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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.

337 St Francis St.
Mobile Ala.
Apr. 14, 1897.

Dear Father,

My letter
was postponed until now
that I might be able to
give you definite news of
the action of the Recreation
Board. You will prob-
ably receive my telegram
to-morrow morning telling
you the result, which gives
me an appointment at one
of the Central American
ports. I think it was wise
to remain over here, for
my prospects were appar-
ently in some jeopardy a
few days ago, when Dr. Ab-
raham was compelled to
leave the city on account
of ill health. However, I

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carried four out of the five remaining members of the Board. It would have been possible to leave here to-morrow morning for home, but would have done so under a great uncertainty as to when I shall leave this post. Dr. Seale will assign the different representatives to their posts to-morrow and then the time of leaving here can be definitely determined. We will all be expected to be at our posts by the first of May, so there will be but little time to spend at home. Much of my final arrangements will be per-

4/4/97

fect to morrow, and I
hope to have little to do on
my return to this city.

Of course the last few
days have been busily and
uneasily spent, and there
has been little time for
purely friendly calls, tho'
I hope to go out to see Dr
Mohr (Sr) to morrow. He
has already done a good
deal for Ben through the
Hon. H. C. Clarke, who is pre-
sident of the Univer. Board of
Trustees.

Speaking to Dr Frazer this
afternoon, he told me of
his appointment as a mem-
ber of the Board of Trustees
of the O.M.C., so you will

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probably see him at the
Commencement session. He also
spoke of attending the ^{medical} associa-
tion meeting in Lima.

This College was formally
united with the University of
the State at our convic-
ercises on last Friday
night, and will now be nomi-
nally, as it always has
been legally, the College of
Medicine of that institution.
Our exercises on that occa-
sion were consequently more
interesting than usual. Gov.
Johnson, Gen. H. G. Clark, R. G. Jones
and D. P. Bestor, taking part.
My duties as one of the recep-
tion committee, were very
pleasant. You left me in

4/14/97

Saturday morning, and
since then I have been
here alone, except for the
applicants for appointments,
most of whom are still on
land.

I have a good many friends
here to be grateful to, for,
after all, these appointments
are determined for me -
partly by influence of
a personal or political
nature.

I hope I may reach home
Saturday and then have
several days to spend with
you all. With love, I am,
Your aff. Son
Elmer

This is a great pity, writing I never saw such a poor letter with much love
Wm. Brewster
Brother.

April 29th 1897

My dear Lou

I was glad to hear from you today, did not write this morning as my letter will be behind time, but Lewis wrote to you on Saturday, I suppose you have received that. I was busy this morning making dew berry jelly, berries are very plentiful & so large & juicy, will be more so now that we have had a good rain, we had a little rain this morning, sent for John & had cabbages set, some more tomatoes put out, & several rows of sweet potatoes, the ground was so little wet that we had to use water, might have saved ourselves the trouble if we could have known of the good rain in store for us tonight, with the two waterings all should live I think. I wish

you could enjoy the berries with us, I wonder if they grow wild where you are.

I suppose by this time you have decided what to write Gen Lee, that would be a very good salary for a single man!! A good chance to part by something to go to Germany, stay awhile & then get most any place. Did I not think you should consider at Cornell?

All today & yesterday I have been thinking of Lewis how he was facing out at sea, whether he was sea sick, & how he felt out of sight of land, was expected a letter from him today giving his address but none came, he promised to write from Mobile. We have not told you how it is with these quarantined officers & why they are sent out - you know during war weather all vessels are quarantined at Fort Morgan or near there, freight vessels, "freighters" as they are called being compelled to stay there 4 or 5 days

there their cargo would spoil so the quarantine

officers

if they are all right give them a certificate of health & they are not detained at Fort Morgan. The officers are expected to find out if there is yellow fever in the ports, if so they can't give the certificate & are expected to return to Fort Morgan where they are detained the usual length of time & then come into Mobile. Only one freighter runs from Mobile to Belize, leaving Mobile every 10 days as you see Lewis's duties are light. He was wishing he was botanist enough to make some collections for you while there.

Wm says I must tell you he has gotten out his patent for Canada & if you know of a miller or distiller who would buy it he would be glad to hear of him. He will start out next week with his crew of men, expects to drive a run around to the neighboring towns so he has spent three days mending the single harness.

Gen Hather & myself spent yesterday in Demps - his, I went to do a little shopping, and dined at

Dr. Hecceis, had a very nice dinner, beautiful
hand- heads of lettuce, & large but, he has a
fine garden, does nothing but attend to it, think
there was three too. Dunsford has improved since
my last visit in the fall, the new store across
from Mrs. Morris is a handsome building & the
goods the prettiest in town, mostly ladies goods.
I saw cousin Mary Harwell, she is visiting Mrs
Wolfe.

I have not heard from Reuben since I went
Saville, thought he would send down for
tomatoe plants today, he said he would like
to have come, wish he would come down to
church Sunday, we expect Mrs. Cobbs. I am
trying to get ready for conventions if I can learn
my milk in the cows hands, we have two
young calves & if she was a good milker would
make a great deal of butter. No letter from
Fred this week, every one has retired except
myself so I will say good night, please excuse

Kallio Ala

May 3rd 1894.

