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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.

with no only that letters is down again, the crop is nearly all gathered & was crushed into
 mess. Part of some pines
 dropped. I expect go now
 to Mrs. Bob Woods "this
 evening to return as
 tomorrow look as
 good bye, with much
 love
 Your devoted
 Mother.

Nothing from Fred this
 week.

Oct 7th 1896.

Your last weeks letter was late reaching us, Friday
 or Saturday I think, as we were doubly glad to receive it. I
 was afraid you might be sick & felt much relieved, oh it is
 so hard to have our sons so far away & to have to give them
 all up. Lennie left this morning for Mobile, by way of Selma,
 will go down on the W & B. tomorrow, he & "Berry" are
 inseparable, I want see the attractions, your Father says "it must
 be his sisters". Your Father left soon after breakfast, I have had
 a very quiet day, the only person on the lot, except the little
 time Sadie was here preparing dinner, she soon hurried through,
 & is then gone until milking time. We milk only two cows,
 strange for us isn't it! Your Father went to the county medical
 meeting yesterday, I sent Green a gallon bottle of butter milk,
 but unfortunately he was off on a fishing excursion some
 where on the river. Your aunt Sally was quite unwell, has a
 bad cough & your Father says she will have to take very
 good care of herself to pass through the winter. Belle is then
 looking like a "merry pole" Mrs. Cobbs recovered sufficiently to go
 to Anniston & from there to Seawance for a change, I do not

know when he will return, Mrs B- went with him.

Mrs Benton dined with us Sunday seems well & in good spirits, asked your Father to go up to the meeting of the board tomorrow. Mrs B- wants him to use his influence with the board to have some experiments made, suggested by Fred. This day is rather cloudy, tomorrow we may have rain. I want to go with him as far as I amed as, remains until he returns in the evening.

Uncle Wave drove up at dark last night to say good bye to Lizzie, took supper & sat until nine o'clock, could not be persuaded to spend the night, he looks sad & troubled these days, feels alone in the world I reckon without Mother.

Your Father went in Saturday, pushed the large side board in the wagon, & your great grand Father's chair Mother left him, brought them out without a scratch. I had the awgon wheel set & the side board put in the dining room, after supper Lizzie & my self hunted all the silver & glass ware up & quite filled the upper part, the silver ice pitcher & waiter look quite natural in their usual place in the middle, & the silver butter dish in one side, she also left us a pickle stand (silver) we gave her one of ours. Her bed room set of furniture was left to Mr Wave, he moved it the same morning but leaving the pushing to "Ike", his wash stand slab was broken into a doz pieces. Every thing else is in the

house yet, the judge has not given his decree on the will,
it may not stand. Since Meriwether changed his mind
about taking the house, will rent Mrs Michael's house, his
family move to Mobile soon, I hear he will engage in business
with his brother John.

Your Father & myself witnessed quite an exciting fight a
morning or two ago between the dogs & a cat, one of the odious
ones, Hector tried him under a pile of planks, there was one
one in the yard so we went ~~under~~ ^{under} the house to raise
the planks up, I tell you I remembered when Hector seized him
but stayed near enough to see the fight, it was the largest pole
cat I ever saw, had grown fat on my little chickens, & stayed
between the walls in the house, you may imagine we were glad
to get rid of him.

Aunt Melville & all were quite well when Lewis went up to
say good bye. I suppose she will soon have a governess, they
have corresponded with several ladies who wish such a place.

Mrs L W C - opened the township school on the 1st, 24 or 29
scholars.

Marbel's Captain, has been on another visit as I suppose the
report of their marriage intentions, is true, he was at S School
with her.

You will have a long winter if frosts has begun already, if it
snows I think we will have a cool change too. There is one more

October 20th 1896.

My Dear Father,

I received your letter this A. M.
and hasten to answer it.

We made final arrangements for a house
No. 110 Cleveland Ave. yesterday afternoon
& will be given possession of it on Nov.
1st 1896.

