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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.



Office of Medical Officer in Command,
Marine-Hospital Service,

Mobile, Ala
Nov. 2, 1898.

My dear Mother, I am now at the office and have just about time to finish this letter before I go up to lunch. It is a beautiful day and very pleasant. Have just had to open the door and windows for comfort, the office boy had turned on the steam heater and had the office as hot as an oven. While the days are so pleasant, a fire suit necessary at night, which are frosty and damp, and when I go out it is more agreeable to put on a thicker suit than the summer one I am wearing every day. By the way I had my Budge suit (brown tweed) cleaned and pressed and it looks almost new again, so I will be able to get another winter's wear ~~out~~ of it. It pays to get good clothes.

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_____, 189 .

Surgeon.

SUBJECT:

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better health. I shall will necessitate
a new surgeon being sent here,
but as yet we have no indication as
to who it will be.
Your letter for last week came
in time and I was very glad to have
it. you might remind father that
I am still waiting to hear from
him and would be glad to have a
letter whenever he has time.
I hope the farmers are gathering good
crops, but from the way that the prices
going, it will not pay the cost of
marketing it.
My God has entirely passed away
and I am alright again, though
I was very uncomfortable for a few

2
NOV 21 1898

Monday night Henry Su and I went
out to Aunt Alice's to join a little
party in celebrating Halloween, and
spent a pleasant evening. Of course
we "dived" for apples, looked in
mirrors in the dark, told ghost
stories and the like, and followed
Louise thro' a number of other rooms
until I got quite sleepy and the cold
air on on outside brought out in
long gapes. All of the Spragues are
quite well, Louise is conducting her
Kindergarten institution at the house.

On Sunday afternoon I went out
to cousin Maria Minges and spent
quite a while with them. Mary re-
hearsed many of the pleasant incidents
of her visit to the Combrake. Cousin
Mary is still in Texas "looking after
the grandchildren" they say.

Dr. Murray has been sick sin-
ce his return from the last
quarantine trip and as soon as
he is able to be about I expect
he will ask for a change of station
to Key West where he is going.

Office of Medical Officer in Command,
MARINE HOSPITAL SERVICE,

189.

Surgeon

SUBJECT:

No. of Inclosures,

days.
Hope Hare will quicken up his
"feelers" and find some remunerative
employment this fall.
That has become of uncle Hare these
days have a paper from him oc-
casionally. Love to all.
* Your devoted Son,
Llewellyn.



267 Lawrence St.
Mobile, Ala.

Nov 3 '95

My dear Mother,

There being no Sunday delivery here, I walked down to the post office this morning on my way to church and was very much gratified to find your letter there awaiting me. I know you were highly pleased when you found that the chimney would not have to be pulled down, and now that you can have the chamber as a pleasant sitting room. I was glad to know that young Mr. & Mrs. Smith were at home and well, for I heard here that she was threatened with pneumonia. Remember me to them when you next meet them.

I have not seen aunt Alice in a week or so and will write you definitely about the early backs. The Spragues are curious people, as this may demonstrate. Last Sunday when I dined there, aunt Alice invited Miss Pessin and

myself to come and spend Halloween evening
with them, as she would have come ~~for~~ the
girl's friends with her. So, Thursday evening
I took Miss B. there and found no one at
home but Fannie and Myron, the girls and
sister Alice, having gone elsewhere. The
excuse given was that Myron had been
told that if he said me he might inform
me that the girls would not be at
home, and we need not come. I'll never
believe one of them out of my sight again.

This morning, having been invited to
dinner with Miss B. I went around and
took her to Trinity Church, where we
heard a very good sermon. Thence we
proceeded homeward where at two o'clock
was served a very nice dinner: the
menu of which may interest you; - first
a regular dinner of meats and vegetables,
then lettuce, fried oysters, celery, and
mayonnaise & sauce, lastly, ice-cream and
cake and coffee. I believe the people gen-
erally live better here from a dietary stand-

point than anywhere I have seen lately. It
is because, I suppose, of the very fine
market. It is really a treat now to visit
this better place, the game laws having
expired, everything in that line is plentiful
from venison down to domestic fowl. I went
down there a few afternoons ago and it
certainly is an amazing place to me. I wish
you could see it at this season. Surely you
would be delighted to keep house with ac-
cess to such a market.