Genl. L. D. Lee

My Dear Sir:-

Please be so kind as to let me know how the "crematory process" has worked in your College building - it was just finished when I last was visiting the institution.

Our Board will meet very soon - in early part of June, & I should be glad to have the results of your experience. Something more or less after this style will eventually become a necessity in most of our institutions.

You have doubtless seen by the papers that our Baby Boy had been sent to Balise - British Honduras - as "Med. Inspector" for this summer in the Quarantine Service.

I heard of an occurrence which happened in your nearest

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village some time last January,
which greatly relieved my mind.
— In further explanation I will,
— with some extenuation say —
that when I was a boy I lived for
awhile with a relative, who when
irritated much or vexed with her
servants, used to exclaim with
much emphasis — "Fox Take you";
— and so such has really
happened.

You must surely know
how I felt about another one —
whose early & unconsidered mar-
riage has been a drawback and
pull back to him all this time.

We hear but little of the
A & M College of Miss now. —
Occasionally — only the compliment
of a Bulletin from Prof Tracy.

With kind regards to Mrs Lee
& others.

I am Very Truly Yours.

W. J. F. J. J. J. J. J.

J. S. Managua
Monkey River Bk.
May 6 1897.

My dear Mother,

Well, here I am, all safe and sound. I had anticipated writing you a long letter on this trip, but everything is in such a stir and there is hardly a quiet place on the steamer.

We arrived at Belize on Monday morning early and spent the day there. Saw Mr. & Mrs. Dostel and spent the day with them. They are so pleasant and nice as can be and will make my stay in Belize very much more enjoyable. Wish I

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had
time to give you an account
of the trip across the sea
and the incidents thereof
the day spent in Belize and
some of the peculiarities
of the place - I shall al-
ways remember that day
for many reasons. I find
that we will have mails
from the States every
Friday, and from the
States every Monday, so
on next Friday I will
try to give you and in-
teresting letter.

We left Belize for down the
coast Friday night, reaching
Puerto Barrios next morning,
took bananas there at San-
tingston, at St. Thomas.

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and are now lying at Monkey
River, from here we left the
coast, arriving at Peking to-
morrow morning. This is
undoubtedly the prettiest
piece of coast in the world
and the scenery along the
shore is splendid. The back
entrance of the interior
mountains forming a very
picturesque background.
I went ashore at Puerto B-
and at Livingston and
you may imagine every-
thing was interesting. This
trip has been very pleasant
down going back we have
a great many passengers
and it will be more or
less crowded. The health

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in this vicinity, as good
tho' later we will have
to have the lines of Quar-
antine a little more rigid.

I think I will like these
very much more so than
any of these places so far
as a residence site is
concerned. The people are
very open and hospitable
and letters from DeFonde
at Mobile and others have
already been of good ex-
perience. The only objection is
that the negroes are good as
anywhere else but they are
entirely different from the
American negro.

The trip across the gulf
was interesting, and you

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may believe it or not, but
I didn't get sick at all,
tho the other passengers did.
I was very hot here in
the middle of the day
but about twelve a good
sea breeze sets in, and
it is very pleasant.

Think I will stand the
climate very well, and the
experience met with in this
part of the world is in-
structive and interesting.

Thought of you all very
much while on the sea,
especially after all sight
of land passed from
view. Will write longer

for next Friday's mail.

With love to you all, I am,

Your devoted son
Henry

Tallion Ala
May 5 - 1897.

Dear Ben:-

Your letter came to your mother today and as she seems so busy, I must answer it. We were glad to get it and I for one was glad to know that your mind is made up as to the Miss. place.

We all have an exalted opinion as to Cornell - & believe in every way presented - that it is far superior in advantages; & pecuniary value is certainly not to be considered by the side of the mental & intellectual culture so closely connected with the environments of Cornell University, its noted professors, instructors & student body.

We hope to have a supply of them for you

2

As to the Alabama place I think it will be slow in developing and not be blessed with many attractions - especially in the beginning. Everything will be miserably cramped and ill-fitted and troublesome at the start - and at a future time you will be a more desirable Candidate for favor.

A letter from Fred today tells of a new tooth for Margaret and the continued improvement of the advanced family scholars.

Bro Waverly writes to day inviting me into Demopolis tomorrow to meet the Appagues, - all but Louise - per Steamboat.

3

Broie almost had written Reuben to meet them for a trip to Tuscaloosa - but of late the river is scarcely navigable at all high. Reuben now is so busy with his craft that he do not think he has an idea of going. And Waverly is such an opponent to every one that he is nearly a perfecting acquaintance, while in Mobile - Broie was very kind to him, yet he slightly let in or marked a measure, that she was obliged to take exception to it. He has certainly very unfortunate means and does not leave by experience, nor seek himself towards any improvement.

We think Llewelly must have
reached his port - Belize -
"British Honduras" - last
Sunday Evening & we ex-
pect a letter from him by
the returning vessel - "Thoma-
gas" - , which may arrive
in Mobile Saturday or
Monday next.

