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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.

On train (en route to Jamaica, L. I.)
Tuesday, P.M. AP 3, 1901

Dearest Marie, The hand of the Law
is again upon me, and so I cannot
be where I would be, I am ten
miles from Jamaica, and the same
distance from my lunch, may I
leave it to you to say where I would
be? I have lots of news for you, and

Famly (at that time I anticipated
going home by an evening train).
Miss Slater was "found out" at last,
and I had a nice little visit with
her. Of course we swapped a bit of
gossip. - I hope it is not wrong to say that,
and what I know will keep a day
or two. Dr. Jenkins is a grand
man, and I would be with him

in New Haven today were it not
for this tolerably tantalizing trial.
Hurrah for Conn! She is occupied
today. When I told Mr. Chittenden that
the New Haven appointment would pre-
vent appearance in court today, and
also the celer examination ^{which} he desired,
he replied that our appointment had

AP 3, 1901
been one of a month's standing, and
that the services of today and tomorrow
would be worth a thousand drives
easy. I did not go to New Haven! Of course
Dr. Jenkins understands the situation.
How are you any way, Marie? A whole
century has passed since Sunday,
and I have meanwhile grown rheu-
matic and neuralgic. I wish I

AP 3, 1901
could have a little three-year-old
or five-year-old or twenty-year-old,
visit with you this evening.

Never mind. I walked over Brooklyn
Bridge this morning thus saving me
5¢ for peanut candy; and if you're so
hungry I'll divide my 5¢ with you.

I am absolutely dead broke, having
bought clothes before knowing that

AP 3, 1901
I would stay over. If I could only
borrow a little from that last big
bill you had ready Sunday!

O Marie! I would like to
tell you how much, how much,
how much, ||| |||

Adieu au revoir

I missed my little walk Monday night. I hope
I will not miss it Wednesday, Perseus. I will leave
somewhere noon or tomorrow eve, Mother doesn't mind. Ben

I don't go over with you & mother
that I could see more of you, I am
afraid from that opinion that he
will come home for only a short visit
or perhaps not at all. Be sure
Vivian's security, not at all.
most of the O'Quinn family,
have their education on the
street also told him she will
some more into her new home.
I have your aunt Mabel's
yesterday, all was well, she
knew Bessie that day. How
Bessie is to be married
soon, Fanny & Mabel's things to
put in the office. Now Mary
writes that Miss Poley is quite
sick, fine & a bad cough grips
she thinks. When this attack
will very low off, but she'll
work. She is able to hear she
was so much & almost entirely
blind before she took her
bed. They will call off a long
man now. Let me send a box of
the horses, sent out the horse
& they live in 2 corners at the
station, Mrs Brown the minister
is a simple man, how is care for
these comes & visits, nothing

from Henry yesterday he will be as I have to Michael Convention the middle of next month, proposed that
may ache my knees, the weather lately has been very disagreeable, or it may seem
now as to me because I have been as anxious for a good day to do some
shopping in Clintonville, have hoped every day this week that the weather
would be good enough for me to get off. Bessie recent rains have rendered
the road to Danapolis impassable for a single horse buggy, the mud in
places up to the hubs, but as Miss Lane says I have had a good time
to see & have finished the little girl Easter dress, I would like to see them
with them on, they are so pretty. If Fanny was only agreeable to see how much
pleasure I could have with those children!
I was very glad to have your letter of the 24th, you seem to have a pleasant
time entertaining special friends, don't ask you will ever want to board
again, your present mode of life seems so much more preferable. No, I don't
think we will go to the Pan American Exposition, have even given it a
thought, tho it would give me much pleasure to see you. I think the trip, tho
right seeing & the crowd would be too much for me & I don't see how we
could leave home for any length of time. I appreciate your invitation & thank you
very much for it.

the silver service to Capt Hobson. We went to Mr Colby's by special invitation, took supper & went in with them, it was quite a nice affair tho' they were disappointed in many of the prominent ones expected not coming, Gov, Senator Morgan, Gen Whaley & Congressman Underwood. However they had a 15,000,000 dollar girl from W. V. Mrs Bacon &c. The girl, her chaperone, maid & 2 dogs were the guests of the Hobsons, she was said to be engaged to Rich but I see that contradicted by her brother in the paper. She put ~~on~~ on also, remained in her room until 2 o'clock in the day, opened herself to all callers & altogether must have been quite a tax on the family but she was very kind to Rich when he was sick in W. V. & was invited on that account. I don't suppose they had an idea she would accept. Wednesday we went in to see your aunt Sally took dinner & returned that evening, we were 4 hours on the road, would not have gone if we had known how bad they were, in several places we had to leave the main road, get out & lead over ditches to avoid dreadful holes in main road.