The house has Parlor, Library Dining
room & kitchen & pantries, on first floor.
4 nice bed rooms & bath on second
floor and two or three bed rooms in the
attic. Laundry in cellar, a good
fireplace & is splendidly built.

You will need the lawn mower as
there is a very nice yard although
at present no place for flowers.

House has hard wood double floor
throughout & ought to prove very warm
and nice.

As to dimensions of rooms we are still
at sea. but will let you know soon.

Do not slip anything until that
the last day of October although you
may get things ready as soon as you
like.

Orny & Alice are to keep house
you, mama & Charlie to live with
them.

I pay Orny \$40⁰⁰ per month for
your board & all you will need to
do is to earn enough to clothe yourself.
Mama & Charlie & get such little extras
as you may desire.

From now on it is the desire of

both Douglas & myself to save you
& mama from worry of any kind & I
think that the arrangement heretofore
mentioned the best under the circum-
stances.

Trust you will be able to sell to Sullivan
immediately after election as a little
money would be a great boon to us
all at that time.

With love to all I remain
always

Your affectional son,
W. E. Douglas

P. F. Gould &
claim the money
your father
says your card
get our sheepskin
we could use them
if you could have it
packed & sent by mail
if you can do so without
getting yourself to mail
trouble I would like
to have one, if you send
let me know the price &
I will send P. O. Order
for the money I don't
see the use of sending
you but to say it is
the best way to get one,
don't do it if it is any
trouble.

Oct 27th 1896

My dear Tom

On our return from Fannedale last night we
were very glad to find a letter from you, had been sent to the
store by Waver. I am sorry my letter did not arrive on time
last week, I handed it to the Capt as he was passing & he
may have forgotten to mail that evening. Sending by any chance
opportunity is a very uncertain way but as a necessity with
us now.

Hope you had a pleasant trip to New Bedford, your lectures
are extending much farther into Antismian than you expected,
they must be much pleased with your "talks", giving resolutions
to children seems strange to us, I would like to have heard
you talking to the "little tots", the 150 you mentioned. I think
you have quite a knack of imparting your knowledge in a
few words & that is just the thing for grown persons, as well as
children. You did not mention Prof. Atkinson's chest, is he
recovering? what a trial the operations must be to him.

Our trip to Fannedale was to have a visit fitted, I went to
Jerry Reiffin, there I met Mary Adams who is getting ready
to visit our Miss Marie Glover, the wedding will be on a grand

scale if everything is in proportion to the Champagne, 60.
gts. We dined with Lucy, after dinner Beesie & Oliver came
in, I was glad to hear from Sister Sally & Reuben through
them. Uncle Ben says Reuben will take charge of the
Hoolcroft place next year, I hear nothing from Reuben except
when I see him & that is very seldom. John Briggs went to
Selma yesterday, Uncle Ben says he tried hard to find something
to take him over (Walter Manupius is there.) Lucy says he is the
best brother she ever knew, feels bound to fall in love with
every girl Mary has to stay with her, & "reaches" them all.
It is well we made our visit yesterday, the east wind is
high today & quite cloudy, we had not much rain yesterday
& the road was good, no dust since the rain. Aunt Melville
is delighted with their governess, I have no doubt of her being
quite an acquisition to the family, she is "settled" enough not
to mind being send board for some months in winter.
I have not succeeded in getting your Father to take me
to see her yet, he hates to leave home for fear of losing
patients & there there is no one on the lot to take care of
things. You may be surprised to hear it but we have
decided to take a boy from the "House" in Mobile. He is 11
years old, was raised by sister Elizabeth, (my old friend) &
said to be a very good & useful boy, we just could not
have here this winter with no one on the place but

ourselves. We can't count on negroes now, even should we bid
them to stay on the place. My idea is to take the boy & do
without a house servant, we are doing without one anyway
but it is rather too hard on me, the churning, house work,
& other duties are more than I can attend to all the time.
Perhaps I mentioned this place before, if I did excuse the
repetition, it is hard to remember what I have written to
each one every week.

