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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.



Yallahs Ala. Sept 2nd 1876-

Dear Ben: -

Your letter to your Mother came to day, and as I was to write you this week, it will be for your Mother's weekly letter also.

I know you enjoyed your "Buffalo" Trip, in toto; besides the scientific or scholastic part there was enough else to insure a good time. Sometimes in a man's life - these opportunities may throw him in contact, with the very party or persons who will be the special friends "in need" at some future occasion.

I am satisfied the pleasure excursion to Niagara & beyond was agreeable to you, that is such a charming section for beautiful landscapes & so attractive, In one of my vacations, whilst I was attending lectures in Philadelphia, I fr?

of mine from Virginia & I took a trip
to the Falls & thence up the St Lawrence
River & down by the lakes to Albany
via New York - Saratoga &c - back to
Phil^{del} & I shall never regret it. The trip
for collecting or botanizing in the Adirondacks
will be one of pleasure & satisfaction.
I am sure - especially when you have a
congenial companion.

It is possible - you may meet Judge
Fayle & his Bride - excursions thro New
York - & many others from the South.
They had a handsome wedding & reception,
but what beats all is the latest excite-
ment in Demopolis - Judge Wolf of
Linden came to D & seized the Lyon
(Mrs Frank Lyon Jr.) - & went right off
after a quiet ceremony. He a widower
with three children - and such
is life. This was no Asopian
fable, and there was no laugh
in it at all.

Yesterday morning a caller
knocked at my door - very early -

I got up & dressed - it turned out
to be Mr Seed of Greensboro, came
down from Greensboro on his bicycle,
leaving town a little before 5 o'clock. He
wished to look at Jerseys - I sold
him "Duchess" (Hein) & heifer calf ^{to} ~~for~~ ^{5.00}
for the two, as Duchess was adding quite
fast, tho a good cow yet, & her left
eye was knocked out some time
ago. After breakfast he returned
to Greensboro as he came, I thought it
best to reduce my stock, as I have
3 more young heifers, growing up. &
three cows to the soil & one of them
soon to come in again.

It is reported that Bob Callins Jr
with another party has rented the
Mc Clelland Hotel in Danvers?

A letter from Fred at Abbeville
Marshall County this State - says
he enjoyed his visitation to the farmers
reading Institute Meetings with lectures
&c. "Heggie" I believe has charge of that
school. He visited around about Monticello

Albany's first fair about 5 or 6 days last week with
him here - & I have gone to Salem to return his visit.

Some weeks ago. Fred did not men-
tion any thing about the children or
homefacks - said he would visit the
town of Huntsville - & that the people
were very sociable & friendly - his audi-
ences were from 150 to 200 - I am
glad to know he is putting himself out
amongst the people & seeing them at
their homes, hope he may find the
perfect way to "handle" babies and
children on an improved plan - an
"intensive system" perhaps, different
from Experiment Station plans. In
your trips around, sometime inquire
from the 2nd hand Book Store for a
copy of the "Milford Board" $\$1.00$ to $\$2.00$ -

We are still on the lookout for a
suitable dock key - Greene Duggan had
to take his Greent^h Hotel - as the lessee
did not pay up. In Mother sends her best love.
Nothing new - Yr Affectionate Father - R. Duggan

April 4th 1896

My dear Miss Mary I write
in greatest-haste, to say that
Robert has just received
payment for two Union
Towns, sold last Sept, to
be paid for March 1st.
Letter received too late
for banking house,
consequently he will
send you money on
Monday, April 6th. He
will send you, (\$190) one
hundred & ninety dollars
I will go to Mandis,
next Saturday I will
write you definitely or see

ym, with love for all in
great Trust Yours Sincerely
S A White

Dear Ben

I enclose you a
Copy of a letter received
last night from Mrs White,
she does not come quite
up to my demand but
if we can not do better
reckon it is best to agree,
but I ^{must} stand out
I bravely for at least \$100.
We may take time to
consider, & if you can
write at once, could
hear your opinion.

I had a letter from
your Mother last week she
tells me of her visit to
Fred, and is glad she
could go, was thankful

to hear your dear Father
was improving, the only
news I have to tell you
is Dr. Conner & Miss Nora
Conner to be married
on the 8th a quiet-home
wedding, Dr. Le gave a
farewell dinner to his
batchelor friends on Easter
Sunday, Willie says it
was very nicely gotten up, 35
guests present, Bishop Jack-
son will be with us next
Monday, We had no service
Easter hfe dear Ben you
had a pleasant Easter
all unite with me in
Love to you. most Sincerely
Your friend R. A. Wren

April 8-1896

Dear Ben,

To day the follow-
ing note was received

To Miss Mary Storrs
Union Town Ala

Miss Storrs

Please find
N Y exchange No 65424,
for \$190⁰⁰ It gives me
pleasure to send it, Please
receipt for same, With this
I wrote you a hurried letter
on Saturday, yours very
Kindly
R S Nelson,

April 8th 1896

My dear Son

I was very glad to receive your letter tonight & hear of your Shingys trip you certainly were fortunate in securing them for the Ojibwa & I know you enjoyed it. I expect the examinations will turn out all right & if you are in your usual state of health you will be appointed to the place. The crazy men must have created much excitement. The piece of goods will make up very prettily I expect but it looks right warm for summer, as I expect Fred would think the suit right light, he will have to be more economical than ever now that he has another daughter to feed, clothe & send to school. Margaret Louise is here now she was born on the 1st of April. Fred has not yet described her appearance, says the children are much pleased with her.