Well! I have at last had my second letter from Wave since he left, but as unsatisfactory, he is at the same place but does not say what work he is doing only that to keep his job he has to work Sundays as well as week days & that he has no time to write, I must "try to be contented with a letter occasionally". He also said he expected to take up 160 acres of government land in South California, wishes Reuben would go out & do the same. I don't know sure, it is too far away, then to a man must have there so many years & has nothing to start with, only the bare ground. I don't see how Wave can do it. I am so worried to think of it but can do nothing, only endure as best I can. I had a

seeing them, they will save the best of this winter. Your father is feeling or might have some surgery, with much love from daughter.

an invitation to dine with Lucy, as the road was very rough we went over to Hainesdale on the train, enjoyed the service very much, went home with Benny, Lucy & Reuben, as usual Lucy gave us a very nice dinner, turkey stuffed ham, green peas, etc. etc. winding up with Florida's straw berries, whipped cream & delightful cake, three kinds. After dinner Uncle John came, I sat & talked with the gentlemen while Lucy went to the church to help get ready for the children's festival, we all went to it, the church was crowded, we took chairs at the back, to get out without disturbing any one when it was time to go to the train. The flowers were so scarce the church looked very pretty, just plants, dogwood, red bud, flage, purple lilac & violets were very tastefully arranged. The choir did their best but they have poor materials, no trained singers any one they can press into service. Bessie (Linn) sang a solo on one of the pieces & Sally Eldon on another, poor little Bessie was so frightened, Sally has a right sweet voice. Reuben was feeling very

well. I hope I can by
knowing how to
arrange to
stay while he is gone,
will have to leave my
CO. Little chicks to
Bessie's care.
The Bishop presides in
Hainesdale, Tennessee
sight, no plan is to
draw down only take
two with Mary Wilkins
& others after services.
This is really winter.
I hope you are enjoying
every week with
much love
Yours devotedly
Mother 1901

letter after mine to you had been received. I was rather surprised at the post mark but you are such a runner we need not be. Bessie gives you some nice little trunks, when expenses are paid one can afford to travel. I have been wondering if you were counted in Ben's house & if you would accept, a little further north is not it? could you stand that? & would it be hard to leave your pleasant surroundings & old friends? I think you would miss them all very much. I am glad your family is supplied with such a good servant & hope she may remain some time. I think you received a right nice little sum for your Effort testimony.

Well, how did you spend Easter? I hope you had as much quiet enjoyment as I did. We had

basely, had a headache & could not partake of Lureys nice dinner but I insisted on his taking a cup of tea, that had a good effect. I think he took cold, it was a cool morning, he had hair cut & whiskers shaved off & there was no fire in the house.

Thurs. ay before Easter I went to Clanton town, took Mrs Wain an Easter cake, eat with them sometimes then went to get Mrs Gholson to go shopping with me, she had just returned from the Cripple Creek station & was setting out tomato plants in the middle of the day instead of waiting until evening. I dined with her, old Edmund acted as butler, he & Mrs Gholson made us have a laughable time at table. Mrs Green Barnes & son were there. Mrs G. called for the dish of herring that had once been passed around, old Edmund shuffled around hunting for it every where, even peeped under the table, she talking to him all the time in her ridiculous way, he finally picked it up off the sofa, we all had a good laugh. Sometimes after dinner I returned to Mrs Wain's & sat with them until train time, she looks & feels very badly, Miss Patey was no bed with grip, her eyes are worse, I mean the one eye is worse, she is entirely blind in the other, they are greatly to be pitied, Berrie said she went to see them & she had not been able to think of anything else scarcely, their faces haunted her. I dont think I have received any second letter (since he has been gone) from Wain when I wrote last to you but it was as unrealistic as the first, did not say what work he was doing but that to keep his job he had to work on Sunday. I said he thought of taking up 160 acres of government land in California, I do hope he will act, but I feel as if he is a wounded man & that I will never see him again, & oh to be entirely free under good influences, not even to lay aside work on Sunday, is dreadful. How would he manage on a piece of land with no house, no cash & probably no cleared land he could plant & perhaps make from any R. R. or town, I cannot imagine how he can entertain such an idea. None of our friends were hurt in the storm in Birmingham tho' it was pretty near some of them. Charley Whelan said he saw it but was not in it 80 hours was torn to pieces. Lurey will be in St Louis next week to the medical Convention, did not say he would come home but I hope he will, of course your Mother