Mabel invited me Sunday, at School, to go up & see her
tomorrow I will certainly accept the invitation, such a thing was
quite unexpected from her.

We met at aunt Lucy's Mrs Brown, principal of the Female
Academy, he graduated in Wave's class I think but apparently
he much older than Wave. I don't know whether Bob's move-
to Danapolis will throw Wave out of employement or not.
Wave has heard nothing more from his patent but such
things take time.

Uncle Wave has not been to see us since his return from
Selma. He news from Fred this week, half a sheet, once a
~~fort~~ night is as much as he can afford to write home, I
never saw such people, they never seem to have time for
anything & yet when I was there we did do anything
but Fred. We are having our coal put away today, a good
supply it is too, we should keep warm this winter. Times

the same a quantity of caliche has come up & we enjoy it
as much, too late for the tinsaps to make I am afraid. I
hope you received the box of leaves sent last week. Please
excuse mistakes, I am feeling nervous today, must close for want
of news, with much love

Your devoted Mother.

GALLION MERCANTILE CO. Ltd.

DEALERS IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

AGENTS SOUTHERN COTTON OIL CO.

Gallion, Ala. Nov. 20th 1890

Dear Ben:-

Your letter
received some time since,
would have answered sooner
but do not care to write at
night, waited for an opportunity
to answer in the day which
I have not found.

I have had some very en-
couraging letters from my
Atty's in regard to my edib.
Upon writing to them I was
told that there was an offer
of some size made by the
Pepper Whiskey Co. - which by-
the way have since failed.

Ordinary glass breaks quite
well - even the common beer-bottle

glass breaks quite well
when one knows how to start
it in the right direction
it will surely break well
in having a certain line to
go by - the groove.

What finer particles of glass
that remain on the broken
neck would be brushed off
when the opener brushes
the top of bottle after breaking
to make the same burst I thought
of putting in saw dust or some
like material above the
lower stopper in the neck.

As I have spent over fifty on
getting out the patent in this
country - and I not knowing
how long before I can realize
on it, I do not care to draw
too heavily on my bank acct.
Should the investment turn
out well I thought I could

NOV 29 '96

GALLION MERCANTILE CO. Ltd.

DEALERS IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

AGENTS SOUTHERN COTTON OIL CO.

(2)

Gallion, Ala. _____ 189

allow you a nice interest on the sum of \$30.00, that being all I need - should the attempt fail I could be able to refund the same and you would not be much the worse off.

I do not know just yet what would be the best plan should the patent be granted - suppose much would depend upon the offer how made, whether for the exclusive use of the device or for a certain fluid or liquid.

I think the safest plan would be to have the money in the hands of the attys in Washington so as soon as they were notified of the grant for this country they could at

once sent in the application to
Canada before the publication of
the same could reach there
for some countries are quite particular
about this; should there be any
trouble about procuring patent
the money could be refunded.
I suppose of course Mother has
of course told you all about the
marriage and of course it is not
necessary for me to write.
As it is getting late I must close
Yours affly
E. M. M. J. J.

Gallien Ala

Nov 29 or 30th '96.

Dear Ben.

Since reaching home from my Auburn trip I have been so busy, I could not give you the letter promised myself. It is now after 7 o'clock - your mother left last Friday morning for Kansas to pay your Aunt Bessie a short visit.

It was cloudy & windy then, but soon cleared off & again the wind arose to bring up a severe looking cloud, and as we have had rain & wind & sleet for two full days, with a prospect of freezing

by tomorrow, Each Evening it has rained so
she could not return,
It is bitter, bitter cold now
& dampness all thro the house
Thos so dark & cold that Hens
went to bed near seven.
so he will have a long night
of it - Sometimes he gets
up at four. He is very
lively & bright & inquisitive,
almost too much so to be
thoroughly good. I am watch-
ing closely & trying to learn
his good & bad habits.
I find already (that he pre-
varicates, (to say it mildly)
He will not stick to the truth,
Yet seems to be a good and
useful child, evidently
too much spoiled in Mobile
by Sister Elizabeth.

