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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.

① Eden T. Bennett

Zoological Society of London
 Bruton Street
 27th May 1834.

Dear Sir,

I should have earlier replied
 to your obliging letter of August 14th last
 but that I was led to expect from it
 that I should hear from you again not
 long after its arrival here. A few months
 have since passed and I have now had
 that pleasure. Your letter announcing
 the forwarding of your interesting monkey
 reached me about a fortnight since,
 and the animal arrived here two or three
 days afterwards, accompanied by the Fortoisier,

W. M. Ken Porter,
 de do do.

but without the prey weasel which you mentioned. The latter animal was, (as I am informed by the gentlemen at Portsmouth to whom you referred the reception of the animals on their landing and who kindly secured for us their safe transmission to London) — the weasel was washed overboard in a storm; a loss, though to me a great disappointment, scarcely to be mentioned in the same sentence with the loss of two or three of the sailors who perished at the same time.

The Monkey is an interesting fellow; his nicely draped hair, and his noble beard, take him quite away from the vulgar herd confounded together under the same general name. We have never had him living before. Our Museum possesses a skin, which we looked upon, at the time of getting it, as a valuable acquisition: how much more ~~than~~ should we be pleased with the addition of a living one to our Menagerie. It is evidently the Jacketed Monkey or Simia sagulata of St. Irail; and can scarcely be

other than the Simia or Pithecia chiroptera of Humboldt, though when I called, as I did immediately on seeing him, for a large basin of water for him to drink from, I found that he was by no means a drinker from the hand, but that he put his mouth to the surface of the liquid like his brethren generally.

The Portraits are all well. I have had the honor of receiving two letters on their subject from Miss Porter. In her first she informed me of her intention to write to the Bishop of Peterborough to ask his instructions respecting the one which you designed to replace, in the garden of his palace, that which had so long lived there. In her second she tells me that the Bishop, on account of his increasing infirmities, declines to charge himself with the care of any unnecessary living dumb creatures: she, therefore, proposes leaving it to our care. That care shall, of course, be extended to it as well as to its companions; though there is every reason to believe

that it will not be sufficient to secure
their rivaling in longevity the famed Peter-
borough Tortoise. That was of a European
species, the *Testudo fideca* I believe, which
will live long here with moderate care,
and at times even almost without care:
but there are some species which have
never been known to pass through an En-
glish winter, and such are yours, the *Test.*
carbonaria; such also the Indian Tortoise,
of which I have always been inclined to
regret the arrival, particularly of those im-
mense individuals, unchanged in size for
seventy years, which we have from time
to time received from the Mauritius, to
close here after a few months an existence
which would probably there have been
prolonged for scores of years. The same
is the case with many other kinds; and
the fault, if fault it be and not an
essential accident of the climate, is not
ours, for no one is more successful than
ourselves in keeping them. The several kinds

of Box-Tortoises do better here, and the little fresh-water Tortoises, living on animal matter, frequently live well with us.

I availed myself of the suggestion made by you respecting the Bear which you mention as being now at Caracas. I wrote to Mr.ickers on the subject, and he has kindly promised to forward the animal to us on his return. We are at present well off as regards this race. Our original one is still alive: it merits the appellation of spectacled for in it a pale circle surrounds each eye; but if it be the spectacled bear, our second (which we obtained a few months ago and which is said to be from California) might be called the eye-flapped Bear, for in it the white circle surrounds one eye only, being ~~also~~ deficient as regards the other in not extending over the eye-brow, and consequently not forming a complete

circle. In yours again the pale colour does not extend over either eye; so that there is evidently a vast variety among different individuals with reference to the markings of the face.

I know not whether you have at all succeeded in your researches about the breeding of the Powies or Curapows, either by your own experiments or by those of others. When you last mentioned the subject to me, you had placed an egg, on which the Powie refused to sit, under a hen; and I had hoped to have learned whether this trial was successful. You are aware that some of our friends reckon much on the breeding of those birds here, and believe that they may be made to rival the Turkey in number and frequency. I am far from being so sanguine; but am still anxious to ascertain for them every fact that will tend to realize their views, and shall

feel extremely obliged by every information, however apparently minute, that bears upon this subject.

Trusting to your continued kindness I rely on it to excuse this somewhat lengthy letter. With it, I have the pleasure of forwarding our proceedings to the end of the past year, and our Annual Report. I have also the satisfaction of sending with it, in a more formal manner, the thanks of the Society for your late presents to it.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

Edw. S. Beane