I have been much
worry'd today about my nee-
-or "Lewis Brown" who was arrest-
ed by the sheriff for some
complicity in a barrow and steel
taking in nearly all the dokeys
round about Tallon - Lewis has
made great strides lately, "halt-
ing to be sick" - buying a lot of house
building & sending his boy to Helena
to College. all on a short - very
short crap. One or two Car loads
of seed were missing. I will not
batter you with details. Mr. Weather sends
love - Or affect Father. *R. H. M. G. -*

This is my day for writing but I
 am as tired now I will not make my letter
 interesting, as usual I am cooking, it is
 after three o'clock & I am just through with
 the work, I wish we had some houses
 conveniences to make it lighter. To make
 matters worse we had to give Home a
 holiday to spend a few days with Sister
 Elizabeth, she is in Newmarket, a woman
 comes morning & night to milk.
 Your letter did not come this morning but
 we had one from Lewis, his second letter, don't
 think we had heard from him when I
 wrote to you last week. He had a pleasant
 voyage. (I will enclose his first letter) he is

on our way from that this
 week. I have been very comfortable
 with the boys, but the boys
 like Lewis. Lewis follows me
 to I have today to purchase
 had some more, will be
 married. Some the 30th
 The same. But will be
 largely represented in
 the report. The poets
 came safely. I forget to say
 are stayed with your aunt
 daily. I have not heard
 a word of our first home
 Adams, he is very ill
 & almost delirious to see
 me. I shall be in Mother's
 room, she sent word one
 of the children was sick &
 she could not come to see
 me. Her illness happened
 in at the same time & I

interested with the place but says he would
never be willing to live there, that everything
is 100 years behind the times in America, he
will have to visit those little towns mentioned
in his letter whenever the Monagosa makes
a trip, as his time will be more interrupted
than we thought, it is well he does not
suffer from sea sickness. I asked him to collect
what he could for you, going to those places
he will have a better chance I reckon. We can't
get it exactly right about the mails & he
gave no address in the last letter as we
hoped he would as I address mine simply
Belize B Honduras. He says they have a mail
from the states every Monday, & to the
states on Friday so there must be a mail
steamer besides the Monagosa. I suppose a
letter from you to him should go via Mobile.
He says it is very hot, but white suits, & hats
& the constant breeze solves it. Mr Dorcy

is present & goes down every trip so that will
be pleasant for Lewis, they are Solano people.
Well I managed to get off to Council, but not
to the opening. Wednesday morning the rain
came down steadily & we thought we would
have to give up the trip but about the
middle of the day it held up, we sent for
John, had the poles put to the buggy & put
in Anne & Flora, reached Greenbush about
6 o'clock after a heavy pull of about 4 hours.
We attended service at night heard a good
sermon from Dr Tucker of Mobile, the music
was simple & sweet, just to my taste, every
one could join in the singing. The morning
& afternoon were devoted to business ^{conferences} ^{services}
at six in the morning, & services & sermons, or
addresses at night. I was much interested
in the addresses from home missionaries,
Dr Beard, Mr Lewis Tucker & another whose
name I have forgotten it is hard to

realize the condition of people in our own state
I had no idea of it, we were told of places where
no ministers of any denomination ever went.
I reached home Saturday at 12 1/2 o'clock, found
the cook had left the evening before, Wave & your
Father & Hears had breakfasted on warmed
over biscuit & boiled eggs, the supper dishes of
the night before, the breakfast dishes, milk
buckets passed & everything was piled up in
the kitchen & not a spark of fire made or any
preparation for dinner, of course I had to turn right
in, wash up & get dinner, have had no cook since
your Father has gone to try to get Jane Rowen to come,
I don't think she will. Wave says the Canada man
thinks his invention a good one & desires him to take
out a patent in one or more foreign countries, he
hasn't the money to take out any more, but if he
can find out anyone who has, will give them
half the patent rights for, if they will advance the
money, about 50 dollars a country. Do you know of
any one who would be willing to make such a trade?
People down here are afraid of such a speculation.
Reuben came down yesterday, spent the day he says
times he feels right will & then not, his sister Emily



Belize, Brit. Hond. C. A.

Dear Ben,

Wm. May 25 1897

It is now just three weeks and a day since I arrived in this the metropolis of the eastern coast of Central America. It has assumed this dignity more on account of its being the largest of the coast towns along the Caribbean Sea than its true merit deserves the distinction. Of course there are many things here that are novel to me and were interesting at first but now that I am becoming accustomed to these things the novelty fades away and they become more as a matter of fact and so I find myself unable to see them as they first appeared to me. However there are many things to adapt one's self to, especially those from the South, for instance the important place that the negro holds in social matters and in the minds of the Queen's subjects, salaried to Her Majesty. In keeping with the spirit "He who comes, do as Romans do," I have to do as these people do although

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Belize, Brit. Hond. C. A.