My trip to Auburn I hope
very, develop some good.
The night I reached Fred's
house he was away, attending
an entertainment at Mr. Boyd's
meeting "Elite" of Auburn.

The door was opened by Mrs.
Camp & I sat awhile to wait
for Harry & Jack. When they
came I went to the door
& sure enough a surprise
to them to know I was there,
but I was surprised too,
for I happened to look down
& Fred had on the same
old striped gray pants
he had made for him
3 years ago & his old
coat (black) the one he
was married in!!

his collar was awry &
I should have supposed
rather that they had taken
a stroll down the street
under the light shadows
of the moon.

The children are be-
ginning to look like
other people's children
& Little Freddie really
has come out of the kinks
wonderfully.

One day Fred was
talking about Dr. Brown's
not sending him to
Washington in place of
Prof. Earle - & I said
"Fred I guess Dr. Brown
thought you had not but
one pair of pants and
threw a striped pair - so
he concluded to offer the

trip to Prof Earle, as
 he was sure he would
 make a better show for the
 "College, at any rate,"
 and "May be, if you
 would fix up some he
 would select you next
 time" — "Putting your
 accomplishments equal,
 you really had the best
 showing except for your
 peculiar manner of dress-
 ing - so different from
 other people & every body
 knows you can afford
 one good black suit."
 Harry promised to make
 him get a good suit before
 I left, but he went over to
 Opelika twice & failed to

purchase anything for himself.

I stopped over at Montgomery for two days to be present at the Football game, between "Seawave" & "Autumn". The game ended Auburn 32 to, Seawave 6 —

I must say that I can't say I am ⁱⁿ favor of the game — such a rough & tumble, the chief art developed in the game to my mind was "brute force" alone & no refinement except it exists in the wonderful power & beauty of a kick, the most ungraceful positions are taken and no single thing to recommend it to me. In recent games, Washville & Florida fights provided.

11/29/96 (4)

Now I must tell you about
our second robbery, which
occurred Saturday which
we attended Mrs. Stickney's
funeral. The little Mahogany
box which we have kept on
our bureau in the Nursery room
was taken (I think whilst
we were at supper). When I
went into the room to go to bed
the box was missed & I asked
your Mother & asked her if she
had put it any where, but
she knew nothing of it, that
night I could not sleep for
thinking of it, Next morning
John came in the kitchen
to his breakfast & after eating
held out to Mother the silver
watch & asked her if she had

missed a box - for he had
found me with some papers
in it & that watch down
in hedge in the school house
lot, we asked him of course
why he did not bring the box
up to us, but he could not
say, but just grinned like
a simpleton, & said "he would
go & show it to us." - We had
him arrested & searched but
could find nothing, nor
have we any clue to it, or
to the other money stolen from
your Mother some time
ago, in all it amounts
to about \$100⁰⁰. I have since
learned that they only searched
John's trunk, instead of the
whole household. All the old
coins saved for so many
years & my Father's jewelry,

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& the Literary Society Badges
 & C - Keepsakes of different
 kinds all taken and the
 old Silver Watch which
 was not worth much
 was left. My pistol
 was on the bureau near to
 the box, & was overlooked,
 this makes me think that
 a woman took it or it was
 taken in the dark, I have
 felt certain the box was
 in its place when I came
 back from the funeral. The
 other robbery was cash money
 put away to give Llewellyn
 when he went to Mobile.

I have drawn sketches
 of descriptions of the jewelry
 & sent it around, hoping

by some good accident
I may find some yet.

There was also in the
box between \$4 & \$5⁰⁰ worth
of Green-back small change of
the denomination 25 cents -
& had the letter D in indelible
pencil mark on back of it.
Every one was marked.

They evidently wanted
money - & may destroy these
things for fear of detection.

