ department.

I am going to do the best I can & not
worry about this, which I trust is only a
temporary embarrassment, not lasting beyond Com-
mencement.

We have as yet fitted up only two rooms,
bedrooms, - placed a table in the dining room &
a stove in the kitchen. We have as yet no
place to receive company, & fortunately none
has called here. I have not seen any of the
Minge boys, - and only Walter Collins, - saw him
in the class room.

I am standing with tablet in hand
so there is - here a partial explanation of poor
penmanship.

We have a man, a jack of all trades,
term^s & board. We have also a woman at
\$4 as cook, - she half threatens to leave every day
so as to have time to more completely cook, wash, &
darn for her son & husband. We fear it will be
impossible to retain an Auburn cook unless

1/5/96

we reconcile ^{ourselves} to the boarding-house style of living & the consequent abundance of food for the servants' buckets. Already ours carries a bucket & we dare not interpose till her successor is in sight. Our nurse stayed with us during our week at the hotel, but did so only because her pay was reserved till the end of the week. Her throne is still vacant & the salary of \$3 still unclaimed.

A hopeful thought comes to Fannie. Perhaps mother can look around and let us know if there are two Gallic servants, even raw field hands, ^{with} good dispositions, honesty, slightly above the average, industrious & quick to learn. If you have such in mind, please describe in full. We will pay a cook \$4, or if she cleans most of the house, \$5; a nurse, also doing cleaning, 3 or 4 according to competency. Of course we do not ask you to engage anybody, but simply to be on the look-out. We had some terrible weather in which to get established in this house, but excellent weather for

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traveling. I have been exceedingly busy and but for our needy condition at home could have used more time in my official duties. I am halting between two opinions, - whether to stoth the empty book shelves at the Ept. Sta. Office, 60 yards away, with my bulletins & agr. books, & thus have all my work together & station fuel, or to utilize one of our many rooms as a study, provide cheap shelving, & have the satisfaction of being near my family at night & of having all my ~~for~~ books etc. absolutely secure against loss & rough usage. Enormous coal consumption in our bedroom is about to decide me in favor of the Office.

The babies are happy in long porcher, delighted yards, and ravenous appetites. Both are eating as well as drinking, but ~~not~~ ^{not} taxing us greatly to keep them covered at night according to Fannie's ideas.

During our ^{spell of} temporary housekeeping - which is still in progress, - your sausage butter, & preserves have been our mainstay. No other present from home could have been so acceptable. Please write result of inquiring as to rates on horse & buggy from Aberdeen or Columbus to Memphis. Love to all, Your aff. son Fred.

Jan 6, 1896

Dear Ben -

I write to say that the "Opium, Camphor & Ben-
-bane pills" I gave you in
the box with Cotton at top &
bottom are excellent for control-
ling an undue looseness
of the bowels. I hope under
Mrs. Kofoid's kind help,
you may speedily recover.
Don't hesitate to have every
thing for your comfort and
well being - or get Dr. Kofoid
to obtain it for you - don't
mind the expense. Hoping
to hear soon you are well. I am
Your affectionate Father.

R. H. Duggar

January 6th 1896.

My dear Son

We are truly sorry to hear you are sick, tho' we are not surprised, for we felt sure when you left that either you were feeling badly or something troubled you, I said nothing, knowing you dislike to bring thought sick, - I was sure we could not detain you on that plea, it was too bad you should have had that terrible night on the local train. I sincerely hope you are better by this time. It was very considerate of you to write yourself, I trust the effort was not ~~any~~ ^{very} injury to you. If you continue sick can't you get Mrs. Koford or some friend to send us a postal card every day or two, let us know exactly how you are, don't be afraid of alarming us we would rather know all your troubles, what would it I give to be able to nurse you!! Must hope that Mrs. Koford will take my place & be a Mother to you, I will ever be grateful to her. Do be careful of yourself when able to get up, don't go out & get to work until you are fully able to do so, one must take good care of ~~themselves~~ ^{ones} self after grips. A good many persons around here have had bad colds & complained of the aching & aches you had. Some Father says he can't go out until you are well & that even then he thinks you should take a little quinine & strychnine once a day, two or three grains of quinine & 1 sixteenth of a grain of strychnine ($\frac{1}{60}$), if you have much chills

might take two or three doses a day, keep it up 10 days or more, he gives God Liver Oil in convalescence as an aid to nutrition, you will need it I reckon, for you were so thin to begin with, must be much reduced now.

Waver spent yesterday with us, the Dr in Nashville told Bobbie the place on his nose was not a true cancer, but had ^{cancer} cells & believes it was, so he gave him a salve & some medicines & Bobbie returned sooner than was expected, Waver told me he thought he would stay with Bob two months & then try the rubber agency, I don't know that Bob would be willing to that. Uncle Waver & old Mrs De Boss dined with us Friday, the former was looking unusually well, has been living high, dining out, taking egg nog &c. Mother, he said was quite well. Yesterday was a fine day for walking so after dinner your Father & myself walked down to see Captain Taylor, he has been sick from cold, we found him better, the Misses Holders were there to see him also.

Your Father says the little black pills he gave you are excellent for bowel trouble, the Camphor & opium pills, only $\frac{1}{4}$ grain of opium in each. Peas barley boiled in milk would be good for you when you have that trouble, the barley might be boiled in water & then milk added, but I sincerely hope you are as much better that you will have no need of these suggestions.

I have heard nothing from Reuben since you left, Mrs Melow was still very sick at last accounts, I hear through Miss Lon. With much love & my earnest prayers for your speedy recovery I am as ever

Your devoted Brother

January 13th 1896

My dear Son

I hate to write in a hurry but am driven to it this time, intended beginning my letter early this morning but first one thing & then another claimed my time until now it is nearly dinner time & afterwards your Father will ride down to Gallien. Your card was duly received & we were glad to hear of your continued improvement, hope with a good appetite you will fatten up some for you certainly looked thin. I think you will have to be very careful not to take fresh cold. I expect from appearances here you are having bad weather, we had some sunshines yesterday but today is chilly, damp, wet

wind weather I did hope before another
rain to make Mother a visit but don't
think I will now as we have already had
a drizzle today. I enclose a long letter from
Paet, as usual his hands are full, we are
trying to find a good servant for them but
they are scarce around here. Davis returns
tomorrow & we wanted if possible to send
a servant the day he went. All the family
have recovered from the measles & the
school reopened today.