Alto

THE ELMS,
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

April 12, 1901

Dearest sister Muriel:-

I want to thank
you for standing by us and
tell you that we both appreciate
it fully. Mrs. Murkland you know
well and understand fully. I
think that her action was motiv-
ed more as an open fling at
your sister than as a kindness
to anybody. Alice has announced
the fact of your engagement to
all your friends here and would
have had a public announcement
party for Mr. Whoriskey, the
movement your father allowed
it, except for the fact that-

but again, for my mistake alone, I am it up and have
accounted nothing.

Mrs. Mendenhall, professor was with a party of
us - to us and to you as well, also if he could
see Mr. Whoriskey, for it was our plan to attempt to
rebuild our collection which does not exist. Mr. &
Mrs. Mendenhall were more in any way interested, but
wishes to advise Alice or myself not to come in to lecture
as we know you had already done so. By the way had had
this party I should not have been invited, nor I am it's
bad luck, for it would have been a case of "the other shoe also".

Alice afterwards gave notice and Mr. Whoriskey
will later and in his last letter already.

You are very very dear to all of us. Do what
you can. I am not sure but that with your help I will
succeed in my own purpose. I remain with love,
(over)

Mr. Whoriskey will have nothing
whatever to do with us and will
not come to the house when
invited. You saw my letter to
him. I had done nothing and
am apologized as humbly as I know
how for your sake alone. One week
after sending that apology I got
the following reply

Durham Club
Durham, N. H.

Dear Mr. Parsons.

I wish you would kindly refrain
from further discussion of me and my
affairs.

Yours Sincerely
8 April 1901

Richard Whoriskey
(Copy)

These are the only words of any kind
that have passed between us since
February. I am as utterly at a loss
to understand this letter as I am his
previous feelings to me. I at first
sat down and wrote him an answer
as I should have written to any man

Alie says she would write you this
morning but has a house full of company
for the ball and will write you tomorrow.
Mrs. Pette is to arrive tonight instead of
Mrs. Munkland as Mrs. Munkland is to
have a dinner party whether to announce
or not as she has not heard. None of us
invited.

Chas

advances of other peoples because so protected by
 the house. I can't remember if I have answered
 your last letter or not, any way I will say I was
 glad to hear about your visit to New Haven, how
 you spent Sunday & I like to know how you all
 spend your time, any little thing that concerns
 you interests me I wish the other boys would write
 as you do. I suppose by this time you have heard
 something definite from New Haven & have decided
 what you will do. I wish the weather with you was
 as pretty as with us now, everything so bright & heavy
 cool enough for fire but I make a little in the
 chamber when I am ready to sit down to evening
 or writing. I feel like being out in the sunshine. I
 set out Saturday a few chrysanthemums from
 Springfield, very small but I will nurse them
 & try to make fine ones of them, do they need

Dr Tucker says with pneumonia but
 all his rules now and
 your garden, I don't believe he
 knows it from any thing else.
 It is strange how the people
 don't drop your letters for
 you, you have had a cow
 from Europe clean. I say
 a cheap farm escape
 cleaner for these people, not
 as much cheaper either for me
 always calls in a Dr from
 New York to help him out.
 & that is 14 to 15 dollars.
 Nothing but not come down
 yesterday & I have not heard
 from him since the day he
 was feeling so badly. I
 never felt. I must join
 the stock train down, with
 such love
 You dear
 mother