It is so late, nearly 11 o'clock
that I must close -

Your affect Father
W. D. Dwyer

The old deed on parchment
from George the 2nd was left also
in the box, amongst other papers.

Time to come home & answer, but not decided positively. If he does not come, we will have a quiet time - There is nothing interesting at present so good - night with much love Yours devoted
Mother.

Monday - It is nearly dinner time but Helen has not come, not well enough to achieve. Have some for breakfast but went off to visit friends afterwards, it is cloudy but the wind is so high I hope it will not rain before night. Have no one to enjoy my own study for dinner but Father & Maria. Maria I expect they will go further to it, with love
Mother.

Dec 12th 1896.

I will not wait until tomorrow to write for some how I have a feeling there will be some interruptions & that my letter would not be written. I intended this week to get back to my usual time of writing, Wednesday or Thursday, but was busy & did not do so. I enjoyed your letter of the 6th, you seem to be having a pleasant time with your "evenings", club meetings &c, was the "language of flower" game interesting, must be something new. I wish the other boys had some such recreation. This evening I had a letter from Harry, thanking me for a clock I sent Margaret, Fred & myself were at the conversation club the night before, she mentioned what she wore, a new winter dress but said nothing about Fred, I hope he kept her company in a new suit. Miss Mary Bonduant is to be married on the 30th, & Miss Kate Brown on the 16th, the former will have quite a large reception, the latter will have none, on account of her Father's poor health, several other marriages are soon to take place. Fred was invited to Prof Mc Kee's to meet Dr. Henry, Southern agent of the Peabody fund, other members of the faculty were there. Oley was in some trouble so Uncle Ben

went up & brought him home, I hear he will return after a while. The Pringle boys are doing nothing there & will probably not go back after the holidays, it is a pity Johnny's boys will not study. I don't know what he will do with them.

While writing of the Auburn marriages I forgot to mention that I heard from Virginia that you are to be married to Miss Lane of Auburn, how do you like that? Alice Duggan writes she heard it from Mrs Barnwell & wanted to know how aunt Mauds loved it, she was writing to Uncle Waver, inquired particularly about each one of you, regretted she was so far separated from her relations.

Your Father says try to get the Geoperniment Station Bulletin No 20, send him one, & one to Uncle John with your compliments, of course I mean the Cornell bulletin.

Thursday we took an early start & hoped to spend a long day with aunt Orville, she had gone to Uniontown so we decided to call at Bessie's & return home to dinner, but she would not hear of it, & made us stay to dinner with them, we had not been there long when Johnny & Bessie drove up, after dinner Sister Sally stopped by, so there was quite a family gathering, just as we were leaving Benben rode up, we only had a few minutes talk with him, he was looking badly & had one of his attacks that night, Sister Sally wrote me yesterday. He promised to come down tomorrow but since he has been sick.

will hardly be able to do so. Reuben takes no care of himself & lives so hard, I do think he might do a little better if he would.

I am glad to say Bessie is making a little money from her butter & with it is fixing her house some, is having the halls & Oliver's room plastered thinly, & will stress paper them. Says when she gets more she will fix her room & the one across the hall, the repairs are much needed, the butter money could not be better applied. Aunt Melville evidently thinks they are fixing for a wedding in the family, but I can't believe Oliver will marry Mrs Garber, the stranger things have happened.

Miss Low was over this evening for me to take a walk with her. Chauncy & bride took quite a trip, went to visit Col Stiles at the Agricultural College, then to Columbus to visit his brother & to Livingston to visit Mrs Jaiming Browder, he showed her all around.

We are having a very warm spell now, too warm for our suit I fear. Uncle Harris lost the runt of four hogs, Mrs Blake raised on shares with him & killed quite early, all spotted. I have some roses blooming but violets are very scarce, our garden is green with mustard, the turnips are showing well too, the planted as late. Like every one else, I am losing my potato es, rotting in the bank.