Waver dated with us yesterday, left early
in the evening, he has fallen off too since
he has been at work. Pauline has not been
near us, or written a line since 4 mos, we
suppose he has made arrangements for
the year. Levin seems in good health &
spirits as usual. Your aunt Melville

sent me the stamp from the Little boys, they
any please let them know about what it is
worth before you sell, perhaps they think it
may be worth more some day than at present.
The days are very monotonous with us now,
nothing doing, no news, I have not even
seen Price Low lately & there is nothing to
write. I have read the little book you gave
me found it very interesting but think the
author rather hard on American ladies,
makes them too forward, they are independant
I know, but I think the picture overdrawn in
that respect. I have been reading "Myths".
We heard a few days ago of the death of
Aunt Emily Montague, she died on the
29th of December having been confined to
her bed since Sept. Mother is the only one
of that large family left. I must fix up the

better bracket to go, please opened this short
letter, hope Fred's will make up for it & I
can do better next time. You must thank
Dr & Mrs Hooid¹ for their³ attention to you
for² us, — as much for haste — with much
Love

Your devoted

Mother.

Jan 26th 1896.

My dear Son

This is another of our dark east-
wind days, enough to give one the blues & it
certainly increases one's dramatic tendencies, but
I regret not completion of the weather for the
winter has been so much milder than usual
we should be very thankful. I think our
climate is becoming English with its damps
& fogs.

Well, I can't let you labor under the impression
that I am always unnecessarily uneasy, every
one who saw you remarked how then you looked
& your Father was as anxious about you as I
was, only he does not express himself, & I do.
The first thought of telegraphing to know how
you were & before mentioning it to me wrote
out the dispatch, you are having watched over
our children from infancy to manhood we can't
help being when anything is amiss, & wishing to

see it righted; while on the subject of your health,
your Father thinks God knows best by its self would
not send you, a preparation of Walther's might
be much better, he will look it up & know you
would not like the opposite kind. I never took cold
here as, it was necessary to me & I am stronger
now than your own.

Bro Lolla came down yesterday, preached to about
100 persons, dined with us & returned home as soon
dinner was over. We have spent the day with us,
we gave him a good send and impression on our
tongue & heart of jolly. I hoped to have had
Rambert but he did not come & never writes.

Waver says if he can get any thing else to do he will
not continue with Bob, the place is too uncom-
fortable & the life does not suit him.

The Agricultural year book 1894 is here, do you
want it sent you?

I had a letter from Harvey on Saturday, also
says they have at last unpacked & put in
place their furniture & are feeling quite at
home, the children enjoying their freedom and

porches & yard, Frederick speaks of the yard as
"Frances & Fanny's park", how I would like to
see the little things, Fanny is dreading the
cousins for them, their aunts failed to come out
summering, sent word she was sick, it proved to
be aches. I don't see how the children can
escape having the disease. Fanny insisted on to
make them a visit as soon as possible, I am
so anxious to see the children I would like to go
for a short visit but don't know that I will.
Robberies are as common in Auburn that Fanny
feels rather uneasy, they seem to want only money.
I would hate to stay in one of those rooms with
keyless locks & all by myself, don't think I would
sleep a wink.

Lucie writes that New New has had quite a
severe attack of rheumatism (acute) brought on
by exposure after being confined to his bed with
a cold. Our neighbor hood seems quite healthy
now & I have a poor chance to get cured, I
think we had better emigrate.

There is no snow in the country, if as it has

not consider us. Mrs. G. W. & Agnes did honor
us with their presence at church yesterday.
I should think the Germans that would be
very impressive to those who can speak some
German but very embarrassing to those who
have never practiced speaking the language,
some what like our Germans at school, attempt-
ing to speak French was the hardest task I
had to perform.

Nothing lately from Demopolis, I anticipated
brother Warr yesterday but was disappointed. I
think eventually he will live with Mother, he
can't let her be thus alone, & he seems the
only person who can get along with. I have
seen nothing of your old knife your Father
sent the finger and blade or whatever it is
called a day or two ago. I have been hoping to
have a nice bunch of violets to send Mrs.
H. Ford & yourself but they are not blooming
well, last winters drought injured them
as much & we are having so little carnations
now to bring them out. With much love

Yours devoted
Mother

Van Borne Aug 21 26
Dear Ben I heard you were
sick on your way back to Ill & I
felt uneasy about you till Bro
Reuben heard of yr improvement
I know you are having very bad
weather now for we are having
heavy Clouds & rains - daily
I regretted not seeing you but I was poorly
& mother also & you had yr plans
to be at home with the family
I thought of you to night and wished
you could have shared my lunch & supper
here - for I sat down alone after a heavy
rain - to an Elegant Potage, Cooked
by Ike & myself a la mode this evening
late. I could not wait so cooked him
with nice Gam Potatoes around turn &
pepper Sauce - well baked with butter
- Salad dressing, french Mustard, Cider vinegar
Apple Sars &c - About 15 warm biscuits
some musk bread - tea - glass of Sherry
&c - I expected Mr Chapron & Jimmie R
& would have added Ther Egg ing & Coffee

but they did not appear as the night was threatening - I have had some considerable plowing done & my land is rented as usual - I can skip off for a week occasionally to Selma or MO to Mardi Gras I recently spent 3 days with Turner Vaughan in his new house & I also saw Bacey & wife & Graham & wife Gray's girl wrote him to come up to herUncles at Marion & they married & returned to Selma Mrs Carlisle did not like it but Florence was determined & as she owned \$85000 in U S Bonds she carried her point. She is about 18 & good looking & has travelled (there are others equally desirable in Selma) Watkins is going to get along very well professionally Jimmie Gagnet has been inviting me down - He says he has built 25 houses to rent & he owns all his father had His son Marshall has a law office

on Nassau St New York & sent me his Card

I have not seen Mother the past week but she was up & about & comfortable - The Spragues were also well Myron came up & went back on same Stv - I had a nice letter from Lewis - have not seen Ruben or Waver. You must get the finest & warmest underwear & use thick shoes - I go about very little horseback & go far keep comfortable - let the

Can't tell address?
 Perhaps this should be
 a "must" if you have
 the address your Father
 says send him one of
 those little books with
 your complete name. They
 say have given out of
 them all. With much
 love from devoted Mother.