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 never felt. I must join
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 such love
 You dear
 mother

have just finished my morning duties, &
 many hens with chickens to feed, others to look
 after & the churning to attend. I actually made
 3/4 of a pound of butter today, have not been
 making any for some time, Pet is the only cow &
 until now the calf has had the benefit of her
 milk, grass is plentiful & she should do well, the
 garden would feed her if we only had some one to
 cut it, horse clover is abundant & hay more than.
 Every thing is so fresh & green comes the recent
 rains & the roses are beginning to open, my Maltese
 Bird is covered with birds & in a weeks time will
 be some thing worth looking at. My cows are in

any fertility in this cold soil? if so what is best? When I last wrote we expected to drive down to Landedale the next night to hear the Bishop but the weather was too cloudy for us to venture, we did have some by bird times I have not heard who were confirmed. Lucy Harris wanted to be but I have not an idea that they were able to get there. Your Father has gone to Apple Hill today to examine off some land for Robert Bigsby, he did not tell me how much he wants to buy, he has already a house sent there & wishes to extend his territory I suppose. Tomorrow your Father goes to Island to the Medical Association. I will go with him to Landedale & Beebe will send for me to stay with her until he returns. Henry will be there but did not say he would come over home, I do hope he will. Your Father thinks I should stay at home but it is too lonely & I don't see why I should always be left, Minnie must take care of the chickens they can't all die in three or four days, the more I stay at home the more I am expected to stay. Oh, I did not give you Wave's address because he has never given it to us.

I suppose he gave it to Henry as he wrote to him first but Henry has not sent it to us. Therefore any letters to him to be addressed, if you want to write to him send the letter to me & I will put it with mine. I sometimes send him one of your letters to read for I think brothers should keep up with each other, no communications ends in indifference don't you think so? I heard from Fanny last week, they took the three oldest children to the Episcopal church Easter Sunday, to see the flowers I suppose. The little girls wore the dresses I made for them & looked very sweet she said. On his last visit to his place Fred took some Johnson guano (not baled) to Mount Gonyea & sold it for 15.00 a ton, was not that a good price? He bought a mowse last summer. Pretty try was an excursion last week, they had two of the preachers to stay with them. Presley is about to begin the 2nd Reader & is learning to write. Fanny teaches him & the girls every morning. Uncle Waver went to Greenboro Monday leaving Flora here, he has not yet returned, we had a card written Saturday in which he says "I think I will come over to Island". Mr. said he seemed right enough up there, as many people to put him on the back & say nice things to him, it made him (Mr.) feel quite proud. I forgot to tell you I saw Mrs. Benton & her long sister at

I do not
 remember your
 address as well
 and this letter
 of Prof Bailey.
 I shall have to
 change in
 your name
 letter as I
 will have
 it to and
 I do not
 think
 and St.
 April 17th. 1901.
 Will "how to it" my work
 means are you still in the land
 of the living? It is ages since
 I have heard from you, or have
 written to you. But dearie, my
 heart and thoughts are ever for
 you, and if you don't believe
 it, just take a peep in, and
 see the shirt-waists I am making
 for you. All last week I spent
 house, washed my parlor curtains
 etc. And this week I am trying
 to get a little sewing done. I am
 busy from morning till night,
 and when I am not working I

and gossiping with one of his
neighbours. He has decided
to keep over that another year
although we don't like it. But
we want to save money to get
a nice home a year from now.
Dr Linn has given Jack a horse,
and so he's ^{back} going to get a
Doctor's buggy this week and then
he will take baby and me out to
and when you come to visit Jack
and your humble servant, this
summer we will take you all over
the city. I have set my heart on
a visit from you this summer
and come you must if Jack
has to go for you. I suppose I must
stop long enough to congratulate
you on your engagement. I know

AP 17, 1891

I am rather late, but I always come
in on the tail end of everything.
But any way I love you more dearly
than words can tell, and if this
engagement makes you happy, it
ought to me, but I do feel sad over
it. I have never seen "Dick" so
know nothing about him only hearing
and Jack and I cannot judge of
person in that way. But he must
be very lovable, to have a girl like
you my darling, consent to marry
him under the condition. I wish
it were other wise. But one cannot
help falling in love, and love rules
everything else. But do not turn
against your dear ones, because
they might have said things that
hurt you and Dick. For you know
you are the youngest girl and we

all. Think you first about as
perfect as they make them, and
we only look out for your happiness
and comfort. Had the dear
Lord been willing, we would have
been happier had you fallen in
love with a man in perfect health.
but as it is, no one is to blame and
we only hope that you will always
be very, very happy with the woman
of your choice. But Dearie, do not
marry for a year or so, for you
are too young to take the responsibil-
ities of married life upon you, and
that is Jack's wish. I want to give
you a nice house, and we will
if you wait a little. There are so
many trials and hardships in
married life that it is best to
be single as long as you can.