I believe I must tell you that I went out to
the Mingle's some time ago and saw there
all except Mary Gladden who was unwell.
Cousin Maud was having some extensive
repairs made in her flower-arranging estab-
lishment in the way of new greenhouses.

Everything is progressing very smooth-
ly with me, and I am highly pleased.
But Grop's anatomy is enough to baffle
the bravest heart. Tell Father that

Should be glad to hear from him
when he has time.

We begin dissecting to-morrow night,
my part being an arm. The hours are
from 7 to 10 P.M., five nights in the
week. If father is to forward me
that dissecting guide, now is the
time.

Well, Adeline is waiting to write
at this place, so good night.

Yours off-hand
L. M. S.

Nov 3rd 1898

My dear Son

Your expected letter did not come last night as I will not wait for it but write while I have a quiet time, no churning to attend to today, that is always a relief, I wish it could be done only twice a week - that reminds me of Beezie's dairy, she milks 22 cows & sells 125 or 30 lbs of butter every week, if I were as conveniently fixed as she is I would not mind it. She has two men to milk, feed & water the cows, run the separator, a woman to churn, & clean up milk things, "Cat" to print & pack the butter, she only overlooks, says she could sell three times as much butter if she could make it, talks

of adding 18 cows to her numbers. We
drove out down to Johnnys Sunday evening,
we spent the night & next day, only John
Beece & the little girl at home, Mary was
with Rose. I think she expected Monday to
help Beece & arrange her house, she was
to move to Fairdale, take the small
house John Harry had, & take his employees
as boarders (his clerk & girls now) he would
not let them board with Lucy because she
does not trade with him. a good reason
why, John does not speak to Uncle Ben,
treated him very badly & are one can blame
them for not trading with him. Uncle John
is much troubled about Johns behavior but
cant persuade him to act differently, he is
stubborn as a mule & selfish as a man ever
gets to be. I cant think Beece will realize

any thing from the move but I suppose
experience is a good teacher, she will learn
something by the end of a year. While on the
family, I must tell you of Clarins good
fortune, the trustees of the boat in which
Uncle John lives appointed her teacher of the
township school, salary 450 dollars, the
plan is for her to live with The Minges, he
is near the school house. Will go from Johnnys
every morning until another room is added to
The's house. Johnny was banking about 200
bushels of potatoes the day I was there, filled
our buggy body with potatoes & turnips, we
have more of the former & 2 bushels was my
crop of potatoes but they had a poor chance.
Reuben spent Sunday with us I think he
expects to keep the place he is on another
year, we must find out how he expects to come

out this year, it is not idle curiosity but I like to know how my boys are getting along, feel so much interest in every thing that concerns them. The Goshute Club met last night at "Mrs John Walters", "Lionel" Goshute carried off the prizes, several of the big baptists were invited guests & enjoyed the game greatly. "Wave" belongs to the Club now.

Last week I had a very pleasant visit from Mrs Stewart & Miss Mary, who is still very pleasant company, I wish I could see them oftener. I have not had a letter from Fred since he was here, I am afraid he is growing indifferent to me, no wonder tho - Did I write you he was expecting a visit from "Uncle John" (Mr Eckford)? Lewis's letter has not come this week but Wave may bring it this morning. He & Hunt-ed yesterday brought home 7 nice birds, we enjoyed some for breakfast this morning. I think there is a hunt on hand for this evening Walter joins him. I had to stop my writing to fly a

NOV. 3, 1898

cartridge belt for Warr, I am afraid now
my letter will not get off this evening. Your
letter came this morning, also one from Lewis
& Bessie. I was very glad to have them all.
I reckon after the heavy rain you had colder
weather, we are having lovely weather - Well!
just here your Father came in & said
Rosa & Mary were in the parlor so I have
been entertaining them. They say Bessie
bushed out of the snow, sent a note
Monday morning saying she could not go
down, did not know what to do with horses,
cows, turkeys &c, had not thought of all that,
now John will try to get some one else.
I must stop now & try to get this off, with
much love

Your devoted

Mother.