Jan 27th 1896

No wonder we were glad to have your
 letter last week, you always have some thing pleasant
 to write of which with us times were never more
 monotonous & dull, the the boys are anticipating some
 fun tomorrow night, Dimopolis is to celebrate the
 coming of the first coal barge from Tarkenton,
 all the military companies are invited, salutes to
 be fired, a big supper, treats &c, the young ladies
 give a hop your brother Richard is going & I have
 told him as if he would. They spent yesterday with
 me, your Father had gone to see Mother. A telegram
 came Saturday night "come at once your Mother
 is ill," we received it too late for him to go on the
 night train as he took the buggy, found her
 better than he expected, she had one of those
 nervous spells she is subject to. Brother Warr
 was not there & her friends were much alarmed.

never having seen her in one. He left her yesterday
much better & she was still better this evening we
heard Andrew is having a hard time of it; had
to leave New Orleans because they had no place
for him while she is sick, stays at sister Sally's
or Maria's at night, usually breakfasts where he
stays, then goes to the plantation & is there all day
without dinner, sometimes he has to leave before
breakfast, then he takes some cold biscuit & meat
in his pocket & that is all he has until night.
He has not found a room to stay in at the Duches-
pines because he has been unable to have a
house built near the yard for his cook, commenced
it, but they won't send money to pay the work
men & they quit. Andrew went to Demopolis this
morning to buy wood for the plantation said
he would buy a bedstead & mattress, & some
curtains for his room, Maria will lend him an
old bureau, & I a washstand, aunt Melville
offered a sword case as his room will be furnished
most by the contributions. Sent a few blankets, a
few pillows & covers & a quilt by his wagon this

evening. I do hope he can get the carpenter started
again & he got settled down, he is as opposed riding
to & fro every day as matters what the weather may
be; the weather is very unpleasant now so many
dreary, cold, days, last night was the coldest
frost I ever saw & it did not disappear until
after 4 o'clock, we did have some sun-
shine late in the day.

The last letter from Auburn Fred said the
children were sick, he thought taking the measles.
Davis Collins wrote they had it, he & the rest of
the Baptist crew from this neighborhood had
been invited to dine with Fred & enjoyed the
nice dinner. I have not heard of his having
any of his relatives to dinner. Fanny & himself
had dined the day before with Prof & Mrs Pratt.
I heard from Lewis today he was in his usual
good health & spirits. Mrs Lee was much better
but still using her crutch.

What do you think of learning German by a game?
I thought it might be used in your German
Conversations Club, it is a singular thing for

scratcher to get up. Perhaps you know how
your Father says he heard how friends at Stockholm
that he is a fine practitioner.

I suppose your coming letter will tell me if the
wounds are healed, & if they are, I hope they had not
lost their purpose.

Your Father says he thinks if you could get Messrs
God-Love oil (a very fine preparation) pour out
a little & to a pt bottle put 1 teaspoonful of
Mary's Women (tincture) & 20 drops of oil of
Eucalyptus, mix thoroughly & take a decent spoon
ful 3 times a day before meals, should they act
on your bowels stop it at once, but in that
event you he thinks not. The small amount
you took are enough, called "The Best Tonic"
would be still better for you & more agreeable to
take. If you prefer to take pills "Bland's Iron
pills" you would find an excellent tonic &
enrich your blood if you have good food, take

But this evening is a bit
wetter, that if they would
give them only a small
shaking he would be glad to
work for them, they would
that they would be
satisfied with him & say
that their business would
not pay off now & long as
as profit, the only way
was to see it as an ad-
vance, then we would
be satisfied. I would not get any
letter off this evening as I wanted to spend
much time writing them with for the
first time, the gray huffs, she has a pretty
little light gray huffs calf & is as gentle as an
old cow. I wish Fred had her for his babies, I
know they would be delighted to have her as
a pet, poor little things they have had a hard
time with measles, Fred wrote last Tuesday
said Freddie had had fever 11 days, it was
then 101, he, Fanny, & Bens Camp had to
divide the time sitting up with him at
night. I would have laid aside my pen about
noon & have gone up to help them if they had
let me know. If I had only known in time
could have gone up with the Mingo boys
yesterday morning, I heard accidentally they
were dead the doctor

party" for the benefit of the Baptist church, gotten
up by digging bottoms, they called it a "low test"
perhaps you may have heard of such an entertain-
ment. The night was very impressive as we
did not venture out. Miss Low went, and the
neighborhood were poorly represented, there came a
good many from Danapolis but as the charge
was only 25^{cts} I don't think they could have
made much.

I hope Dr. Hoped has returned & that your duties
are lessened. I am kept busy teaching house wives,
miss left Saturday morning, Sunday evening I
begin with a new one, she is engaged for a
month only, then I will have another to teach.

I had a long pleasant letter from Rebecca Stewart,
she says Lewis is quite a favorite with the girls.
I wanted to take him to the same Game.
Rabbit hunting was quite interesting & profitable
a few days ago, the recent rains raised the creek
so that the overflow drove all the rabbits to the
high lands, 85 were caught on one of MacCollins'
places, 52 on another & numbers on other places, I
had no idea rabbits were so numerous. I forgot to

were at home, wrote to ask Maria when they
would go up, her answer reached me yesterday
morning about an hour before train time, so I
have lost my only chance for an escort, wanted
to go while the weather is mild & before young
chickens come out to be attended to. We have
not needed but a little fire night & morning
for several days, thought last night at once
turning cooler & would probably be freezing this
morning but it has been a delightful day.
I spent the morning in the kitchen sewing the
scent up in bags, made jam & the house-
wife help, that is only the first killing, and
canning the other now.

I enjoyed your letter very much, glad Mrs. K. had
liked the visit. Friday evening I fixed up two
large bunches for her & yourself, your Father started
to the office with them, dropped them on the
way, coming back found the paper the box
was wrapped in, some little darkies no doubt
picked up the box & thought they had a
prize. I will send some in a day or so. Wm.

carried off two large bunches last night, one
he intended for Mrs. Kober, she frequently sends
him, and other things, for instance, a bush of
strawberries the night before.

Now since you must have heard from at the
German Club, I would like to have you speak
Germans this I don't understand it.

Uncle Warr was here one evening last week, said
brother was getting along very well but he was
going in to stay with her, thought she should
not be left alone.