AP. 17, 1901

8

Now let me tell you something.
 Charlie Parsons I admit, was foolish
 to say anything to Mrs. Colver, but
 you know him, and he will do
 things for the best. And he and
 Alice love you dearly. After Charlie
 has apologized to Mr. Whoriskey, don't
 you think Mr. Whoriskey might treat
 them nicely and go to see them.
 It is always best to stand in with
 the family, even if there are things
 we don't like about them. And
 Alice and Charlie certainly love you
 and want to be friendly with Dick.
 Alice is all broken up over it.
 And I think Mrs. Burkland was
 hardly at all to want to announce
 your engagement at her dinner
 party, and you are a darling not
 to let her. It was Alice's place if
 anyone's in Durham. And you

engagement is no concern to any-
one but your family and Mother's.
So take my advice Deanie, and
let bygones be bygones and think it
was only for you that we felt anxious
about. But if things were said, &
that hurt you or Mrs. Whorcher, forgive
them, and remember they were said
by ones who love you more dearly than
word can tell. And it was done
out of love for you. Tell Dick to go
and see Alice and Charlie and every-
thing will be all right and the
household, let those go to thunder.
They won't care for you as your own
Mother does. I just long to see
you and have a good talk with
you, but wait till one noon and tell
me everything, no one will know a
word about it, for I believe in you
and would do anything in this
world for you and so would Jack.
He loves you very dearly, and has never

AP 17 11 901 *

said anything about this matter. I
he says he would not touch Maria
for the world. He is not seeing his
patients and baby is asleep. Maria
I wish you could see the darling she
grows cute and smart. And is the
biggest flirt you ever saw, makes "go-
go" eyes at all the men, and does it
as well and better than a grown up flirt.

You have got to see her this summer.
When ^{do} you get through with your
work in Alabama? I wish you
could take that trip to Europe
with the artist friends. Wouldn't it
be grand for you? How much would
it cost?

I bought a real pretty,
neat suit last week. It is black
trimmed with narrow gold braid and
gold buttons. Wish I could afford to
send you a pretty suit. That kind
of jacket had you for spring? I must

your bright letters so much since
Mamma left. I never hear a thing
about you these days. Do you still
go to Danvers and is Mr Duggen
as attentive as ever. You are a
dear, brave girl to be off in this
doing for your self, instead of living
with me as I wanted you to, and
any time you want to come you
will get a mighty warm welcome
from us all, and we will give you
a good time and no care or worry
about a thing. Well I must close
now as I am as sleepy as an old
tick. Jack has just come in and
sends you a good squeeze and much
kisses in which I heartily join so
does baby Alice. Write soon and
remember that I am your ever
old Ag. that loves you more dearly
than life.

PM, AP 27/1901

Suffalo 171 Audubon Lane

April 20th

My Darling Mame,

Your dear letter has
safely reached & much enjoyed
by Papa & myself. Let Darling
we are both going to live for the
present with Reggie & Jack, who
have invited us to do so, & truly
we have no other home open to us
at present. Willie's talk doesn't amount
to much, & besides I would not
care of her with a daughter-in-law,
while I have my own sweet thing
beside to love & cherish me. Chica
tells that never known a Mother's
love, & of course she cannot love

[illegible]

T.M. DURHAM N.H.
AP 27 1901

My dear Marie:-

Although you have evidently
be forgotten me, I am writing
you this letter to let
you know that I still remem-
ber you, and am very glad
to congratulate you on your
engagement to Mr. Whorick.
Mr. Whorick is certainly a
very fine man, whom per-
haps be very happy with
I am sure, and as I told
Mr. Whorick, he has won
me & its Poetess & truly

give, and I wish you and
I am sure you will have
a very happy successful
life. I wish I might see you.
Now you are business
men with happiness, but
I can imagine how you
look. No state is the next
best thing, I suppose.