Your Father continues about the same, sometimes in the morning seems a little better but the spells of pain are very severe & he is weak, has no appetite, takes very little food. I wrote to Dr

Darius of Birmingham for advice, he is a
specialist in such diseases, we may ask him
to come down, something must be done to relieve
him if possible, nearly four weeks of suffering is
hard on him. Sunday arrived to my surprise Mrs
Harris, sister Sally & the children came down to
spend the day. Barbara also. I thought as it was
Easter all would go to church in Farns Dale, I intended
going but could not leave your Father, the boys
went & I had let the cook go to her church as
you can imagine my fix, as dinner prepared, but
with the aid of the house girl I managed to get
up a right nice dinner without being much of
their company. In the afternoon Mrs Daines came
over & Mrs & Mrs Torbert made a long visit, they
wanted to walk in the garden as I took them in,
& over the grapev, they were much pleased with
the faint prospect tho' we think it rather scant
compared to last year. The grapes are putting
out so nicely, blossoming too, when in full leaf the
arbores will be very pretty. Well I failed to have the
aces for Easter, the frequent cool changes kept
them back but they are opening now & I can
soon send you some, as yet open only a few at a
time. Mrs Whelan wants some to take with her to

Thursday 9 o'clock

Birmingham tomorrow. I was too sleepy to finish last night, will write while your Father is asleep, he says he did not sleep at all last night, is quite weak this morning. I gave him a little breakfast & he went off to sleep again. I told Lewis this morning I thought he had better write & ask Dr Davis to come down, he did so & we will await anxiously his answer. Medicines from the other Dr seem to do no good, your Father has a great deal of confidence in Dr Davis.

The weather is pleasant enough to do without fire & consequently the garden is growing, I am having the cabbages worked this morning had a good gentle shower on them last night, just the thing for them, squashes are up & Irish potatoes doing well. I have very little time to attend to the garden with so many other things to look after. Bishop Jackson will be at our church on Wednesday tomorrow we are to have the yard cleaned up, I will send a hand cart to there much myself. Thanks

Wave was here day before yesterday and Mother
was in bed again, hardly able to turn over, he
has been with her three nights.

The neighbors have been very kind sending
your Father nice things to eat & some of the
gentle men have offered to sit up at night if
needed, we have not been sitting up with
him. I get up & give him what he wants &
lie down again, fortunately I can go right off to
sleep again. Mary Duggan wrote & asked me
to take him up there where he could have
better Medical advice but he is not able to
go any where, does not even sit up in bed.

I must stop now & answer Mary's letter.

If your Father gets worse I will let you know.

With much love

Yours devoted

Mother.

April 15th 1896

My dear Son

Series have taken very great upturns as I have to see this on this account proper. I was very glad to receive your postal today dated the 14th but I think you made a mistake in the day of the month. I hope by this time you have returned to harbour & will get a good rest tonight.

Your Father is improving very much but not out of bed, hopes to sit up some tomorrow & when he begins I think he will improve faster. Dr Davis came down Saturday, after examining him told me the only thing to do was to get your Father to his Infirmary in Birmingham as soon as possible, that he needed surgical treatment, could not be attended to here, & it was the only thing to relieve him & that if not relieved he might go into a state of coma any time, as you may imagine I was anxious to get him off, I telephoned Uncle John to come up next day (Sunday) he, Uncle Ben & Schachnick

spent the day, we consulted together as to how
& when he should go, decided to get him off
Tuesday morning. Uncle John promised to come
up Monday night to be here to go with Lewis
& your Father Tuesday morning & did come. All
day Monday Lewis was busy getting a letter made
by John Anos & making other arrangements for
the trip. Dr Mac Lante came out in the morning
(Monday) & found him so much better that
he advised him not to go then, get a little
more strength & then if necessary go. I had thought
the same thing but did not advise it, was
glad enough to know he would not have to go.
He has been steadily improving since Saturday
night & I see no reason now why he should
go, no pains, no need of morphine, all he wants
now is to regain his strength, Saturday will be
4 weeks since he was taken so you know he must
be weak. Bolling & Green came Sunday & spent
the day, both were looking very well.

To day we had the Bishop at our church but
oh! such a small congregation!! Night before
last it rained all night, this morning was
showery so no one came from Laneville or
Tannerdale. Most of the gentlemen from this

Apr 5, 1896

neighborhood went up to the county convention in Gainesboro, the creek was so high it was almost dangerous to cross, Willis Beverly was the only one who turned back tho' Mrs. Lobb came across, driven by a dunky but fished up on the other side & who knew the road well, the water was up in the bottom of his vehicle.

Mr. Johnston will be our Governor, Mr. Clarke & his friends worked hard for nothing, we will send a paper.

Levi went to see aunt Orville yesterday evening, the creek was out, water in our place up to Rocketts stomach, but had run down a good deal by the time he returned. Some kind of a phoebe is being exhibited tonight at the school house & Levi has gone to see it, I would like to have gone too if I could.

I sent you a box of Roses this evening, hope they will reach you safely, the Marshall Violets are not so large & pretty as they should be, there are so many on the creek.

Your Father says the ladies have all been

very kind sending kind things since he has
been sick, Lewis & myself get the benefit of
most of them. Sunday evening Mrs. Torbert brought
a waiter which contained a plate of baked
strawberries, covered over with fresh, a plate of cake,
a dish of canned peaches, also one of dewberries,
a dish of stuffed eggs, a tumbler each of Chile
sauce, plum jelly & radishes, but it arrived
sooner it would have been quite an addition
to my dinner which I thought needed adding
to when Volney & Green appeared about 12 o'clock.
You can't imagine how busy I am kept attending
to every thing, Lewis will help when called on but
assumes no responsibility. I am anxious for him
to begin studying. Charley graduated & has come
to show himself as a full fledged Dr, looks as
if the nation was reeling on his shoulders, as if
he ~~felt~~ feels the responsibility of a host of sick
patients, says "I am going to Birmingham to practice
under my Father" I did not ask him what had
become of that large salary he was going to get at
the mines. It is late so I must say good night,
I hope you will find something to amuse the
clerkly big family, with much love

Yours devoted
Mother.