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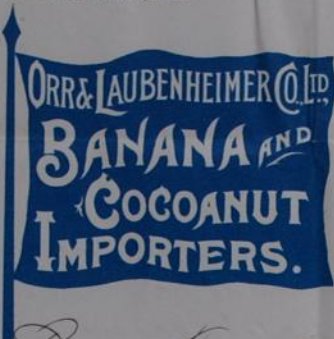
it is considerably against the grain. This is certainly the negro's paradise, if there is such a place, but I am thankful that my dealing with them are very limited. Of course there is a certain class that claim no special respect, but many of the others here have married into the noble race and this class are the most disagreeable to deal with, and then they feel, that being the Queen's subjects, they think it entitles them to a recognition equal to that of their white neighbors. The redeeming feature is, however, that they are very polite and if this is returned, they are your friends. On the whole I am very much pleased with the place, for I know it is more desirable than many of the other quarantine places. There are a good many Americans located here and I have found a great many very pleasant people. Of course the place is English.

the language is all wrong, tho the native
negroes ~~have~~ corrupted it into a terrible dialect.
The white people are a very helpful and polite
set of people, and so far I have become
fairly well acquainted. I find in Mr. and
Mrs. Dartel, who are originally from Selma,
very pleasant people, and my most intimate
associates. There is here representing the Mobile
Line on this coast.

I am very comfortably domiciled at the In-
ternational Hotel, an American place and prin-
cipally American guests. My room has four
windows opening on two galleries that over-
look the sea, and the breeze that comes in at
almost any hour is something very fine as
contrasted to the fiery mid-day heat on the
streets. The latter are rather narrow and there
are no sidewalks, except on one street, which
boasts of about sixty yards, and along these
the mongrel horde of white folks, negroes, cats,
and dogs move in wonderful harmony. The
houses are all built for comfort and generally
consist of a large room subdivided into rooms
or better apartments, with the upper parts open
or filled in with lattice work. The hills of

course this gives free circulation of air, it is at the expense of ^{privacy} comfort. The necessities of life are high, while the things considered as luxuries are cheap. My board will cost about one dollar a day and washing bill will amount to one dollar a week. Labor is independent owing to the natural conditions and food supplies have to be brought principally from the States, ex. beef 25¢ lb and eggs 40¢ per doz.

The sun is very hot in the middle of the day, but about one o'clock a sea breeze springs up that relieves the oppressiveness. White suits, helmets, and this sea breeze compensate in a way for the soda fountains and cream parlors of the States, and make life not very unpleasant. The place, as I said, was strictly English, business houses close at four in the afternoon and then the population resorts to amusements, chief of which at this season is cricket. From nine to ten in the morning is also religiously observed as the breakfast hour. No railroad, no telegraph communication, no telephone, no street car, no stir or hustle in any way makes this place of eight thousand much like the ordinary American place of its kind. I hope to be able to spare more fully next time, this has been quite hurried. My duties give little time for reading, but the ^{U.S. National} ^{Academy of Sciences} ^{and} ^{the} ^{Smithsonian Institution} ^{are} ^{interested} in the work.



Belize, Brit. Hond. C. A.

~~Belmopan~~ May 27 1897

Dear Father,

Mother's letter enclosing one from Ben was very welcome, and I was sorry that last mail-day passed and I did not get off a long letter. However, I was down the coast with the steamer during most of that week, and as we return the New Orleans mail steamer leaves the port, so it is difficult to get mail on board her unless it is left in town the day before. I suppose Mother received my last letter, which I believe detailed the account of the trip down and some few points about the place. It is natural that the longer one stays in a new place and becomes accustomed to the sights and what were at first novelties, it becomes more difficult to write of them as they first appeared to me, and so it is in this case. Again, I have forgotten what I have already said of this place, but I presume it cannot be very much, and I can find other things that will be of interest. When it is fresh on my memory, I must tell you of fresh sights &c.

pierence. Yesterday, so I am told, was generally
 celebrated throughout the colonies as Her
 Majesty's birth day, and it was in that place,
 being my royal English subjects, that day was
 observed as a holiday. The greatest interest
 of the day celebration was a match game of
 cricket, the English game, for the Colonial cup.
 As yet I have not been thoroughly initiated into
 the intricacies of the game and so I can take
 little interest in it, consequently I spent most of
 the day on the cool verandas of the hotel and
 put in the time reading. When circumstances permit
 it is also the custom for the governor of the
 colony to give a ball at Government House on that
 night. To go farther back, it is expected that all
 parties coming into this little city to remain any
 time and who expect any recognition will call
 upon the governor and his wife. Arriving here
 I found that Mr. & Mrs. Dortch had not yet paid their
 respects to the new official, so we appointed an even-
 ing and called. About two weeks ago we received
 invitations to attend this ball, and being Americans,
 seeing it a means of becoming acquainted, and of interest
 generally, we found it incumbent to accept. The first
 thing was to prepare ourselves for this official occa-
 sion, full dress, dining of course, the customary English
 manufactured goods are very cheap here, and seeing
 that I must have a dress suit at some time, I availed
 myself of the opportunity of securing one. By the way,
 they are very English in this place and evening dress
 is worn on all occasions after six o'clock to which
 formal invitations are issued. Having secured the
 necessary attire, at my

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in company with Mr. & Mrs. Dotch, repaired to Government House, which is a large and very prettily arranged house, situated on the water side and surrounded by very pretty lawns and gardens. All along the way from the gate to the mansion were stationed police of the ebony cast, and the walks were illuminated by Japanese lanterns. At the door we were met by ~~ushers~~ in livery and shown into the dressing room. From here ~~the~~ private secretary led us into the large, dancing room, where the Governor and wife received the guests. Programmes were distributed and the task of meeting the people and making engagements for dances was begun. He had expected that, judging from the prominent place which the negro, or, as they would have it, creole, occupy in general, there would be a great many of them at this affair, but we were agreeably surprised to find but very few. Two of the officials, who are as black as all of ours, were the only ones present, and I noticed that they didn't mingle with the guests. Of course there are numbers of people here who have a streak of negro blood in them, or who are in some way of a family connection, but many of these cannot be distinguished, many of them appear even whiter than the pure Caucasian, and the fact is that this thing seems to make little difference with much of the people. So we were glad to see no black faces among the

dance, on the contrary everything seemed in perfect harmony and ease. There are a good many very nice people here and of a clean pedigree and this was a good opportunity to meet them.