Nov. 9th 1898

My dear Son

I thought early this morning that as soon as my house keeping was attended to I would be able to sit down quietly until near dinner time & part of the time was to be spent writing to you, but before I was through with my duties Uncle Waver came & stayed until half an hour before dinner as I dined alone, just as I finished I heard Mrs Gleason's voice on the front porch, of course I asked her in to have some dinner, fortunately had a plenty left; she made quite a good visit as at last I saw at my writing. Waver went off bird hunting this morning to be gone all day. Yesterday about 12 o'clock your Father heard Dr Young was to be buried in the afternoon as he put out in a

Henry for Greenboro, said he would be home this morning but it is now about three o'clock & he has not come, perhaps the services were postponed until this morning. He took Miss Pickett up with him. Dr Young was a relative of hers. He is the last of the old set of Doctors, in Greenboro, three have died in about two years, well I believe it is four.

Uncle Waver was over in Selma a day or so ago to hear Senator Morgan speak, enjoyed the speech & the pleasant company at "Turner's". Dr Sanders was to speak on Quarantines that night & he was very not to stay to hear him, but to return to vote next day. No one seemed to care to vote down here, out of several hundred votes only 40 votes were cast. Waver acted as clerk. Mrs Holman says the Pooles will give a large reception on the 10th of Dec, their silver wedding, 200 invitations to be sent out. Sherry,

I must fix to go, we are to be invited. I told her I would if she would help me. She had been down to Mrs Turke, brought such a fine chrysanthemum, they raised about a hundred plants & the flowers were splendid I heard. They had a free show Monday evening for their lady friends, I was invited by Mrs Brethun but did not care to go because Mrs Turke will not come here even to help at a church supper.

Mrs Cook was up to see me yesterday evening, if she is the wife of a Jew she is about as good a friend as I have around here.

I had a letter from Fred a day or so ago, he had been suffering with a bad sore throat was better there, the others all well, and the children enjoyed the turkey & butter we sent, Frederick wanted to dictate a letter on the turkey, butter, & other matters, but I suppose no one would write it for him. During Fred's absence much work

Nov 16th 1898.

My dear Son

We are very glad to have your letter this morning & while I have a little time must write ^{to} you, tomorrow will be a snow day with me as I have just mixed & set by a bucket of cream that will be ready for me to churn tomorrow morning, the process may take from me to three or four hours in spite of regulating temperature by the thermometer. There comes Reuben I must stop - He did not stay long on his way to Uncle Waco's to see some cows & before he has to sell, & some stock mortgaged to your Father. I think R. is buying up cattle on a small scale, either to winter & sell, or to keep to raise stock. I don't know which, he has plenty of feed for the winter, cotton seed are as cheap it is more profitable to put them into beef than to sell at 7¢. This is

a very disagreeable day for riding, cloudy, cold,
& a penetrating wind from the east, but good days
Reuben must be at home. The day you had snow
we had a steady cold rain & have had bad weather
nearly ever since, the roads are getting bad too.

I think your idea of putting by as much every month
is the only way to save much. Fred started out
that way when he began at Auburn & I think he
has saved something - he put by something in
Washington but extra medical bills need it all
up & he thought he did well to come out even
when he left. I heard from Lewis last week, he
said his three months would be out Sunday, did
not know whether he would be reappointed, but
no other man had been sent & Dr Murray is very
anxious to keep him, he is still quite feeble,
says he worked himself down doing quarantine
duty, he will do all he can to keep Lewis. We
received this morning an invitation to Dr Ketchums

50th anniversary (of his marriage I mean) I
suppose Lewis will be there. The Drs all seem to
notice Lewis a good deal. Dr Goode requested him
last week to bring one of his patients before the
club to operate on him, he did so while Dr Goode
talked to them about it, it must have been a
little embarrassing to Lewis I should think.
Waver & Walter Collins went out bird hunting
yesterday morning, Waver brought back 12 partridge
- yes, we enjoyed some for breakfast, I wish you
had the rest. Waver will kill me some to send
Mrs Jones, Lewis's invalid friend.