I must send a paper with an account of
the celebration in Danvers, all who went enjoy
ed themselves. Even Mrs. Haines was there & Warr
kind was watching the dancing with much
interest. Danvers actually gave a banquet,
300 persons I think they could were furnished
with nice refreshments, one man some took in
that night 265 dollars, other places in proportion
I suppose, as it was a time to be remembered
in Danvers.

We actually had an entertainment in our
neighborhood Friday night but it was a "gay

Feb 5 1896

which I received. All
I wrote to Ben R. A. White
soon after seeing you,
a copy of my letter, she replied on
P. C. very kindly, said she'd write
fully, & hoped satisfactorily, very soon.
I received a letter a few days ago
of which I send you a copy, &
if you can spare the time to write
will be glad to hear your opinion
before she comes, which she
says she expects to do early in
March. You notice she says I
said Willie wanted \$10 & that
decided her to offer that - it is
not so, his name was not men-
tioned, until she had taken
the stamps, & was writing a
check for a part ^{the amount of} of the money.
I replied he would be satis-
fied with anything I did.
she gave the check, payable to

Willie, the rest of the money, she
sent by express to me, she writes
very pleasantly & holds out fair
promises, tho' nothing definite, all
that to be talked of, when she
comes. Willie says he don't think
it will be taken back stamps, for
fear they may have been injured
or in some way lampaced with, we
would not know or discover, any
change made, let me know
please, just what you think.
Our idea is, better do every
thing in a friendly way, being
perfectly firm, but shewing
her, if they do not agree to
do what we think fair
we will expose the whole
transaction, I hope dear Ben,
I will not tax your patience
too much, Mr. Harris dined
with us last week all, were
well, & we heard from Mr. M.
last week, we were so very sorry
you had been sick, hope you are

Uniontown Perry Co, Ala

Dear Ladio

Your letter has
remained unanswered
longer than we intended,
Mary & myself have both been
sick - Mary is still quite sick
We were truly sorry to hear
of your son's continued
sickness - hope he has
recovered ere this, & may be
spared to your loss, I can
sympathize with you, hav-
ing suffered so much when
my son was a delicate boy,
I hope it was not pecu-
niary pressure which caus-
ed you to sell your pretty
home, trust you realized
its full value as you had
to give it up - Now Ladio

considered we still had an interest
with you in the value of the stamps
When you sent the \$20⁰⁰ which is all
you have sent, you said that "after
a long wait, waiting the arrival of St. L. had
shed a drop. I hoped before Christmas
more" would "flow" before that you had
said "you knew" Rob would send something
had come by Christmas" the day has
passed, I brought no drops even to us -
We were very ignorant of the great value
of these special stamps - felt perfect con-
fidence in your honor & trusted you
entirely or would have waited to see my
son, who you know was not present ⁽³⁾
You asked us not to speak of the fact of
our selling the stamps or the number
either - many people have questioned

us closely, ^{5"} and from what
each one said - we knew we
had made a terrible mistake
we have as yet kept silent
on the matter. We all agree
in thinking & saying that
we think in common
justice (for your son knew
their value now) that for
every stamp you have
sold, I do sell, you ought
to send us at least a
hundred dollars - to get
those stamps at a hundred
and ten dollars each, when
they bring the price they
do, is giving very little for
them - or if you prefer it,
to let us have back some
of the stamps. Say let us
have ten stamps - you
would then have gotten
nineteen of those valuable
stamps for ten dollars each

1/31/96
I know their value now -
not too late, not too late
I hope for some remunera-
tion in return, ~~for~~
for our simple trust and
confidence in you, I write
very plainly, and we all
hope you will see the
justice of what I say -
Mary says, I must tell
you how sorry she is
to hear of your Son ill
news. She would have
written, but for sickness.
The Sisters Anne & Patty
unite with me in love
to you, and your Son -
Please let me hear from
you immediately -
your sincere friend
R. A. Wren -

Copy of my
letter to Mrs White

Birmingham. Jan. 31st -
96

My dear Friend

I am sorry that you feel that you have to urge upon Rob to do thus, & so, about the stamps putting it upon honor & justice R - That does not weigh, but as I said before a higher law than any made by man, will influence us - As each stamp is sold - I confidently hoped to send you several hundred dollars Xmas, but the stamps were returned unsold - Last year besides ours 26 U's were rushed on the market, I believe that those 26 are now in

the hands of Collectors & rare Stamps but when
this year we will stand for said four I wanted
some chance, as I think \$10⁰⁰ each, that decided
that all have been found me to say, I would give
I want to go to see stand that. I thought he was
& to see you, I make some in Uniontown & that of
pleasant arrangements all had talked it over
about the matter - but I & would do so before the
don't want to go empty note was due, which was
handed - This is the way made payable to him,
the matter stands, When I am sure that you
your Stamps were sold misunderstood my words,
there had been only two as I immediately wrote
known & bought by down the entire transaction
dealers - for one the own & as I was trading for another
received \$5⁰⁰ / five dollars I was particular about the
the other was bought in transaction - I said nothing
a lot of Stamps with no about it at the time but I
particular value - I did felt in this way - I hope that
not know what to offer those Stamps will bring a
for four Stamps, as they great deal - which will mean
were many, and that always much to my friends & my son -
changes the value of rare They will of course vary in

price according to demand
If you can keep it a Secret
from buyers, I sell only one
or two at a time they ^{will}
I believe they will be profitable
For each one sold, my friends
must have a part -

Now I say to you three Sisters
& Mr. Willie Wren, That neither
Rob or myself could or would
receive money for those Stamps
without paying you a part on
each one - It shall be done
in every instance unless
some more satisfactory
arrangement is made -

Legally my husband says
the transaction is perfect -
but I feel just as much
bound to see you paid as
if all the law in the ^{world} ~~land~~
said so - I need not have
written this, but as I said
we want you to have the
money - If I go to see Maund

5
1/31/96
early in March which is
very probable, I will go at
once to see you & fix matters
- If I do not go, will do it by
writing at that time or some
other - And you shall be noti-
fied, of the sale of any Stamps
between now & then. All is
well that ends well -

I forgot to say that a dealer
in Selma - Gordon Wilkins
bought a Union Town for
50¢ & sold it for \$2.27 -
Rob is trying to find Collec-
tors, not Dealers, the more
he receives for each one
the more will come to you
- or he may decide on
giving a part of Stamps
I know that a pleasant
arrangement will be made
very soon either by person
or writing - Then you will

feel satisfied we will
Charley is improving
slowly. I hope that you
are all well. With love
for all, for I do not believe
that in the end this little
transaction will separate
us. Sincerely your
friend I A White -

Mrs R A Wren
from
Mrs White

My dear friends to
behave! but I see
there is no more and
this neighborhood
only that there is
another young fellow
New Bed Wood has
been right to see. With
much love
Your devoted
Mother.