The governor and all the officials were in their "state" costumes and all the guests in full dress. This is a great place for dancing as hot as it is, but you can't blame them very much for there are few other amusements of a social nature, and so there were all ages on the floor from bald frosted old gentlemen and older matrons, whose age at home would have saved them from even being chaperoned, down to maidens with shoe-top skirts. By the way it was rather a hard looking set of females compared to the same number of a southern girl, and the quality of the dancing is far inferior. I managed on the whole to get along fairly well with these colonial dances, and about twelve o'clock we were invited down to refreshment. The guests about eighty five or ninety, were comfortably seated in the large dining room, and this was very prettily decorated. The tables were laden quite sumptuously and to me many new dishes, on the whole a very heavy supper. The tables were illuminated by immense kandelabras and decorated with crimson orchids, and lastly champagne flowed freely. A standing treat to the health of the Queen and the guests returned to the dancing hall, there to remain until 2.30.

The novelty of the occasion to me had filled me with curiosity, and more than this, I enjoyed it very much. I hoped to be able to write more, but I am already rather tired and dark is closing in upon us.

I find this a very healthy place, no epidemic since '90. I have been perfectly well since my arrival, and don't see why I keep saying that. With reference to the sun, and white coat and helmet then, it is not disagreeable. Many thanks for the papers, they are always acceptable. Hope you are all well, with regards to my many friends and love to all, Sam.

get the *Brachyotus* house, I don't know whether the water is much or not it. I suppose both Wm
 (will) turn it out to them, it is not bringing in any thing to help pay the
 My sister's debt. But
 was at John's birthday
 feeling pretty well. Saw
 Hubert & Anne. Will, and
 brother-in-law Mrs Stewart,
 the former called here
 this evening and were at
 John's. The Baptist
 church is being prepared
 for the Station & bellows
 wedding. Saw something
 the day about before
 you will be home, with
 much love
 Your devoted
 Mother.

Thursday June 3rd 1877

I looked for a letter from you this morning but none
 up after awhile as our papers do, letters too, sometimes. We had a
 letter from Louis yesterday, most of it was taken up with a descrip-
 tion of the Governor's ball on Queen Victoria's birth night, he was
 company with Mr & Mrs Dotch attended, he having previously called
 on the Gov, it is the custom for strangers to call on him if they
 wish to be recognized in society. He found it necessary to purchase
 a dress suit for the occasion, that will often come into play as they
 are quite "fashionable" & dress suits are worn whenever one is invited
 out after 6 o'clock. He was not impressed with the appearance of the
 ladies, thinks we can boast of much handsomer girls. The old ladies
 & gentlemen turned out, & even took part in the dancing, the supper
 was beautiful, table lighted with silver chandeliers & decorated
 with red orchids. He was surprised & relieved to find no ebony
ladies present, you know the negro is recognized there, two of the
 officials belonged to that race but did not mingle with the
 guests, the guards from gate to front door were of the ebony race.
 He has made another trip down the coast since writing last, says

this place is perfectly healthy & he has been quite well. We heard from Fred last week but he did not say when they would be here, he was full of work, was invited to make the commencement address at Abbeville but with only 2 weeks notice & a piece of work at home he had to decline.

When I last wrote I was expecting Sister Elizabeth, she came at the appointed time & I enjoyed her visit very much, she is one of the persons I don't make company of, was so pleasant & seemed to enjoy being with us very much, she left Saturday morning. Sunday was a very quiet day, not even Uncle Waver out to see us. Monday your Father proposed we should drive down to see Mrs Gladwick, of course I was glad to go & we were soon ready to start, on arriving there, found to our astonishment sister Sally & family, Mary had a friend with her, Miss Hoes of Birmingham, so all together there were 15 to dinner, 6 of us entirely unexpected to Bessie but she had a very nice dinner, fried chickens, chow, snaps, corn, squash, potatoes lettuce &c, winding up with strawberries, stewed apples & cake. I think we all enjoyed the unintentional family gathering; about sister Sally's first dinner out this spring. She hardly ever gets out now, Mr H- hates to hitch up & then drive, they have no man, only a boy to feed the horses & milk. He looked more dejected than ever, Johnny Harris' death was as sad & such a shock. He was visiting a patient (his wife's sister) was feeling her pulse & dropped dead at her bed side, she was very ill & died that night at

8 o'clock. Then Albert Sonnewell's case is another trouble to Mr H— he has been sentenced to 55 years in the penitentiary for shooting his cowards because she would sit among him. I expect you saw an account of it, last summer I think it was.