You seem to have plenty of amusements now,
a little darning in cold weather is very enjoyable.
It is dull enough here, I think the Excelsior Club
will be suspended until good weather.

Your Father is writing so I will close this immature
-ing scraps, have clipped so often my ideas have
all scattered, with much love

Your devoted
Mother

Waltham Ala Nov 16th 1898—

My Dear Son:—

Your letter of Postal date 13th came this morning & found us in the midst of a very wet & windy time after 3 or 4 days of cold & disagreeable wind & bluster. Now whilst it is in my mind I must thank you especially for the paper "Boston Transcript" which has reached me regularly, and I am sure I have derived great pleasure from its pages - sometimes holding on till 12 o'clock reading ~~the~~ ^{the} very interesting matter; it is so differently edited from our newspapers; with that & the "Literary Digest" and twice a week "Detroit Free Press" - I am well set up, besides my numerous out-exchanges. The Transcript gives us so much more than the political clap-net of the day, its comments both Literary & historical are quite interesting & fresh & well chosen.

We hope you are comfortably fixed for the real Winter Season, as you may expect to

here in your Climate. I am always fearful about your excessive exercise on your wheel at times - so much is now written about the results of tedious rides on the bicycle, exhilarating at the time, but very depressing for the future & gradual bad effects on the muscular action of the heart.

Last week I went up to Greenboro to attend the funeral services of Dr. E. Young, who was at Philadelphia with me, the graduating a year afterwards; He at the 'Jefferson College' & I at the 'University of Pa.' The paper states he was born in April 1837 - so but a few months older than I. but he looked a man of 75 - years - hair quite gray, & slow goited, short necked & fleshy; When I visited Tuscaloosa some weeks ago he was alone & sat by me, & said 'he was fearful of his late bad feelings'; Died very suddenly, was a widower, could have been in bed but a half hour before his daughter went in to inquire if he wanted anything & found him dead - Short trouble.

To day we have an invitation to attend Dr. Ketchum's 50th anniversary - wedding celebration - wish I could go down & visit Newey and

our various friends - Medical &c. For the coming meeting of our State Med Association I am appointed "Monitor", an honor usually conferred on some of the Senior Counsellors, or Ex presidents - at this time I am an advanced Senior Counsellor. Levey's term of office in the "Marine Hospital" expired last Sunday - so we are anxious to hear from him, - if it is again extended, which ^{will} be such a great help to him financially.

Wase was out yesterday hunting 'quail' with Walter Lealins - they were successful in bagging about 30 during the morning. Today Rubeen stopped on his way to Vaudsorn to see his Uncle Wase & gr Bros Wase went on with him.

Whenever we have a nice lot of birds on a fine Turkey for dinner, we wish for you all to share the meal with us; since the weather is ~~so~~ much ~~it~~ does it come up so often.

The neighborhood news is not interesting, and one event important is to transpire, the cotton crop is so extensive this season that it will not be picked before Xmas, & much of it will be left in the fields - the low price is a poor inducement to hurry up with it, and as the hands are indifferent about their own share, as nearly all of it is already spent.

The father of the house said, we had hired till Xmas, come up yesterday & without leave or license, or word of complaint, told her she must come home at once & she left - we suppose it is to keep him out or to be hired to some of the neighbors to pick by the hundred - that is the mania amongst them all nowadays - even they prefer to do it to picking their own. Cotton is now selling for $4\frac{1}{2}$ cts., taking cotton for rent is a poor business these times. Cotton seed were selling for $2\frac{1}{2}$ for bus & corn at 40. - For purchasers these prices are not to be complained of. When Reuben last spoke of his cotton crop he had packed out 80 bales, but I do not know exactly what rent is to be paid. Yr Afflct Father.