April 29th 1896

My dear Son

We read with pleasure your letter received last night, congratulate you on your appointment, I said all along I knew you would get it but did not expect to hear of it until after the first of May. We fully appreciate Prof Atherton's offer & if the bill is passed I expect you will try to be excused from Prof Galloway is it it so? I think you have a fondness for University life, I can't blame you, the only trouble about Cornell is the severity of the winter, how could you stand that? For the future it might be a great advantage to you to have been at work in Cornell, the offer shows Prof Atherton's appreciation of yourself. I suppose you have heard from Fred about life in Washington, his children had been quite sick when he wrote us, the Father was better he was not strong enough to be out of bed, Dr Decker had been making them two fists a day, sickness seems to follow them everywhere.

Lucie went to Greenbush & Akron last week, was absent from Wednesday to Tuesday dinner time, enjoyed the first night at Mrs. Mann's, from there went to Green's then on to see Bolling, they went fishing & squirrel hunting, Lucie enjoyed

the trip. Well I had a long ride today and tired will give
an account of it tomorrow, good night -
Thursday morning - My cleaning is done as I will try to finish
my letter but this is a miserable pen. The ride was to
Dempolis, Lewis drove me in, I had some purchases to make
& then we went to Mother's she was alone & very glad to see us
was up & stirring around but looking very badly I think, she still
hopes Alice will come to stay with her, Alice makes her believe
she wants to come but her mother keeps her, in my opinion she
does not want to come. Mother has for man of all work I estimate
old George but he leaves her Saturday. There was a heavy rain
while we were in town, the road as far as Mrs De Boes
coming out, was heavy & we had to come slowly, another terrible
cloud came up & just as we reached the gate the rain &
wind came in full force in our faces, I jumped out quickly
but before I reached the house was quite wet & Lewis was
wringing wet before he could drive around to the cow lot to try to
get the horse under the shelter, the rain poured down for
some time, then there was hail, again in the night we had
just such another storm. Sunday night we had two storms
of the same sort. It is too much of even to put out plants
today or to pull up Johnson grass. Dempolis continues to
improve, Mrs Wells' three story brick building just on the corner
opposite Mrs Morris' store is going up & will be a pretty building.

will be composed of stores, town hall, armory &c &c. The dwelling
houses & yards are kept up so much better than some years
ago. Uncle Waver was in town but we did not see him, he
did not come in to dinner. The country is beautiful now, the
grass so deep & fresh. Sunday afternoon Beebe, Oliver, Paul
& Mrs Chapman drove up in a buggy, they made a good long
visit, in fact stayed so late I feared they would be caught in
the rain, rumor says Oliver is to be married to Miss Joe Barber
but I can't believe that.

Your Father improves very slowly, has not even taken a buggy
ride yet. We have been enjoying english pines for more than a
week, the other vegetables are doing well, squash bushes quite
large. The peaches are dropping fast commenced before the
rain. I wonder if we will have the pleasure of seeing you this
summer. I wish Fred could bring his family down after
commencement but it is such a crowd to move I don't think
he will. Dr Wheelan was here Saturday night & again Sunday,
seemed much interested in your Father's restoration to health,
gave him a good deal of advice. Waver went to a dance at
Framedale Tuesday night I have not heard how he enjoyed
it, Lewis did not care to go. Please excuse this scrawl, hope I
can do better next time. With much love

Your devoted

Mother

Dear Ben -- I am not feeling well today, as
I have had some trouble with my bowels. &
This you know always pulls me down. I have
been thinking that you'd be offered the Washington
Place, & some time ago, when I heard that Prof
A had been signally promoted, I said to your
mother, how nice it would be if Prof A
will make some provision for Ben, so he might
be with him. I hardly know how to advise you,
if the Cornell Place would be permanent. I
think there would be more than the difference
of \$200 in the salary compared with W. as I am
pretty sure the expenses in W are high. If you wished
to get from "your environments" as speedily as possible would
it do to accept the W Place on trial for a month
or 3 of them until Prof A. was certain & sure
of his offer or could be held it for so that long,
you could then resign the W Place & go to Ithaca.
I must stop now, as it makes me tired to write
about trying down --

Yr affct Father -- (R.D.)



Tuesday May 9th

Very dear Son

Don't think I have
forgotten ~~it~~ - should have written
yesterday but was so much taken
up with the last news from Dampier
& preparations to go there, that I had
no time to write. You & your brother
passed away yesterday evening about
6 o'clock, I received notice about 10,
it was pouring down rain as I had
to go in on freight, cannot sit or
travel this morning. Alice, little
Alice, Uncle Waver & Grace are here
tonight, ~~Grand~~ brother sits in the
church tonight, funeral services
tomorrow at 11 A.M. They all came
in just as a terrible rain & wind
storm began. Father expected tonight.
I will write particulars as soon
as possible, only Uncle W. was
with her. With much love
Your devoted
Mother

ask you next time. Instead of one sheep boarding house for the students they hope
to leave this night
your boat to be 9 dollars,
3, if bedding & towels are
furnished by the boys.
I was very glad to hear you
could not night school
that you arrived safely.
Dore made himself as
useful. I was attended to
at home, he attended to
the work at the church
yard. As well as an
afternoon board, they
are to put up the
sailing that he was
compelled to take down in
port. Two visitors Robert
& the sailing, great news
with much love
yours devoted Father.

After all the excitement
I have passed through in the last
few days it is a pleasure to be quiet
& able to write to you. I feel that I
should have written before this but
after the news Monday I could ^{not} do any
thing but make arrangements for going
in town & having the family come
here Tuesday evening. I had to think of
every thing your Father not being here,
poor Uncle Waver tried to do but you
know he is a poor hand to make
arrangements at any time, especially so
on this occasion, he should have left
it some friend. To make matters worse
when the telegram came the rain came

pouring down & had been for a day or
or two, roads like winter. I wrote you
that the two Alices & her Waver came
out Tuesday with the body which was
placed in the church that night. Some
was with them also, came in all the
evening & on Monday, took supper with
Leira & went out to Davenport that
night, such a bungle had been made
with sending messages from Davenport
that he & Mrs Cobbs understood the
services would take place Tuesday.
When I returned Tuesday morning I
found Mr Cobbs here to breakfast, after
the meal I had to excuse myself to
attend to house duties & then go over
& help sweep the church & have it
ready for the corpse, while there Uncle
John drove up, thinking the services
would be on that day, he came over
& spent the day with us & Mrs Cobbs,
promised to return yesterday but

Don't forget to write your impressions of Uncle's bereavement, you better write of the
children as half a street, Oliver asking for more.

did not. Uncle Harrie & Reuben such
came with double teams & found it
hard work getting here, worse I know
making the trip as you can imagine the
state of the roads. Mr Stickney came
over & assisted in the services, dined
with us. The Spragues & Uncle Waver
went to town last night on train, we
sent them down in the double &
single buggy. Your Father & myself are
to go ~~over~~ tomorrow to assist in putting
away or making some disposition of
her things, we have no idea that there
is a will & I don't know how things
will be fixed.