Feb 11th 1896.

This is a still, bright day, beautiful
overhead, but terrible under foot, after the hard
rains the past week & a slight freeze this
morning walking will be anything but pleasant
for some days, but any thing is preferable to the
heavy dark days we have been had so many
of this winter, it is singular how little really
cold weather we have had.

Your letter of last week was read with pleasure,
I am glad to know you are in such good
health, I sent the prescriptions in answer to
your inquiry some time ago about the God-
dard Oil, not meaning to do you whether or
no. Perhaps when warm weather comes you may
need a tonic & one of those will come in. I am
sorry Prof Forbes shows so much selfishness for

I know it is anything but pleasant to work with such a man. I hope you can find other work, have ~~says~~ you made any effort to get teaching instead of your present work? Did you ever hear anything from Prof Huxey about the Washington place?

You asked if Reuben ever concluded arrangements with Iry, yes, he said Iry promised to give him 275 dollars for the year, & an additional 8.00 a month to live on, that seems to me very little to pay a cook & washerwoman & feed himself & cook, but Reuben says he can get along on that. I suppose he can if he lives mostly on corn bread & fried meat which I expect he will do. I have not heard whether he has moved into his room or not, his name writes me a line. Warr spent yesterday with us, has not bound himself to Bobbs for the year hopes for something better in the way of domestic duty, is now in correspondence with a house

in Atlanta, they want him to sell Gipsyerg books & ink, will give 100 a month & pay expenses not to exceed 4 dollars a day. Tom Hather will write to a party in Atlanta to find out if the Co is reliable & then Warr will give them an answer. I don't know whether it will be best for Warr to travel but even but think it will be more improving than his associates at Gallows. There was quite an apartment there a few nights ago, while Mr Bailey stopped out to the train some one secreted himself in his room or the ~~space~~ ^{space} was taken, after the train passed he locked the door & went over to Mr Folsom's store for about three quarters of an hour, on his return found his door open, that one, he had locked on the inside, on examination he found the safe was unlocked, evidently the combination had been worked out, fortunately there was no money in the safe, the cash drawer had only 2 or more dollars, that was taken, his trunk had been searched nothing taken out, several trunk switches were found in it, money & his pistol seemed to be all the person wanted & he left with that, no one is suspected as yet, but

it must have been some one who knew how
things were arranged at the depot. That with
books and more particular than even to look
around before looking up at night or look out
doors early.

We have not heard from Fred in two weeks,
felt quite anxious to know how Fred was,
suppose he must be better. The trip to Astoria
from Galloway ^{was} ~~was~~ made between 10 o'clock in
the morning & mine at night, as I think I can
go alone as soon as we have a winter spell,
unless they prefer my waiting until June. I asked
Fred to let me know, I would rather go when
things are quiet there.

The measles is not over yet in this section, Mr
G. W. Collins has six cases in his family, little Mary
is quite sick, your Father is going to see her now.
I never saw anything like this before now, they are
trying themselves blooming as large too. Mr G's
address is Horn John W. Campbell, 215 South
Sixth St. Philadelphia Penn. Grand Mother &
Uncle Waver are well. Mrs. Foster (the old lady) was
sick Friday, I did not hear what was the

Feb. 11, 1896.

Dear Mother;

Fannie's letter has been waiting a stamp & meanwhile yours has come. We had inclosed a schedule of trains. We shall now expect you quite soon. But I hope you will not come prepared, as you threaten, to stay just a few days. I was anxious for two things before your visit, - to have Frederic accustomed to going out doors, so he ^{can} go about the grounds with you and to have Betsy for you to drive. Both are in prospect now, Frederic going out ^{doors} for the first time today & the decision having been reached to ship Betsy. So if you are not in too much of a hurry to get back to Gallin, we will have her here during most of your visit.

Even with the cheap rate of \$7 on Betsy & buggy from Columbus to Demopolis it will be cheaper to ship via Birmingham to Opelika as freight from Selma to Auburn, I learn today, is very high. I know nothing of the company that makes

Was such a remarkable offer. Its name & its
offer of such a salary to one not previously
in its service to sell such small articles
makes it look like a gigantic humbug. How
could a salesman earn his salary selling small
bills such as would undoubtedly be the case
with that line of goods? Better try rubber.
I should think, or hold on to Bobbie till
a more reasonable prospect is offered than
this.

Hoping to see you soon, I am
Yours aff. so
Fred.

P.S. Any flower cuttings, etc., especially
geraniums ^(cuttings) or other flowers blooming about
Commencement and suitable for yard
decoration that you can spare or get from
Mrs. L. B. will be appreciated. I suppose
no one near home has any hydrangeas. I have a
fancy for them, know little of them, nor how they
are propagated, but have just received one from
a seedsman.

R.D.

Uniontown Perry Co. Ala
Feb 12th 1896

My dear Ben -

Ree Ween wrote
you last week sending
you a copy of her letter
to M^{rs} White, & also a
copy of M^{rs} White's to
her - Sister Anne received
a letter from Sallie Harris
dated 5th Feb - in which
she sends Ree a message
in regard to stamps. I
will copy what she says
"M^{rs} Robert Waller has
been visiting us all &
we got on the stamp ques-
tion, & she told me that
she heard that Rob. Mc-
Cormac, had sold one ~~fox~~ of
that lot for seven hun-
dred dollars, & Bessie

Told me not long ago - send \$20⁰⁰ - was very
that some one told her, little to send - but I re
that Rob had written to member now, that Mr
Julian Waller, that he White said when she
had 28 U. S. Stamps worth bought them, that Rob
five hundred dollars apiece would have the borrow
I tell you these things, the money, or most of it
because I hope maybe from her husband 'Capt'
they will help in gaining White, I would have to
more for them, Mr Harris pay him from the first
told me, that Mrs Rebecca sold - so I will not think
was corresponding with hard of her for this -
that man & I thought she I must tell you all
might tell him she had are well at Sallie's, & she
heard these things" - Mr Harris who dined
I thought dear Ben, that with us about ten days
it would be well for you said all well at
you to hear this, in your Father's, but you
Connection with what hear of them offering them
Ree had sent you - we do - You see Sallie
I think that after all does not object to our
her fair talk & promises using the information
to sell one, for \$100⁰⁰ & only, she gives us - I hope we

will not weary you with
our Stamp affairs. I
think I know you well
enough to believe all you
said when you were with
us - you are so kind &
good & I do feel thank-
ful, Oh so much! for
your thoughtful kindness.
All unite in love to you
believe me always
your true & sincere
friend

Mary L. Stone -

Auburn, Ala., Feb. 13, 1896.