Levin says he is studying hard & may not be able to spend the

recd
P.M. Dec 19/96

Sunday.

Dear Ben

I must add a few lines to ask you to send me at any time you get the opportunity, Bulletins or lectures on subjects Horticultural &c. Send two of each if possible, so I can give a friend the extra one.

I intended forwarding to you the last "Watchman" of Drum-boro but Miss Lou Browder sent over to borrow it & sent it off to some of her friends, as I had put a little piece in it on their "House" as improved.

We expect a dull Xmas, today we had a fine Turkey but no one came to help us eat it. Reuben was a little sick this past week & we hoped

he would be able to come up today.

Our garden is as green as possible - Cress mustard & young turnips.

There is no money in circulation this time. I never saw it as dull in my life: Even the young people have no excitement. I think I shall write Henry to remain in Mobile, as he will have a better chance to enjoy himself.

I want you to write to your Uncle Wm. & John Minze, before you as they appreciate such notices altho only a short letter. As some one comes I must close. - Gr affect Father.

R. Duggan

354 St. Francis St.
Mobile, Ala.
Dec. 20, 1896.

Dear Ben,

For several weeks this has been my only available time for letter writing. This morning, though the rising swell of sacred music on two sides reminds me that I should be among the faithful flock, I shall remain in my room and endeavor to clear up my delinquent correspondence. Since the receipt of your letter some weeks ago, it has been my purpose

to write to you, but the
unusual push of college
work just at this sea-
son has given but little
time for personal desires.
For me this is a resting
place in the midst of
the journey, an oasis
in the desert where we
can stop and refresh
ourselves. Our Christmas
Holiday began yesterday
afternoon and right
welcome was its arrival.
I suppose you are aware
that I will not return
home to spend this time,
and it appears somewhat
unusual for me to be

12/20/91

absent at Christmastide, a
thing that has never occur-
ed before. But it is now
full time to present one's
self to these little irreg-
ularities.

I cannot say that this
suspension of lectures
will amount to a total
holiday for me, since I
hope to carry on my studies
during the interim in
order that I may not en-
tirely become estranged
from the habit of study.
To keep up with the lec-
tures and the subjects
discussed is generally
considered a ~~rather~~ ^{rather} ~~work~~

For the average student, and
so it is that when the
course of dissection
begins the work in a
beat is somewhat in excess.
For five nights out of every
week and for three hours
every night during the
last five weeks I have
spent at the College in
the dissecting room. Of
course this virtually in-
cludes or breaks into the
hours that could be devot-
ed to actual study, but
there can be no doubt that
this is by far the most
efficient means of acquir-
ing a knowledge of anatomy.

12/29/96

and the time being in Norway
considered lost. You may
judge from this that it
would not be prudent
for me to cease work
entirely, go home, engage
in the Cambridge festi-
vities heralding the new
year, and, in general,
waste myself for work.
When I do not apprehend
a failure on examina-
tions, or anything of
that kind, it is my
desire to get all I can
out of the course and
make the best possible
start at commencement.
As you have intimated

and I have long since
come to the conclusion that
three courses of six
months each is cramming
things a little too much,
even if the entire inter-
vening summers are devoted
to study and observation.
There is some consolation
that the theoretical
part of medicine in
general is much the
same at any institution
and is to be obtained prin-
cipally from text books
~~from~~ ^{by} bedside application
and supplementary lec-
tures of a stereotyped class
still it would be much

more desirable if the same
could be taken less hur-
riedly and in connection
with more of the pleas-
ant accessories, as would
surround some university
place. However, the ac-
cess to clinical and dis-
secting material must
be considered in choosing
these lines of preference.
As you know this city
claims no consideration
as an educational center,
and will do it not, but
as the site of the state med-
ical school, it is probably
the best to be had. While
our clinical and hospital

advantages do not compare favorably with some other medical schools of the same class, for instance, with Tulane. I have come to the conclusion that this concerns senior classmen more than it does those of less advanced courses. If this can be had at a good post graduate school, or from subsequent hospital work it would be more appreciated and more real benefit would accrue.