Your Father did not reach home until
yesterday morning, left children improving
under the diet he started them on,
gave Fanny a "blowing up" about her
arrange ment of them & left in disgust.
She promised him to try & do better &
when he left "wished he could stay a

if he did give her a blowing asp.
Your Father was shocked at Fossil's
appearance, those old grey grunts revealing
coat, to meet all the "big bugs" at a
dinner at Prof Muhl's Saturday, persons
complained to your Father of Fossil's not
mixing at all with the people, it
is such a pity; he will not keep his
place if he goes on as he was put in
for three years & Ben Cooke made
Horticulturist & Botanist. The board
at least some of them are becoming
dissatisfied with Dr Brown for going off
for men to fill the places. Col Gilchrist
spoke of it and plain terms are a speech
he made, said he saw no reason why
they should go to N Y, Ill, & even to
Europe for men when we have men in
our own state fully competent to fill the
places. There were some bets made on
your being elected to the place Mr Cooke
is to fill, never mind maybe they will

suppose he is busy with the Baptist connection, Judge Henshaw was to be there & shed
 abouts, pay him some
 attention, I must show
 now, just begging
 you to excuse this
 trouble writing. With
 much love
 Your devoted
 Mother

P.S. Many thanks
 for the little flowers
 they had dropped off
 a good deal but
 some were fresh
 enough for us to use
 that it was very
 pretty. Bobbie &
 I were have just
 called by for the
 boys in a week
 away. I hope all
 with every the use
 & feeling in the room.

16th 1896

It is now 12 o'clock & I am just sented to
 write to you have been trying all the morning to get through
 but there are busy times with me I have been in a rush
 all the week, blackberries are coming in abundantly & I have
 been working with them all the morning making wine & acid
 & this evening will come for pice, have more jam to
 make also. I do wish you had come, they are so large & juicy.
 I bought over a bushel last night at dark, to begin work
 on this morning.

We are having singular weather now so much cool wind,
 Sunday a good many persons were out in winter dresses but
 it is too warm for them now.

Your letter came this morning, I was glad to hear from you,
 I am sorry Mrs Wain's stamp was not valuable, was in hopes
 it would bring her a nice little sum, they are painting their
 house with some of their stamp money I reckon. I somewhat
 expected her down this week but have not heard from her
 on the subject. I had a letter from Anne yesterday giving an
 account of the reception Mrs Lee gave the Senior class last
 week, a swell affair as he expressed it, altho cards & dancing
 are forbidden on the campus they spent a delightful evening

the table was beautiful he said, besides other ornaments the table was strewn with beautiful pansies, each student had two invitations sent him, one he retained, the other he sent to the young lady he wished to escort, since did not any who he took. Sent me one of his class pictures, very good, I think. The boys, Susan, Bob, Lizzie, Olivia & Katy are going down on the "Woody Collins" branch to fish this evening. Susan spent Tuesday with me, I will tell you how it was, Mrs Shivers had a dress to make & I heard her say she was not able to put it out & could not get any help to make it, I told her to come & spend the day with me & I would help her all I could so Tuesday she came, then she proposed to ~~have~~ to drive up for Susan to help & said she would pay her for the hire so Susan came & we had a very pleasant day & helped the little woman a good deal I think, come after dinner Lizzie drove down & all stayed until about sunset.

We are interested now in getting up a strawberry supper ~~next~~ Tuesday for our church, want to put wine over the windows, one was broken this winter, we can get strawberries at 8 cts a qt, will have the supper at Mrs Joe Collins, I wanted them to have it here but Mrs C said there were so many of them to bring that it would suit her much better to have it there, the Smiths & Tanks wanted it in their hall but would be too inconvenient, consequently they staid off & leave the J. J. Collins family & myself to do the work, I am glad to

MAY 16, '96

any
I am afraid to the emergency. One Katie never does much
you know. Mrs. Tolbert says the wedding will come off soon but
they have not said a word to me about it.

Uncle Waver did not see me Sunday went to Tushulora.
Tuesday night I suppose, was a delegate to the council in
excise there, this week. Some of our neighbors took advantage
of the cheap ticket to Washington & have gone to the Baptist
convention there, round trip \$2.00. It is thought New Woody
Dairies will rent the hotel in Greensboro, put out or kill
his place here, between our selves his Father in Law has
served him so badly he is disgusted with merchandising,
New Joe Collins is trying to persuade him not to go on account
of his boys, they are as bad & would be ten times worse in town,
at a hotel particularly. Green has a finger in as many pies
he is willing to give up the hotel, intends building a dwelling
house on part of the hotel lot.