Dear Ben, I write especially to say that Prof. Muhl was quite recently (about the first of Feb. I judge) elected to the chair of botany & geology in Clemson College. I do not know that he has publicly announced his decision but he is not going. This I know positively. Of course you will not see it as coming from me just yet.

He was offered \$1800 and a house & the prospect of becoming State Geologist some time in the future. I know that you could well do the work there but I fear equipment would be meagre and that permanency might be doubtful, as the College is so deeply in politics.

I hope Prof. Pres. Craighead has his eye on you. I met him on the street in Washington in Dec. and he ^{almost} immediately inquired in some detail about you, where you were, the nature of your work, etc. I understood that he informed the Trustees that Prof. Muhl could probably not be gotten at the figure offered.

I have only heard of certain newspaper articles, probably appearing about 7-10 days ago in

the Charleston News & Courier. It gave
a report of a legislative investigating committee
for Clemson. It seems a rumor had gotten
about, whether well founded or not, ^{I do not know} that the
faculty was badly divided, & that things there
were in a bad condition. ~~Possibly~~ Probably the
appointment of the committee was caused
by this. The committee's verdict, as far as I hear,
it was that the faculty was all right
but that the Board ought to be turned
out (an impossibility). This looks as if some
of the faculty had been reflecting on the
board in the hearing of the committeemen.

I simply mention this as a reason
for presuming that everything is not entirely
serene there. I think you might make in-
quiries of Melzer as to who is doing & is
going to do the botanical work & whether there
is any prospect of an opening. In reply
he might give you notice of Prof. Muhl's de-
clination & some hint as to Prof. Pres.

Crawford's attitude towards you.
We are all well. I have nothing to complain of in the
State but short funds & little help for experimental work. We are ex-
pecting another up next week, tho' she has not written
positively. Your aff. brother,
Fred Senguer.

very dear Sam
I don't expect to stay over a
week in Auburn, might be
prevented to remain a little
longer if all things are
equable.

Feb. 17th 1896

When you described
Mother,
I don't expect to stay over a
week in Auburn, might be
prevented to remain a little
longer if all things are
equable.

If my eyes will hold out I will
write tonight for tomorrow I have a big job on
hand. After many trials & tribulations I am
at last getting the work in the grasper finished,
at least I hope so, made a start today, it
will be a rough job but I am glad to get it
done almost any way now. When came this
morning, I had sent for Peter & thought the
two could soon fix it but Peter did not come
& I began to think the work could not be stretched
out but about that time Robert the carpenter
came in & I determined him to fix two sets of
urines, then I began trimming & trimming the
urines, I tell you it is a job, I was all the
afternoon fixing 5 urines. I want to get through
before going to Auburn. If nothing unforeseen

once I want to leave home Thursday morning, it is a right cold spell to go but may moderate by that time, the ground was frozen this morning until late in the day & a very cold west wind blowing. I am so much afraid my "Marshall Bug" will be injured it is getting out beautifully & has buds almost as large as the end of my little finger. I want to send you & Mrs. Koford some of the first but hope they will not show the facts of the violets, I am sorry you did not get them.

You seem to be having quite a lively time, so many different entertainments on hand, I suppose it is well for you to have the recreation.

I don't know whether your letter will reach Lewis, his address is 110 W. Corporation St. Mobile, he will return home about the middle of March. I suppose you know Louise is at Ward's Seminary studying "Kindergarten", from there will make a visit to her relatives in Columbia Tenn. Bro. Waver has passed in to

dinner yesterday, said Mother was better, he wants to go to New Orleans for Marshall's Grass. I don't know that he will get off, aunt Margaret Willis promised to stay with Mother. I spent Wednesday night with the latter, in the morning the rain came down steadily & I could not walk down to the train, later I hunted up cabbies & purred & started out for the freight depot, had a long, sloppy, walk & a three hours wait, at last we were off & I hoped soon to be home but found no buggy waiting for me at Gallion as there were no other detentions of any kind or so. Mother was quite sick that night seemed to have taken violent cold she said she had not been out at all. I did not feel very safe, only she & I in the house, I don't see how she can stand it all alone. Miss Low, Bobbie, Susan, & Lizzie left for Birmingham Saturday, I would like so much to have gone with them as far as

Selma but did not receive Fred's letter in
time to pack up. The enclosed letter to Mr
R. W. Duggan is I suppose intended for you.
Mrs. Barker is staying with her Mother and since
Louis' absence she told me she saw Pauline
in the road the day she came down, but
expected to move into his room the next
night. I never hear from him except in that
way, though some one else. Oh! I heard Aunt
Kathleen had sent an Obituary notice & expected
to send all their relatives, from Richards
tooth aches, to Mrs. H's head neuralgia. I
think people are getting so smart. I'd had
better take another brood to make a living.
We are again spoiled from the chamber & enjoying
the cool dining room as a sitting room, a cat
must have died in the wall, making the
room unfit to stay in, I told your Father

1872
Hulbourn Feb 25th

My dear Son

You must excuse pencil as I am writing in Fanny's room with the children staring around, ink might be turned over. I don't want them to keep fire in my room for I know it is additional expense & there are so many calls on Fanny's purse. I left home Thursday morning as expected, reached here 8 1/2 o'clock at night, Fred met me at the train & we walked up, of course the babies were asleep but I took a look at them & gave them a kiss while asleep, next morning they were very shy but Freddie soon became acquainted & is now quite friendly. He is a smart little fellow, you would be surprised to hear him talk, is polite as possible, always says

please do so & so, he is very delicate
tho' had fever last night, they think
from being out done a little while yesterday.
Frances is a sweet little girl just 1
year old yesterday, walks about the
room very well alone, her eyes are dark
like Fannie's, Fannie's like his Mother's.
They certainly have a roomy house &
grounds, I hardly see how Fred will
be able to attend to all, he goes in a
run all the time, comes in like a
struck, gives orders & is out again in
little or no time. Mrs Camp & my self
helped him a little yesterday in yard &
green house, the latter is fast falling
to pieces, very few flowers in it, are
geraniums except some slips I brought
up. Sunday evening we took the children
out for a walk, the first time they have
been out since I came, on our return
we saw the man coming with "Betsy"

that was quite an event in the
family, all the Grand Mothers were out
to meet her & Fannie took his first
ride on horse back. Fred had her brought
by rail, instead of partly by boat as he
thought he would, sold the buggy & is
now on the look out for one.