Wishing you again one
of the most happy and
successful lives. I am

Your old true friend

Laura Cushman

Durham, N.H.
April 21, 1904.

April 30th 1951

Very dear Lou

I do wish you were with us for a few days to enjoy this lovely weather, the beautiful shades of green & the flowers, how I wish I could send some to reach you in good order but I know they would not be worth having after the trip. I go out on the porch several times a day to admire them & wish some one else could enjoy them as much as I do.

We were very glad to have your letter several days ago. How I have must have been anxious for you, to have gone up to 2000. I expect the work at Washington will interest you now as there will be so many botanists there, it would be a good thing for us to have you visit us often. I am sure the suburbs Washington will be pleasant enough in summer, you remember Fred used to go out to the suburbs in hot weather when he lived there. I had a letter from Fanny last week, she & most of the family had been sick, colds, that changeable weather, all were out

when she writes. She is spoken of as a delegate to Montevideo from the Thru day Club, she wants to go & I suppose will do so. She invites me to go up early in May & remain over to commence next but of course I could not do that but I would like to spend the time that your Father is at Council, in Auburn, could go as far as Montgomerie with him but I don't know how it will be. He is a delegate to Council. Reuben had quite a little spell, was sick at home a week, Sister Sally & Mr. Kania did all they could for him & last Wednesday he went over to their house, they telephoned us to go up & spend the night (Reuben had not let us know he was sick) we went & stayed until next evening, your Father came back because there was no servant on the place. His prescription relieved Reuben very much & when we left him Thursday evening he was better. Sister Sally telephoned us next day that he was much better & enjoyed his breakfast, as we have heard no more we conclude he continued to improve & is probably at work again. They are all busy at Beebe for my for this's mornings, they have moved off the kitchen into the yard, & put the school house in its place, that is to be used as a dining room. There will have Beebe room, the front

AP. 39, 1901

come on the night as one enters the hall, there sounds
a good deal of firing. Miss Kate Dixon is the girl,
she is the great friend of Henry Hore, she is several
years older than This. I don't think she could have been
much wanted to take such a chance as This, they say
she knows how he drinks & plays cards. I am sorry for
her. I had a letter from Henry Hore this morning in
answer to one I wrote asking her to have a dress dyed
for me. She says "Bess" (the baby) is splendid.

Monday morning Minnie's father sent a wagon & hauled
his things off without the slightest warning to us, so
now we have not a servant at all. A woman began
milking, milked three days & quit three days, three
days the calf did the milking, she came again this
morning but how long she will continue to come we
can't say. When milking is done I have to churn
besides the cooking, house work & attending to the fowl.
I have about 90 little chickens.

Our Father is suffering with one of his head aches
today, but went to see a patient a short way off.
The 6 foot Saml D who wants to settle at Hammond
is lobbying around about his examinations, comes before
the State's bar board, your Father is one of the examiners,
he was here yesterday & again today. Nothing formidable

or have. You must excuse a shorter letter than usual
as it is time to be getting some dinner, this evening &
must fix up the door to send to Henry, with much
love.

Yours devoted
Mother

? SPRING '81

Dear Ben. Since my return home from the Pensacola trip I had a very severe attack of "Coryza". - I nearly sufficed myself almost out of breath, it was from the rawness of the atmosphere - the thawing & evaporation of acrid material from the earth, I thought at one time I should certainly have asthma. With good care & two or three sunbathing days - it has disappeared. I thought how cold it must have been for you where the icy winds have full sway. And should you be on one of your trips to New York City - it would yet be worse for you. My "Mardi Gras" excursion took me no further than Pensacola. The fruit, fish & oysters were partly enjoyed by the inner man - but I actually felt the need of company - I expected so much sister & mother or

Reuben could accompany me.

We had so many beautiful violets & white hyacinths I could not forego the temptation to send off a little box of sumdries for you. —

If you attend the trial in Brooklyn & it is published let us hear from you about it — or if you chance to get an extra paper send us one — but do not put yourself to any trouble in the matter. Today there is no snow visible & the ground is drying rapidly — our first peas are up. — Ware I expect is having a cold time out West. Bro Waverly has not been up recently. He is feeling badly & has nothing to interest him. Send him any odd paper, anything to amuse him, or rather — ~~W.S.~~ —