Marion & New Brown will celebrate their crystal wedding
tomorrow night we are all invited perhaps Reuben & Waver
will go, one moonlight for old folks to drive by. Robbitt looks
well now is hardly ever used as practice is a thing of the
past almost, no one gets sick these days. Miss Low has been
home two weeks & I have not been to see her, must go this
afternoon. It has been nearly two weeks since Fred wrote I

your Father thinks very nice but it might not reach there before you leave, I
don't know what to do
about it. Marshal Robinson is
getting up a strawberry & ice
cream supper for the benefit
of the garden, with
a few tickets to ask
for help I asked but it
was not at home. Lewis
is invited to a supperlight
free ice at George Atkins'
the same night (Friday)
I don't know which he will
attend. Lewis enjoyed the
"Herd" & Love story at her
Walks, they all enjoyed
about you. With much
love & your devoted
Mother.

this morning, Lewis sent it up & went
on through the field to jog Mrs. C. Whollins
about a draft he promised your Father
but was not forthcoming before he left
for Stafford Springs. Miss on Monday
night, where he may remain two weeks,
hoping to gain strength & energy for the
commencement week in Auburn. The
morning about some your Father has come
very languid & did not gain strength
at all, those springs are highly spoken
of, the same third week is true & has
been for two weeks, your Father wrote to
him & received a very encouraging reply
as he decided to go over, would have gone

sooner but waited hoping to hear from
Frederic, but no letters or even a postal
card as he left without writing. This
morning there is a card from Fred. saying
"on the whole there is a continuous improve-
ment in Frederic's condition, with increase
of food which may begin tomorrow. I hope his
strength will increase perceptibly, he has
not taken a step yet."

I am so glad you think you will get the
position at Cornell, I am quite sure the
life there would suit you better than life
in Washington, the latter is not a healthy
place, you have one friend in Athens &
will soon make more, in the other place
you have not any acquaintances. My only
fear is the cold next winter. You certainly
should have a little rest before beginning
work in a new place. I neglected to say
Stafford Springs are about 30 miles from
Meriden, I will enclose your letter to your

Father, and so glad you approve of any
proposition to move to Hamden. Our plan
will be advertised in "The Watchman"
for the next two weeks. I hope your Father
will not over value it, that will be
the trouble, he has not told me what
he will ask. I feel sad when I think of
a move but still think it the thing
for us to do, & do it as soon as possible.
Yesterday Lewis & myself spent evening, we
first visited Reuben & sent taking him
some bread, a pie, & some cake, found
him in a ~~fine~~ looking house, a hall,
a room on each side, a front porch & a
little room on the end of that, his furniture
consists of a sofa in the hall, a very small
table, & two chairs. For his room is a
bed, the old fashioned ~~box~~ ^{box} ~~man~~ ^{man} that my
Mother used to use, a boy with a two
basin for him to wash in & one chair. I
think he might do a little better than

that, he is raising some chickens & has a
small garden. After our visit to him we
went on to Lanesville, hearing sister Sally
had gone to Tannockville we stopped at
Beccis & sat there until she returned
nearly 1 o'clock, spent the rest of the day
at Mrs Harris'. Aunt Melville is sending
a visit from Misses Ann & Patsy, is to
send for them ^{Friday} tomorrow. Mrs H- & Lucy go
to Tuckulooze for a weeks visit, on their
return sister Sally wants to go if the
ladies leave. We found Melville Minge up,
she had been in bed nearly a week from
a fright she had. All the family went to
Tannockville to an entertainment, she was
at home with the servants & had been
giving them their supper, Mrs Garber had
knocked at the front door, no one answer-
ing he walked in, seated himself on the
lounge, keeping his hat on, the lamp was
burning low & when Melville not knowing

MAY 20, 96

of his coming stepped into the hall she
 saw a man & was terribly frightened, she
 exclaimed oh! you frightened me!!
 went into her Mother's room & for some
 time there he sat expecting her to come
 out, after awhile the little house girl
 passed by & he asked where was Melville,
 she said "you have scared Miss Melville
 out of her senses". Mrs Garber then went
 in the room & found her entirely unconscious
 lying across the bed, there he was frighten-
 ed to death, sent for Mrs Smart & they
 did what they thought best for her, tried
 to arouse her, gave her some whiskey &
 after awhile made her get up & walk
 about, Mr G- stayed until Bessie
 returned, altho they made Melville get up
 she had not the slightest recollection of

of it & did not return to consciousness
until next morning when she was in
a terribly weak nervous state, the Dr
said she should have had nothing
stimulating & should have been allowed
to sleep, he feared a spell of fever might
result from it but fortunately she escaped
that. She was foolish not to have gone
to sister Sally's & spent the night as
she asked her to do. I wish she will
next time.

We have been suffering for rain some
times, just now we are enjoying a shower,
I hope it will last some times as I have
more potato slips to put out.

The Episcopal Convention is in session
this week in Selma, none of us will go
over, your Father was appointed a delegate,
was not strong enough to enjoy being there.
I was thinking of sending you & Mrs Heford
each a bottle of my dew berry wine which

at the Hollins Institute. Did I write you about Maria B. & her vegetable wedding? only Mother
went from here, he was much pleased with the affair. I have received many presents, I
wonder who to have
gone but the evening
was too surprising
no answer. We went
to my own party call
to dinner & some other
tea. I declare it is
best for me to leave
home, and sleep
every night. The
night was home
bright and up very
thing & have a great
benefit to this part.
We have at last long
for the grapes, they
should have been
put on long ago, with
only within this
window of looking
off into mine. Have
is going to the office
as I expect shortly
brought several
species of insects,
which I much love
to see. I have
1896
Mother.