While we were gone Waver pushed his telescope, took his sample case, & left without even a message as to when he was going or when he would return, he is a queer boy — I suppose he will not be at home while your Father is in Auburn. I will have a lonely time with only Hears.

Farm does very well cooking as far, she is only the 6th cook I have had this year. Our fowl are dying out very fast, have lost 3 gobblers, 5 hen turkeys, & a number of chicken hens & roosters, have a lot of them up to doctor. I am so afraid my young chickens will take the disease I am using all the precautions I can to prevent the spread of the disease among them, as many have died that the hen roosts look desolate.

Uncle Waver went to Island to Watkins Daughan's wedding, I think it took place yesterday, he did not honor us with a bid, might have "eaten his cake & credit too" Miss Osborne is the lady. I don't know that the name is spelled right.

We are very much in need of rain, had some clouds this morning but they have disappeared. A rain would ensure a plenty of tomatoes for you when you come, the squashes are drying up without having furnished but two dishes. Alice has written to know if they can

Auburn, Ala., June 8, 97.

Dear Ben,

On receipt of your last letter I sent you a few ^{best} ~~choice~~ of 4 varieties, Wonderful Whippoorwill, Large Black, & Black-woods. The latter, as well as the Whippoorwill is an early buncher. My reason for sending some in pods was that for very accurate experiments you could largely eliminate individual peculiarities due to heredity by using alternate peas from the same pod in your experiment & in your check plot. Of course I did not know that you could for them in this form, but it was just as easy to send one variety that way.

I expect to leave here pass Gallion, putting Fannie & the children off there, Friday P.M. June 25, and returning from a college trip to be there from June 27 till July 7-10, when I expect to start for Minneapolis.

I tell Fannie that our ^{to Gallion} trip will largely depend on whether or not I get an increase in salary. I hope you can find the date given a convenient one to be with us at Gallion. Please be sure to bring a good manual for classifying ~~flowering~~ ^{flowering} plants. I have a little pocket Coddington, 4 diameters, but no dissecting instru-

ments have not heard of anything here
in the way of change.

Mr. Cumber is sick this week,
so that with both his & my work,
I am fully employed.

I know nothing of the
Nashville rates, but there that the
round trip from Auburn is now
only \$8.50.

We are all well. Write me
if you can as to when you will be
at ~~Shalhoj~~.

Yours aff. brother,

J. Fred Duggan.

June 7th 1897.

My dear Son

This is a bad day for writing a letter but tomorrow will be worse as I may as well do this but I can today. The old house looks so badly for you all to come to that I decided to have some little work done to improve the looks of at least two rooms, dining room & chamber. Richard mended the plastering two days ago & today is putting on the Plasterine, both rooms are emptied of furniture & that makes confusion all down stairs except in the parlor, tomorrow will be cleaning up & putting to rights, which is worse than moving things out. I expect to put Fanny in the chamber, she prefers a down stairs room. I am expecting a mattress maker every day, when that is over will

feel relieved, your Father goes up Saturday
& I hope he will bring word when they
will come, don't think there will be any
mistake this time.

We were glad to have your letter last week
telling of your movements, a little truer I
expect but on the whole I reckon you like
the change. I expect your tract was as
good as could be desired even if you
were taken by surprise.

You ask about the cotton, it is small &
rather backward this year, no bloom
about here yet. The corn was much
improved by Thursday's rain, but wants
more yet, so does the garden, the tomatoes
are large but a great many have the
large dark spot on them, I reckon you
had them so at the Cambridge St, it
seems a common trouble in this region.
Mr. Banton told Wave there would be more
grapes at the St than ever before, he
spent a night or so with him last

week while selling around Warrington,
he did right well for his first trip &
the time of the year, many seed they
could not buy now, would later. Wave
went to Danopolis Monday evening expected
to run over to Coatespa before returning.
He could not get any one to go to Gallins
with him & bring the buggy back so I
had to go & drive the buggy home, don't
you think I am coming out! Wave has
not learned to drive.

We have tried to see something about
the Marchville autos for you, have seen
nothing at all, Uncle Wave said the
round trip from Danopolis would be
\$6.00, very cheap isn't it? Your Father
will try in Selma for a paper. I will
enclose Lewis' last letter, think it came
since I wrote to you. Many thanks from
us all for the photos, they are very good.
We think, tho' you do look very serious.
Some of the girls I think took Lewis'

photograph out of my album last
summer but I did not miss it until
lately, and as my have no other taken
since he was grown. I remember perfectly
some one asking me for it but I refused &
laughingly said "now don't you steal it",
can't remember who it was.

The month is passing away rapidly, will
not be long now I hope before we welcome
you home once more, give us all the time
you can. My ideas like things around are
so scattered I can't write any more now
Father talks of adding a post script as
with much love good bye.

Yours devoted

Brother

1897?

Monday June 12th

Dearest Mother-Maria;

Although you are not in the least interested in me, we being, comparatively speaking, strangers, I have the presumption to write to you. Pardonnez-moi. Mais, je vous aime, je vous aime. Je vous écrirai

Sometime to day I can't write anything interesting, I never could for that matter. I feel like James Russell Lowell, that one should never bore their dear friends with letters written when not in an entertaining mood. But I know what you would think of me if I put that in practice now. I can see the little lady bird and her eyebrows.