Yes, I constantly regret the fact that my previous training has not been more classical and linguistic, while my limited acquaintance of

Latin is of great aid to
 me. Still greater advan-
 tages and preparation
 would be of more than
 proportional benefit. Yet
 I cannot deplore that
 my education has been
 what it has, for you
 are aware that a gen-
 eral knowledge of the
 natural sciences is of
 great importance as a
 preliminary to the study
 of medicine, so my only
 regret can be that this
 period of my training
 must necessarily be more
 or less one sided, or, in
 other words, have a tendency
 to narrow mindedness.

Just here I was inter-
 rupted to fill an en-

agement to dine with
Miss Bessie Stewart, a
very pleasant day was
spent and subsequently
a call made, now I will
endeavor to finish this
letter.

As you may judge, we
have little time to see
very much of the social
functions of this city, as
from the standpoint of
participants. As a gen-
eral thing I think this
may be classed as a
gay and voluptuous
city, and this may prob-
ably be accounted for
by several reasons. There
is a good deal of wealth
among some of the in-
habitants and the char-

activities. Southern Hospitality
and Hospitality remains
very distinctly. The number
and beauty of the young
women is at once quite
striking, though I don't
think their educational
qualifications are above
the average.

Our Sprague relatives
here have recently moved
down near town. Myron
works in a large retail
grocery house, and Lamine
conducts a kindergarten of
some ten or twelve little
ones.

My plans for next sum-
mer are not yet settled.
I shall try to engage in
some remunerative work
and at the same time

peruse my studies!
I am glad that you
are pleased with Cornell
and hope your work
may progress happily
and untroubled with
your expectations.
I can hardly feel that
Christmas is so near
at hand and that a
new year is so soon to
dawn upon us.
My letter has grown
so long though compara-
tively little has been
said, so wishing you
a merry Christmas and
a happy New Year I am,
Yours off & on,
Llewellyn

Lancaster Dec 31st/76

My dear Nephew,

A few days ago
I recd. the very pretty little Sam
boring you sent me, & I am so
much obliged to you for your
kind remembrance, as I grow
older I appreciate more & more
any little attention from the
young, as you know now a
days they are inclined to put
old folks aside & recd some
very nice presents, all useful, a
very pretty piece of handwork
from your mother, a beautiful

piece of embroidery for the table
from my little daughter which
was an entire surprise, she had
done it all in her governess
room, my little man gave me
a nice fowl carter & fork, & Ben
has given me 1/2 doz silver fruit
knives, very pretty, these were en-
tirely unexpected, & it was sorry too
for him to spend any thing for
me, but he seems so grateful for
our having nursed him through
several spells of sickness during
the past summer. Sunday I
went with your Uncle Harris
down to Mr. Galtier, He & W. had
been suffering for weeks with one

of his big toes, & went down to have
it treated, your Galtier says the
germ of the nail has been destroy-
ed from some cause, & it will be
several months coming off & a new
one forming, it makes him very
lame. I hope you have spent a
very merry Xmas, I saw your letter
to Sister telling about your nice
little entertainment, it was quite
an undertaking. We spent Xmas day
very quietly, I had a nice cold
dinner & let my servants go, so
nearly I tried to have a family
gathering with a few of our neigh-
bors, I just had the old folks, as I
could not have seated any more

very well, Johnnie & Bessie were
too busy to come but your father &
Mother came, Bessie C., Lucy, our
Bessie up here & her family, Mr. &
Mrs. Nelson & Mr. Barber, & them all.
many compliments were paid me
dinner, as it felt fully repaid for
my trouble. We had a xmas tree
on xmas eve evening & the children
of the neighborhood were very happy
over it, it was real pretty consider-
ing we fixed it all by ourselves.
With much love from us all &
wishing you a very happy &
prosperous New Year I am
as ever your aff. Aunt
Melville