Having been up late last night I threw myself
down to take a nap but the black berry boys waked me, as
I will try to overcome my sleepiness by writing to you as tomorrow
I may go to Hannedale. I am glad you have a chance at
some berries had no idea they could be furnished at so
reasonable a price, we sold strawberries last night at
18 cts a good canner & but for the heavy rain during the
day would have sold all we had, 2 crates. Our church
supper at Mrs Collins' house was quite a success we thought
considering the mud & the prospect of a dark night. We
took in 34 or 5 dollars & expenses were hardly over 6 dollars.
We began at 6 in the afternoon that the old folks &
children might turn out & be home before dark. Mrs Gilbert
Miss Rous' been gave us some splendid music but I
had not much time to listen to it, was busy in the dining
room dishing out straw berries & cream, there are as few of
us Episcopals anyhow & three of our members were
absent, Mrs Trake, Mrs Hostet & Miss Stewart, the latter is
in Washington with Mrs North who is partly paralyzed.
Some persons were expected from Spring Hill, Lanesville, &
Hannedale but the rain prevented their coming, only Rob

Coleman & Mrs. Mrs. Kee could venture out, we left Mrs. C's
at 12 o'clock & they were still there. Mrs. Robin's horse balked,
kicked, & then ran away she jumped or was thrown out of
the cart on her back, but was not hurt, the horse was terribly
frightened, is a foolish little thing any way. Minnie was out
for the last time I suppose until she becomes Mrs. Moberg,
I hear Tuesday week the 4th of June is the time appointed,
they think they are keeping it a quiet secret from the neighbors,
I heard it from Bebie Stewart who is to act as bridesmaid
& will stay with us, to be sure of being in time she will be
up on Monday's boat but stop a few days in Des Moines.
We hear the ceremony will take place at church & a select
few be invited to a champagne supper at the home furnished
by Chancellor Taylor, I can't vouch for the truth of it.
Your letter to your Father came today, I am sorry you can't get
the fellowship but hope if you want to be at Harvard another
year some place will be open to you, getting fixed in places
is no small job for this family of boys is it?

Sam Fred's letter last week he mentioned that Fanny had
had several chills, Washington must be an unhealthy place.
He has bought a bicycle & learned to ride, as it was a
bargain he thinks he has done well & will save some face,
only \$20.00 for a wheel that cost at first over
125 dollars. If he should get to Auburn he would not
need it. Alice and Waver are invitations to the commencement

MAIN OFFICE, New Orleans, La.
No. 94 Camp Street.



HENRY GARDES, (Pres. Am. Nat. Bank,) President.
HENRY MORDECAI, Secretary.

REVISED PRICE, \$4.75 PER CASE OF ONE DOZEN HALF GALLON BOTTLES F. O. B. SPRINGS,
IN BULK, PER GALLON, ----- 35 CENTS.

LIBERAL DISCOUNT TO THE TRADE.

We charge in all cases \$1.75 for Carboys, but if returned in good order, freight prepaid, we refund the money.

The STAFFORD MINERAL SPRINGS & HOTEL CO., Ltd.,

NEW ORLEANS, P. O. BOX 709.

JOHN KEHR, AGT.
VOSSBURG.

Vossburg P. O., Miss., May 26th 1896

Dear Ben -

Tomorrow morning I will have been at this place one week & I am sure I have received a real benefit. Your last letter home was forwarded to me, am glad to notice that your hopes are nearly realized for the place at "Cornell".

I wish to remain here long enough - so as to have sufficient time to make arrangements for the Trustees' meeting at Auburn, after I reach home. The commencement will be given on the 7th of June.

N. B. THE STAFFORD MINERAL SPRINGS ARE LOCATED 1 1/2 MILES FROM VOSSBURG, MISS., ON THE N. O. & N. E. (QUEEN AND CRESCENT) RAILROAD. THE WATER IS BOTTLED AT THE SPRINGS AND SHIPPED ONLY IN CASES OF ONE DOZEN BOTTLES EACH AND CARBOYS.

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Vossburg P. O., Miss. May 26th 1896

(2)

You can see from my hand
writing that I have not the
nervousness heretofore or so
recently exhibited. Twelve to
fifteen have been the usual
number at the Springs to this
time, on Sunday however we
had about 25 & as they come
& go, some to stay only a few
days & others to remain for a
couple of months or more, even
in the Winter Season these waters
are good & boarders are here,
generally Northerners select the
cold time for their sojourn.
They have a Hotel & several nice
Cottages with 4 rooms each, & very
pleasantly Located, & good fare.

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JOHN KERR, AGT.
VOSSHURG.

Vossburg P. O., Miss. May 26th 1896

(3rd)

Sam Strudwick Wife & Child have just left - but Judge Clarke and a young ^{man} from Demopolis still remain. My room is next to the Judge's. - The Proprietor - Wife & grown daughter seem to be people of refined character. The real season for visitors is June, July, & August.

I notice in your letter you said you would probably go East, perhaps before you paid a visit home for the summer vacation. I suppose you intend to stop at "Harvard College" then return South. - The "dinner bell" rings & I must close as the mail boy leaves at one o'clock. I send you Circular - Show it around.

Your Father. *Wm. D. Dwyer*

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Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

A. & M. COLLEGE.

Monday
Auburn, Ala., June 8th 1896

Dear Marlow.

Whilst in Selma I stopped over & took a meal at Mrs Qu's - The young people had engaged in an entertainment the night before & I saw none of them except one of the little girls - Henry was out of town or did not return to dinner. I came directly on to Auburn only delaying 15 minutes at Montgomery.

As I saw a Conductor near the train I quietly asked if this was the train for Auburn - He answered "no, this train does not stop at Auburn" - but I replied "Conductors differed very much as the Conductor on the other train had just told me this was my train for Auburn. He quickly asked if I had a ticket for A. & I said "yes a ticket from S. to A. "Well then we'll have to stop for you".

Reaching Auburn, no one met me so I went to the "Hotel McElhenny" where I had supper & a good rest for the night. As I came down next morning to breakfast, who should I meet coming in the front door -

21 but Fred himself, had his buggy ready to take me to his house. The Negroes by their "Magic Telephonic Communication" had informed Fred's family that Dr. Duggan was at the Hotel.

I found the family glad to see me & a trio of almost half starved children "Oliver asking for more" — before next morning I had them on buttered & hard boiled egg - (the yolk). Little Frances put me in mind of a bitting hen that had had nothing to eat for several days & when dough was thrown to her - she would gobble it up if death depended upon it. It is amusing now to sit at table & see the child calling out "more" "more" all the time, but I have cautioned them particularly not to feed their fast, give them plenty of time, &c.