I have not been out much, went
Saturday night to the society concert,
two of the speeches were very good, the
West society won. I enjoyed the music
by D. Drake & daughter, & four of the
college boys more than I did the speakers.
Sunday, Fred & Mrs Camp started to the
episcopal church with me, Fred was
stopped to make arrangements for
getting his horse home, Mrs C- &
myself kept on & I enjoyed the services.
Mr Jeter gave us a good sermon.
Yesterday Fanny had an engagement
with the dentist I went with her

but he was not there as we visited
grocery & returned, that is the extent
of my acquaintance with Auburn, it
is certainly not much of a town in
appearance, I can't say any thing about
the people as I have met none.

I have had a very bad cold ever since
I came, my head is aching now from
coughing, I think I will return home
on Friday, Fred & Fanny both wish me
to stay longer but I think a week long
enough, I might be burdensome.

I am afraid you can't read this
think I had better stop, this is a
miserable pencil. I neglected to say I
received your last letter the morning
before I left home & enjoyed it very
much, please excuse this dreadful
scrawl. Fanny might have a message
but is not in the room at present.

With much love

Your devoted Mother.

Feb 29/1896

Dear Ben

I delayed answering your kind letter, because Mary said she thought it was well for you to know what your Aunt, who is coming from the Wallus, said she would write. I do not see what use we can make of the information, except to mention it to Mrs White, as reason for expecting her, to remunerate us more liberally as her Son, says they are so valuable, & that he made such a fine

sale, I am so much
obliged for your kind
offer, but I am sure
we could not detect
any deception, for we
can not be positive
as to the exact appearance
of the stamps, & could
not prove any thing.
Willie had suggested they
might make some change,
a stamp with them, in
some way, we could not
detect, & thought it was
best not to accept
any of the stamps, & of course
it would be an insult
to issue them to be
examined. I suppose
our only hope is to "treat
them fair", being firm
& keep in sight the

intention of exposure. I
think it will be well to
take any offer they make
in consideration & I will
write you immediately. I
thank you so much for
your kind & continued
interest in this matter.
Have you had time to
find out any thing about
Old Coins, Mary & Willie
both have some, & I ought
much Confederate money,
have seen some of this made
especially for 50^{cts}. Have
several, Mary says she was
obliged to you for your letter
& glad your dear Mother was
going to have the pleasure
of a visit to Fred, we all
rejoice for her that he
is nearer to her. & I hope

she will have great comfort
in seeing him.
I believe you knew, Harry
White, he is the happy father
of a little girl, by the way
you seem a great favorite
with the ladies there. Mr.
White is really enthusiastic
in his praise. I saw Pearl
a few days ago, looking
very pretty. All well at
Tully's day before yesterday.
Each member of the
family unite with me
in love, hoping I have
not tired you out. I
am your sincere
friend R. A. Wren



Gallatin Alta. - Mich 1st 1876.

Dear Ben:-

Your letter was duly received & I expected your Mother back home last night - So we could give you the combined news of this Place & Auburn. A telegram was rec^d however from her requesting me to meet her ^{next} Tuesday evening at the Train. The change of Schedule has been very fortunate for her -; she left at 9.30 & reached Auburn the same day at 8.30 P.M. and it so happens that she can leave Auburn now at 6.30 in the morning & reach home at 6.30 in the evening, & the moon light nights have also been an advantage to her in her first trip. - Unfortunately, she was slightly discomfited by her trunk not reaching Auburn til next day. We sent a barrel of Provisions along which only came to hand in eleven days, by freight. It has been quite some time since she

Osberta Post, tho, mentions the arrival of Mrs
R. H. Duggass. She says Fred is busy all
the time - I can't imagine, what he has
to busy himself about so much.

Your Uncle Wm went to New Orleans
to the Mardi Gras exhibition & returned today
to Demopolis.

Some time ago I wrote a short article
for the "Practical Farmer" & was published
last week, netting me a prize = \$3.⁰⁰ which
was the highest amt offered. A gentleman
in St Charles Ill. (Mr M. M. Burdette) saw
it & wrote to me about it. He is the same
party with whom I had some correspondence
some years ago about the Melilotus Alba.
If at any time he visits Champaign or
Urbana - & you know it, make your self
known to him. He writes for some of the
Ill. papers, & I judge him to be a well bred
man from the tone of his letters. He is now
an enthusiast on the subject of Melilotus as
a Bee plant & his experience of its value for
forage is equally strong & encouraging. If
any one wishes to test the wonderful Bee - in

Your peripatations, you can refer them
to me.

The Candidates for Office, chiefly of
Hale Co, have been quite numerous and
soliciting; almost every day they make
a call.

I hope you have a touch of this kind
of weather, after so much snow & wind.
It is possible Llewellyn will be home about
the middle of this month. Ware is still at
the station with RMC.

Tomorrow I will plant some more corn.
Some few of the planters have put in a little
field corn. We have no chickens off yet,
& eggs are in our way & no sale.

As it is late I must close this -

Your affectionate Father

W. B. B. B.

March 18th 1896

My dear Lou

Your very acceptable letter came this morning, had the same post mark as one from Fred, the 16th it came strange letters from Auburn & Auburn should take the same time to reach us we would have received Fred's last night had we sent for the mail, yours come by morning mail. It is the first I have heard from Auburn since I left there, two weeks yesterday. I feared some of the family were sick but Fred said all were doing very well. This cool change will make the children prisoners again, yesterday was delightful, almost too warm in the sun, from dinner to sunset today we had a steady frost, rain & now it is cool again, by morning may be very cold, after every rain now we have cold weather. We are here now & shut too, it came at night & next morning the houses were white with the shut but it soon melted, strange to say the fruit seems not injured by that spell but of course a freeze ^{ought} to kill it, I think it will be killed,

that is the tree that bears flowers, Bartlett &
Sackel got out, scattered the apples. Have sent me
some cantaloupe seed, he had some already cooked
left over from his planting, I made some little
paper boxes, put them in a wooden box, filled
the little boxes with ash earth & will keep the
box in the house until danger of frost is over.
then I can take each little box & plant the
whole thing without disturbing the roots or
retarding the growth of vines. I helped Dad fix
corn that way while in Parkman. Have had a
little garden at the store but it has a little
run I don't think he will make much, he
has been enjoying our turnips & cabbages all
winter.