After a day of tediousness varied only by changing scowls and wangs.

ling with swiftness drives me down into
 Stratford at 5.30. Very much in want
 of bodily rest and something to eat. I painted
 myself with iodine and went to bed
 before eight. Model maiden. Speaking
 of iodine reminds me that I must tell
 you of the artistic tendencies long lain
 dormant in the inner girl, but now send-
 ing forth sprouts and preparing to rush
 forth. Mr. Grant was very uneasy in
 trusting a bottle & brush in my young
 fists. Of course a lady of my spirit
 isn't going to put that essence on in awk-
 ward mediocre style. Each day I arrange
 a new design, of complicated pattern and
 requiring delicate workmanship for its
 execution. But I'm the boy. One day I
 painted my beautiful skin to resemble
 that of a Cherokee warrior, and the
 next perhaps I might be mistaken (if
 robbed of my clothing) for a wife of one

of the wild men of Borneo, and sometimes
I ^{just} dust in a few buttercups for a
simple decorative effect. After operat-
ing on myself in this wise, I begin to re-
tract my gloomy, morbid, pessimistic
views ^{of life}, and really would be quite cheerful
were it not for the capsules I have to take.
I think the effects of these are more than
counter-balance the good effects of the
incline.

Of course I faithfully performed my
religious duties, Sunday. My stern sense
of duty made me "trick myself out" and
seek the nearest place of worship. The place
I found was of the nature of the Baptist
denomination, and the ceremonies conduct-
ed therein were truly very exciting.

The preacher held forth with wild and woody (bawdy-woody) imprecations until the juvenile part of the audience, at any rate, were quite wrought up. One interesting fact I remembered for you (little mousey-mousy, I love you). Being something of a casuist yourself I know you will devour it voraciously. "Some people," said he, "believe that after death our souls leave our bodies and fly directly to Heaven or Hell, which ever the case may be." "But it is not so," he yelled excitedly, "Our bodies return to the dust they were made of and our soul sort of dies out, and we become what we were before we were born. As time goes on when God from his golden throne calls down and the world comes to an end, there

6
souls spring up, and those who repent
ed before death are happy, whilst
the others (pauvres diables) are
punished not in everlasting fire
but sufficiently to cover every un-
forgiven sin." There he wound up,
and I sat shaking and gasping, try-
ing in vain to comprehend the words
of this prophet.

I really wasn't prepared for the kind
of life I have found here. We live
in regular camping out style. Mama
couldn't bring very much with her
and so we live like tenters. Lots of
fun. We, the birds & ego had to cook
our own grub yesterday for dinner.
the Mighty Olympians being
out making a Sunday call. Personally
I had baked potatoes and French
Toast what the others had I don't
know. I cooked mine first after

Address me ~~at~~ ^{to} B. Foye
5. Barnstead 6.
N. H.

JUNE 17, 1897

(Namen Perkins)

an uproarious struggle for the skirt
This morning when Nellie got up
the only visible skirt she could
see was my petticoat. I tell you
she looked grand. It came just
to her knees and with grey stockings
and low shoes to set off her fair
calves and ankles she looked
sweet. I was in bed part of the day
today, my side is quite trouble-
some. I wash my underclothing
every day, as in Durham. In fact
I'm the same swabsy cuss I always
was. Don't let your sister see this.
If you love me old girl you won't be
slow answering this letter.
"amo tibi cum corde toto meo"
sweet girl I love you awfully
naughty old B. Foye.

June 16th 1897.

My dear Son

I have just finished reading a very interesting letter from Livia, will not enclose it because your Father would like to see it when he returns, & you can read it when you come, he describes some of the fruits, how delicious they must be, fresh from the tree or bush! pineapples eaten as we do watermelons. Turtles weighing two or three hundred lbs are brought in, turtles soup, staks, & flippers, if you know what they are, are common dishes, fish of all sorts are abundant & some kind or other is served for breakfast after oat meal, or such diet I think he should fatten up, but the heat, mosquitoes, & sand flies I suppose counteract in a measure the liberal diet.

We have been having some very hot days & the want of rain is becoming a serious matter to gardeners & corn, day before yesterday we had a shower not enough to wet the ground much, yesterday there was a shower in sight but we had none, it is threatening now way off. I have had a very quiet but busy week, am trying to get everything in order before you all come, so that only the every day housekeeping will be to do, made some cabbage pickle this morning & peeled some apples for jam, they are small this year.

Saturday gone. Walter left for Auburn, I have not heard a word from him yet. Wave left for Sunday evening for a week's trip; to Gaumeboro, then on to Canton, he thought Gaumeboro would be a good time to visit Gaumeboro, might meet persons from a distance. Uncle Waver came up Monday & spent the night, with that exception I have been alone, not even a caller, the ladies around here do very little visiting, especially in hot weather, as I have a plenty to do I don't mind the days, from dusk to bed time is lovely, but I make it short by retiring early, consequently rise at 4 1/2 or 5, stir up the cook & Hans, fix the dinner &c, am ready for breakfast at 6, still with very early rising the days seem too short for what I want to accomplish.

I left off here for dinner, since then we have had a good rain, or rather it rained so at the time but there is now standing on the ground, the thirsty earth has absorbed it all. I hope now I can stop watering the squash bushes to keep them alive, & the seed planted some time ago will come up, it certainly is refreshing. I would like to hire a man tomorrow to work in the garden.