The weather has been delightful, a little cloudy generally, & cool. Yesterday Dr. Howthorne, the biggest light in the Baptist Church, preached a good sermon & at night a splendid address on "Moral Courage". I dined at Prof. Mearns with most of the preachers of Auburn, B-M-P & Presbyterian, Dr. Brown & some of the Prof^s. Fred & I went together. Fred & I enjoyed the dinner & Baptist "jokes"

Contd

Auburn, Ala., June 8th 189

This morning I move down to the "Hotel" particularly as Fred thinks it necessary all the time to have the buggy for me & the little more Petsy is afraid of a Bicycle, when she is tied to a stake & will break loose, but doesn't seem to mind them when trotting down town unless they come directly up to her.

It bids fare to be a rainy day some drizzle just now; will go back to Fred's as soon as the Trustees meeting is over. Ben went off at one o'clock, so only stayed $\frac{1}{2}$ day with Fred. I expressed his package to Isaac N.Y. This air is splendid & no dust to complain of. —

Telegram just recd —

Yrs affectly —

J. D. Snyper

PM. 1896

Gallons June 16th

My dear Son

We were very glad to receive your letter written on the 10th, you must have enjoyed the beautiful scenery, you seem partial to sea trips, was it particularly for the sea or a cheaper ticket that way? I am glad you are pleasantly situated & that Dr. Atkinson is kind to you this. I felt almost sure he would be. How do you get to the third story? run up the steps, or go in an elevator? but I forgot it must be ~~be~~ a private house where you board.

Yes, I am sure Fred was glad to see you, you were there as short a time the little ones did not get acquainted with you I reckon, they are as shy. We have

not had a line from Auburn since your Father's return. Fanny told him she intended making us a visit this summer. I wish they could come now but I have no house girl & see no chance of getting one. Your Father & myself spent last Friday in Danvers, he & Uncle Waver looked over papers & Alice & myself packed Mother's clothing & some of the bedding, I don't know what Uncle Waver intends doing with them. 5 wills were found, the latest made in 1887, much interested & in other places blanks left to be filled which were never filled, however it was witnessed, there was a codicil to that ^{made March 75} leaving Alice the Danvers house. Whether or not that will will stand we can't say, some things, such as jewelry &c. will away in that document have been since given to other parties, & some of her property was not mentioned in it, the Petersburg house for one thing. Your

Father went on last night, to remain until tomorrow morning helping to straighten up accounts &c. he & Uncle Waver were left executors. Mrs Mary had a bill of about 800 dollars against her, no one can tell whether it is correct or not as she kept no account of money or goods furnished her. Alice promised to stay until Tuesday but after that codicil was found she decided to return on Saturday. I think was disappointed that she could not get possession & rent the house out before returning, she & her daughter seemed to care only for what was coming to them, most unnatural daughter & grand daughter.

Livie & myself feel almost as if we have charge of home affairs, your Father is off so much. The pants you left in the wardrobe (brown ones) & the rug & strap your Father took in a bundle to Brooklyn thinking he might meet you there, he

sent them to you, hope they arrived
safely, no hurry about the draft, don't
trouble yourself. Uncle Warr spent Sunday
here, he feels now as if he has no object
in life, no one to look after & help. There
were two other ladies died in Danvers the
week Mother died, Mrs Bancroft & Mrs
Simmons.

Mrs Brown a close mate of Warr is
trying to get the Farnedale school, the
latter went to Uncle John's Sunday to
meet him. This is about the time aunt
Melville wants to go to Tuckaloosa, "the
girls" have left. Bolling expects to move
to Tuckaloosa soon, did not say what
business he intended going into.

Mrs Lou Davies & three of her daughters
were to see me yesterday evening.

The weather is getting hot again but
today there is a good breeze, we have some
pears ripe, the "Pradelines". With much love

Your devoted
Mother.

Demopolis Ala June 8 '96

Dear Ben

I snatch a few moments from sad thoughts & duties to let you know I think of you & give you some fact from an eye witness to your Grand Mothers expiring moments. I do not think she suffered over two hours & her death was as she would have desired easy & peaceful & painless in her bed with my arm around her we chatted all day Sunday & she rested well after 9 o'clock I going to the room by the Dining Room I awoke about 3 heard her grunting & on going to her met her at her door distressed & saying she could not get her breath & I put her on the bed with four pillows & my arm supporting her in a sitting posture & finding she did not improve I went for Dr Wilson nearly the same promptly but she was in

a cold she caught. He could not
help her. Told me she was
dying & I put my arm around
her as the last thing I could
do & did not observe the
last breath pass away -
This was Monday June 8
about 4 A M - (note this)
We buried her beside Hobart
Wednesday 11 A M. Messrs
Rt & Cabb & W A Stickney
officiating. Sister, Alice
Yr father Green were there
Green helped me in Memphis
Sister returned with Alice
following Saturday to Mobile
on boat. Louis was in Mobile
friends were kind. Yr
father & I overlooked the
papers - find a will. not
exactly in shape but will pass
she expected to fill out some
blankets to her Grand children
doubtless when she felt better

& stronger
I am here taking care of
things till we can do
better - This House goes to
Alice V.

I must close for the mail
& write you again when
I can - Take care of your
health by temperance
& moderation in all things,
but of us well. Yr father
looks much improved

Affectly Yr Uncle
Wm Duggor

Miss Lane says that I have not seen her since. If Allen is one of those
Apocryphal Birmingham friends,
I would show now & try to
send them to the Office.

With much love

Your devoted

Son

W. H. P. I forgot to say, Miss
Ward & Miss Perry will
be down on Wednesday
to see us a sister, who
has a short holiday as
she will take one too.

