



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

Spring 1898

My Dear Son:— After a letter from
your Mother is written you, it is
certainly an excuse for me if
I do not interest you in affairs
about home. — The chiefest topic
just now is — "What'll he do with it?"
of course I mean the "Autumnite",
Baby the fourth. What can I do for
him — the father, — echoes answers
& reiterates the reply — nothing,
nothing — with all that is around
him & about him — he is certainly
the most married man I ever saw.
I have seen men who married &
had a Mother-in-law & a sister-in-
law & get overwined it all; — but Fred
has it all in concentrated shape
on his hands. If I ever had
to marry I should look about me
well for what may be contingencies.

- "For his Mothers, & his Sisters,
 and his Brothers & his Aunts, -
 Aunts - Aunts!" & still again
 for all the expectations, for
 always the unexpected happens
 in this world or must so. Who
 could have the patience, the
 kind forbearance, the professional
 business ^{fear} ~~business~~, & keep up
 with his scientific surroundings
 as poor Fred does? - His
 nose will ever be on the
 economical grindstone,
 & he can't prevent it. - Almost
 at the age now, when I married,
 when I commenced life, married
 life - he has eight in family.
 What can science do for him?
 What can he do for science?
 It is actually self-immolation -

A living suicide - at the most - he needs encouragement; it almost makes one think that governmental paternalism should be sought for. It certainly degrades the thought of marriage - a monumental milestone of warning to such like travellers.

The rising generation of this neighborhood still insist on matrimony, and locating some where near. My only wish is that some of them will buy one out, - the great fault of mine is - I can't add acres enough to sell my house & lot - If I only could expand it into a plantation then they would be always nibbling at me.

Nothing could please me more right at this present time - but to get from under it all. Would move to some place where I ^{could} retrench expenses &c, & still have room enough.

Have you noticed the fact, that with all the negro ruling & dominion - in this immediate section no dwelling houses are ever burnt, - fire-houses, stables, cribs - stores & every variety - but no dwellings.

Llewellyn has attained the goal, Dr. Moody & others told me he ~~was~~ was most prominent, - 'facile princeps' - he has studied well & deserves promotion, makes friends wherever he goes. - It is so late I must close, at once - Yours affec^t Father. *[Signature]*

a narrow cleft worked on the station grass house, he hurried to furnish his end & without waiting to one of his arms would take but being overexerted with lipped arms which they say is very strong.

I am expecting to hear he is sick from it. With much love

Your devoted

Mother.

W. A. H. says you have not answered his question about the book life & dots physics, did you take it? he is not certain that is the way to spell the name.

Mother.

I was very glad to have your letter to your Father this morning, as he is in Banning house I opened it. You must enjoy the spring weather but I hope will not be subjected to the many & sudden changes we have had this spring. A few days ago we had the promise of a much needed rain but we had only a sprinkle & the wind went around to the west again. We can't wait a season for setting out plants, have to put out a few late in the evening using wet cobs & a good deal of water, shade the plants & water for several evenings, that you know is troublesome & either your Father or myself do the watering. Yesterday I put out some Ponderosa tomatoes & a row of cabbage, may do the same this evening. It is as dry the replanted vegetables have not come up yet.

Your Father left home Monday, I securely
expect him back until Saturday morning,
perhaps that night, he will see the last of
of every thing. Waver & myself are having a quiet
time, it puts Waver out not to get to work
this week but I suppose he hates to leave
me with only two youngsters in the yard,
Remy & Charley.

In writing I may have omitted to say that
work at the City Hospital only is for board &
lodging ~~and~~, but I sure thought the experience
would be worth to him as much as the
money he might make else where. I have
not heard from him since our return & can't
tell you how he is pleased. Waver had a note
from Beebe asking him to join their party
at Genopolis & go to Trekalooa on next
Thursday. Alice & some of her girls will be
of the party I suppose, Alice wanted to take
a trip last week & wished me to wait &
come up with them but I have no money
for such slow travelling, the M & B was
slow enough for me. Sunday was Ben Cobbs
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AP. 21, 1898

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day, I expected sister Sally's family & some others, set my table for 12, the night before, & in the morning adorned it & the house with flowers, made 5 large bouquets. The Harris family did not come, Mr H - was feeling too badly. Mrs Benton Mrs Colbo, Mrs Gholson, Uncle Waver & Reuben were the guests, they did justice to my turkey & spring vegetables with canned fruit & cake for dessert, that pleased me of course, I like persons to enjoy what I have on the table. Reuben is looking better than he was a short time ago. He came back Monday to look at a heifer, Waver has gone this morning to try to buy him for him, the place he is on has a good pasture, he thinks it will pay to buy a few heifers even if he sells them in the late fall or winter. I have had such beautiful roses, even the "Bride" has been prettier than I ever saw it.

in fact it never has had perfect roses until this season. I attribute the improvement to the free use of ashes around the roots, they were taken from where the hedges were burned. I find it the same way with another rose, a dark red, the buds never opened, (would dry up) until this season.

I heard through sister Sally that Mrs Wren has been very ill, was better Saturday but she was not allowed to see her, heart trouble & biliousness. Miss Mary too had been sick, Miss Ann & Patey must have had their hands full to keep house & nurse them, poor old ladies, they are to be pitied.

I have been so troubled about the war, it seems our Southern men are expected to do the fighting in the yellow fever region & the Yanks I suppose will be in places of comparative safety. The impression here is that tomorrow the ~~fighting~~ fighting will begin, let us all pray it may be of short duration - the South will have to bear the brunt of it.

Fred's last letter told of a case of small pox

Blossom for
Apr. 21st 1898 letter



MEDICAL COLLEGE ELECTION.

THE VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN CHOSEN YESTERDAY.

The annual meeting of the students of the Medical College of Alabama was held at the college at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Dr. H. A. Moody presiding, for the purpose of electing a valedictorian and salutatorian for the class of 1898.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Moody, who stated the object of the meeting. Mr. Frank Shackelford, of Montgomery county, placed in nomination for valedictorian Mr. L. L. Duggar, of Hale county, of the senior class, and he was unanimously selected. Mr. W. S. Sowell, of Monroe county, then placed in nomination for salutatorian Mr. Cobb Nichols, of Clarke county, and he was elected without a dissenting voice. The nominating speeches and the acceptances by the two successful candidates were evidences of the harmony which has prevailed this year among the students of the college, and reflects credit alike upon them and the faculty.

Mr. Duggar is the son of Dr. Duggar, a well known physician of Gellion, Ala., and is a young man of much promise. Mr. Cobb Nichols, while he is accredited to Clarke, has many friends in this city who count him as a Mobilean on

account of his several years of residence in this city in the customs service, and they will join in congratulating him upon the honor which his fellow students have conferred upon him.

The session of 97-98 has so far been a very successful one, despite the fact that the yellow fever visitation prevented the opening of the college at the usual time.