I don't envy you the task of potting so many plants & attending to them afterwards I suppose. The trip on the steamer must have been very pleasant, I would enjoy such a one myself, quite a contrast between your trip & Lewis's, you speak of the return being rather icy, he feels the need of ice, which buying he says is high, 3rd a pound, but it is furnished at his hotel. Ice making is an

American enterprises at some little town on the coast, & is taken to Belize by schooner. He can step out into the hotel yard, pluck a lime from the tree & make a delightful drink, some thing like lemonade. It seems the hotel yard has all sorts of fruit in it.

Did I write you that Temple Jackson edits a paper in Danvers? will practice law also. Dr Bailey died about two weeks ago, his health was bad for a long time, it is thought he left nothing for his family. Gus is unable to do anything, has heart trouble.

Louise wrote to know if Fanny & herself could come up to stay some with Uncle Waver, he wrote if they could stand his fare, where in town it is baked bread, butter, & coffee ^{for breakfast}, diners at any friends, & one supper, I don't know how the girls can stand that.

This is the dullest neighborhood now you ever saw, or saw at all, as it is hard to make out a letter. I hear little enough when Waver is here to ride down to Gallien & hear what is going on, now I hear nothing, will be glad when Saturday comes, suppose your Father will come by that time. I hope to hear soon of your coming, but I reckon you will prefer to drop me about grape trees, with much love

Yours devoted

Mother

Fallion Ala. June 23rd 1897.

Dear Ben -

Your Mother and I went down to Hannsdale yesterday to hear the Bishop (Jackson) preach - A splendid sermon - We dined at your uncle Ben Minges - only the family present. Reuben was at church & joined us. He looks thin & pallid - his mode of living no doubt contributes a great deal towards his bad health. He & my ^{uncle} Max Ware should certainly have a lady in the house - Bro. Hovey also looks badly. His life is a very irregular one, & he is all the time at sea, as it were, sometimes a breakfast in Demopolis at the house then again a half meal at the Plantation or an overmeal at some friends - Frank Hasloe or May Robertson - Howse or here even with us - When here he seems to enjoy

nice cool buttermilk & vegetables - The Van Dorn
Place furnishes but few comforts except the
good bored well water from "Hornegays" -
which he keeps cool by lowering his pump in
his house well. His life now is really without
an object, not even to please himself. Since
Mother's death his disposition to roam about
has developed - yet whenever he goes to Selma
or Greensboro he comes back sick - & thinks
the change of water is the trouble - but really
it is in himself. Reuben is said to have a
fine crop at the Holcroft Place. Your mother
& family dined with us on Sunday
last when Mr Cobbs preached at St Andrews.
To day we hear his little boy Rich is sick. Mr
Harris I thought looked better than usual. He doesn't
know yet whether or not Norfolk Harris his Bro at Leeds
East is going to his place. He has lived to his income.

Old Mr Chadwick was at church,
your Aunt Bessie Minge's Father,
The old gentleman has taken
in the "Cal. Alexander Land" for
cash advanced, so really he has
purchased as much land al-
most as old man John Bellins
formerly owned in this section.
John H. Minge (your Uncle) has it in charge.
Bessie & Melville are back back from
"Bailey Springs University" & look
well & much improved.

Our boy "Hans" is a queer com-
position - and raised by old maids from
infancy, as he was, one would think
or judge he should be careful and
economical - but he is just the reverse
& not much to be depended upon,
always extravagant & wasteful, scheming
& unreliable, starting up in some new
& unwarranted manner.

So far our cook has done well & we hope
Digitized by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

I spent the 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th in a trip to Auburn for
Commencement exercises. 50 odd graduates - the
particulars you will get from the "Opelika Post."
Fred's Babies were well - better than on any previous
visit known to me; - but the old folks are not
much changed for the better - as we expect
to have some of them with us we must all
try some method of introducing reforms.
Most wonderful to relate - the baby can take a
cup of milk & drink it, but - per contra - Fredrick
still holds on to his bottle, or is permitted to do
so by his mother's want of ~~inertia~~ parental vigor.
No material changes took place, Dr Brown has been
relieved of teaching - over 360 students - and
this has given him full occupation - Fred's Sal C
Z
H
Y
W
increased, has not yet been made "Director
of the Station" Nothing from the Canebroke
Station - has not seen Benton lately. Ware was in

5/
Uniontown lately. I stopped over with
Beuton. One of Mr White's daughters was
married lately & and it is said another
will marry "Homemaker" very soon. This
neighborhood is anxious over Lizzie Collins
wedding which takes place shortly about
the 30th inst. She is as lively as a cricket.

A good letter from Elwey this morn-
ing; still well & expects a pleasant time
on the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration.

It has been quite hot, & every thing
is drying up - no rain for weeks - corn
is suffering greatly. Gardens more
than field crops.

Your Mother sends love & is now
busy cleaning up for "her guests" the
little ones soon to come from Auburn.
Frederic is full of fancies & the Country
will be new to the children. Harry
expects to bring his own nurse. Write
us when we may welcome you.

Your Affectionate Father.

J. D. Anglin

The picture I think is excellent