22nd / 1896

I was very glad to receive
your letter written last Monday I think
it was, & to know that you were thus
comfortably fixed, books unpacked &
every thing arranged in your room, they
are terribly high up I think. Yes, I reckon
you do feel a little alone, & will perhaps,
until you become well acquainted. I hope
you will soon make friends, unlike Fred
you are not indifferent to such
matters & I am glad you are not. Poor
Patten was amazed to find how little
he mixes even with the Professors & how
he keeps to work & house affairs & nothing
else, does not take time even to order a
new suit for commencement, that

reminds me we have not had a line
from him since that time, now, I should
think he would have some time to himself.
We hope they ^{will} bring the children down soon
& make us a good visit, Fanny said she
would when your Father was there. The
cows there are in a dreadful fix now,
have had floods of rain but if the sun
shines as it has done today they ought
soon to dry off. Saturday we had a terrible
rain, Mr. Colts came to the creek yesterday
morning at 9 o'clock, waited some time for
the water to run down, then took a skiff
at the foot of the hill at Oak Grove
church & was rowed over, a man drove
his ferry across for him the water was
up to the bottom, to avoid a floating
bridge on this side he went through the
field there found 2 bridges up, had to
take out the horses, lead them over & pull
the ferry across, he was very late getting

here but had success, every few were out
as they had sit an idea he would come.
Uncle Wm came out & was with us to
dinner, is looking better I think. He sleeps
in Danapolis as there is no one to take
care of the house. Alice is impatient to
get possession of the house & sent it out
but Uncle Wm seems in no hurry to
fix up matters.

A party of 15 of the Collins tribe will
take advantage of the cheap trip & go on to
Richmond \$16.00 the round trip, Mr &
Mrs John Walter among the number, I
am glad she is going, has been so closely at
home all her married life. Bobbie will be
one of the party so Wm will have every
thing in charge. Aunt Melville & Elvira
expected to leave for Truckee on
Thursday, I suppose they went.
Wm was telling me that Nellie Hopper
& Mrs John Graves I think he said, were
married in the Methodist church.

No date. I have not seen an account
of it, he said the piece was headed "A
small wedding," the Hoppers must be coming
out if they had a small affair. I hear
Mabel's beam is coming over to see her, Mrs
Raney was out yesterday. I want to find
the account of Miss Mary's wedding &
send you, she had numerous presents, \$6000
dollars in money besides any quantity of
silver, about 3 doz. berry spoons among other
articles.

Weeds & grass have taken possession of every
thing, Anne is so disgusted that he has
determined to kill some & is fixing to try
his hand plowing in the garden this
evening. The dove grapes are ripening &
we have some red apples & a few speckled
peaches, occasionally a ripe tomatoe &c.
I have not seen Miss Lou lately so have no
news, oh I forgot Dr Allen & his birds are
with the Spencers & Parks, Mrs Parker gave
them a dinner the day they arrived.

Dear Tom
I want to
know how today
to witness a game
of base ball between
members of Dimples
the latter wanted
him to play with
them, he declines on
the score of being out
of practice. I have
much afraid they
will get out of him
to take part in the
game.

Monday June 29th 1896.

I can't let this regular day for a letter pass
without sending you one, tho' this may be short & unsatis-
-factory, I may be interrupted at any moment. Dr. Browder
died yesterday about 4 o'clock, his funeral services will
be held this evening at "Hawthorne" & he will be buried in
our church yard. We think perhaps some of our friends
or relatives may come over, dine with us & be ready for
the services, tho' the weather is as uncertain, roads as heavy
& the day as sultry no one may come from a distance. We
had quite a storm yesterday afternoon, hard wind & heavy
rain, the planters are in despair, had been working as
hard the few dry days we had to get out of the groves.
Reuben said the rain would ruin him, his apples had
been working hard, on little corn, & had almost given
out. He spent yesterday with us, went home after the
rain. We were planned to have something of the Commencement,
it must be quite a queer looking set, the graduates dressed
as they do, my idea is they look something like monks, minus
the long chain & black cross. You must have felt "a

stranger in a strange land" among all those Prof's & officers on the railroad, by the way, should we address you as Prof?

Mrs Wren & Miss Mary left yesterday morning, they desired much love to you. I wanted to keep them until this morning because yesterday was Wavis birth day & I had some nice ice cream. I enjoyed having ^{them} pretty because I knew it was such a pleasure for them to be able to come. Mrs Wren is better than when I was in Uniontown to see them. Willie was in Mobile & at Point Clear spending a short holiday. The latest from Uniontown is, that Mr Willie Taylor will marry Lily Loughorn in August, it is so because he has told his family, they are much put out because they expected to inherit his \$75,000 some of these days, Mrs Shivers thinks it a perfect outrage for him to think of marrying.

At P. S. yesterday Mabel was introducing around her Yankee beau, he reminded me very much of a cut ~~some~~ face, he is hardly as tall as she is & rather stout. He wrote to "ma ma" to ask for Mabel, her reply was that she could not give her daughter to a man she had not seen as he came on for inspection I suppose, he is a republican & I proposed we should meet him - Davis said Mrs L - was so glad to get rid of Mabel she

she did not hesitate to consent, even if he is a republican. He is smoking quite a long pipe. Gordon was down yesterday to spend the day & take his wife & children home. We had a letter from Fanny Saturday. Frederic was sick again & she wanted a prescription. Fred is much disappointed that his promotion was only honorary, & not monetary. I think that very strange, on the strength of it he discharges the cook & puts George in the kitchen. I am afraid he will go more shabby than ever, he wrote he had been out with Fanny returning calls & had actually invited Prof & Mrs. Moll to tea, if he confines his invitations to the Baptist Profs alone I don't think he

will measure our propinquity with the
faculty, poor fellow that baptist
turn has ruined him. I earnestly
believe Frederick's ill health is sent as
a punishment to him for his sin.
I believe we are punished for wrong
doing in this world, as well as the
next. They don't say they are coming
to see us. Don't think I have appeared
myself as to them, I have not written
or said a word to ^{them} on the subject.
General Westons affairs, in state ^{remains} quo,
Uncle Waver was not out yesterday.
Please excuse the many mistakes I
am writing in too much of a hurry
& am not feeling very well, the very
crazy days pull me down. I must
close now hoping to do better next
time, did not even take time to get
paper of a uniform sized sheet what
I picked up, with much love

Your devoted Mother.