I am sorry you have so little time to prepare for
that examination but I expect you will make a
good grade anyway, will Prof. Tenny try to influence
Prof. Salisbury in your behalf? If you want the
place I hope you may get it, the fact of your
standing an examination for it may cause you
to get a better place where you are perhaps.
By the way, did you see that Prof. Atkinson
is now full Professor of botany at Cornell, we
saw it in the Oshkosh Post. I made a

mistake in saying Prof. Verrill was called to Oklahoma, it was to blameau, there was a ceremony in Oklahoma also & Fred spoke of the two in the same connection.

I am glad you enjoyed the President's House Warming, what a nice arrangement to be able to throw so many rooms into one! the the party too must be so convenient. I would enjoy house keeping in such a house.

Grandfather has not been at all well since the day with the horse at Dr. Browder's, badly as he was feeling he was compelled to go out the next night, came home feeling very unwell, feeling dreadfully, again that evening about sunset he received an urgent message & felt compelled to try to go, had the buggy & a boy to go with him, came home really sick & went to bed, did not go out again until yesterday evening he walked in the garden a little, is not able to attend to calls yet. Miss Bessie has been sick out since that time & as soon as to leave him sick - her again since Saturday. Mrs. Thaddeus has

been in Mobile about three weeks but Mrs
Cassius Kamegay & Mrs Mary Thatch are there.
Mrs R- is having Ben's eyes treated.

Ben looks & looks Wain dined with us on Sunday.
Mabel Wain had a good deal to say about his
N O trip, seemed to have enjoyed it very much.
We will send Prof Bull's book, your Father says
there is nothing original in it.

I have not heard from Lewis for a week, suppose
he is in Salem by this time or his way home,
may have a letter by tonight's mail, he seems devoted
to the cause.

Mrs Jennings Kamegay's children have been quite
sick, Mrs Barber went over to help nurse them, she
returned Sunday, & yesterday Maria Lane went
over. Willie was up several days but we have
not seen him, he is busy with politics. Cassius
Mrs Lamotte is trying to be a big politician, is a
great blubber man, trying to bring himself into
noting with that gentleman.

Mrs Lane said word she would be up there
sunday but she was prevented she sent your
Father some nice stewed apples this morning,
she is a good hearted woman. Well! I must
say good night, with much love
Your devoted Mother.

These dried feet better, better than some I received. If your Father should be worse we will write, with much love from devoted Mother.

My dear Son

Thursday March 26th 1896

Levin has taken pen & ink operations & I am too tired to go for it have been on my feet ever since 7 o'clock & it is after 12 now. Poor Father being sick adds as much to my work, you know he wants a great deal of waiting on when sick, thinks it almost a sin for any one to sit still a minute. He is still sick, has kept his bed for the past few days, before that came into the chamber every morning & lay on the sofa, at times he suffers intense pain, when that spell is over he may rest quiet for some time, several hours perhaps, his worst time is in the afternoon, then we have to give a Hypodermic of Morphine which lasts until about mid night, then some other anodine or he will not rest at all. Yesterday afternoon he suffered as from prostration that he became alarmed & telephoned for Dr. Van Bant, he came promptly & prescribed, told me the attack might continue some time, there might be an abscess forming & the most we could do was to keep down the pain as much as possible with anodines, the trouble is in the rectum, his digestive organs are out of sorts too & he is much troubled with gas, we are giving a mixture of opioridin for that. I believe

I wrote you Dr Pickett was visiting Miss Benners & called
by to see your Father, he gave about the same advice
Dr McComb did. Miss Benners died Wednesday
morning of pneumonia, she was (after your Father had to
give up her care on account of being sick) left to the
tender mercies of Dr Fisher until Sunday, then Gashorn
Benners brought down Dr Pickett & he was astonished to
find her so sick, no one had an idea of her condition, the
body was taken through the country to Greensboro yesterday
morning. This morning we heard of Mrs Hayden's death, she
dropped dead in her room Tuesday morning, it is strange
Dr McComb did not mention it, Lewis heard it at Gallien.
He walked in Sunday night without warning, came up the
Alle river to Selma, from there went with Mr Gee to their
plantation to take a fox hunt, the hand again prevented, they
were water bound & could not return to Selma until the
creek between them & the creek crossed came down, that made
Lewis longer getting home than he expected to be. I certainly am
glad to hear how well your Father is now, I could sit you the
'hypodermics', he does it nearly your Father says. Dr Gallien has
taken up his abode with Mr Willer Barclay, came out with
the expectation of making 1000 out of Mr C. W. C.'s practices. If
he realizes 100 he will do better than any one else. Dr Mc
Comb lives in Demopolis now. If your Father is well enough

Lewis will go on to see Mother tomorrow. Bessie Ware wrote me she had just received a 400 dollar prize to 'visit Alice back with' if that is a fact I think it is the most foolish thing I ever heard of - when I saw her last she said she had no money to live on, could not pay her debts. She should have a guardian I think.

Yesterday your interesting letter was received, we are always glad to hear of your doings, social clubs &c. We hope your examination will be a success & that you may soon take place. I don't think you would enjoy ^{as many} social pleasures in Washington as when you are, but this may be greater & work not as confining. I suppose there would be office hours & after that time you would be free.

Mr. Bennett stopped to see your Father Sunday, & Tuesday Mr. Cobb came especially to see him & Miss Bennett. I thought it so kind of him to come so far, not a neighbor has been or even sent, to inquire about him except Mrs. Low Davies, she sent a batch of rolls last night & wished to know how he was. Our friend Mrs. Hatch has not returned from Mobile yet. It is now three o'clock, your Father has not had such severe pains as he had yesterday, I hope he is better tho' the worst time has not come. It is very cloudy I am afraid we will have some more rain, but even so cold the garden has not progressed much, and hope the fruit is not killed. Do please excuse