



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
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.



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S. B. Buckley Esq.
care of Prof. Torrey

City of New York

Dr. Darlington
recd April 17. 1845

Weyt. Chester, Penn. April 13. 1843.

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 10th came to hand on the

following day: and being in Philadelphia yesterday, I got your package at Hervey's office, where it had just arrived. The parcel connected with it, directed to Dr. Short, I sent to Dobson's, to be forwarded when opportunity offers. I am greatly indebted to your kindness in thus remembering me, and favoring me with Southern specimens; while I regret that I am so tardy in returning the favor. I have your list of Lepidoptera, (taken from the Flora Cestrina), which it is my intention to go to work at, as soon as the season, and my indispensable engagements, will permit. My collection is in a building where I cannot conveniently work when the weather is cold; & this is the reason of my delay. I have been the whole of the last two summers engaged in remodelling our Herbarium, - and just completed it last autumn. I am now ready to commence putting up such Duplicates as I have, for my correspondents; and I hope to dispose of them, the coming summer. Beside yourself, and Mr. Lapham, of Wisconsin, I am heavily in debt to two correspondents in Europe. I shall endeavor to make one job of the whole - going over my whole collection of Duplicates, & sending all I have, that are worth sending. When that is done, I shall have to be cautious in making future promises; for I find my advancing age, & numerous engagements, will prevent me from making new collections; and I am very averse from holding out false hopes to correspondents. Indeed I am quite mortified at my apparent delinquency towards those who now have claims on me; but it has been quite out of my power to ascertain what Duplicates I had, until I got through with the new arrangement of the Herbarium. To add to my difficulties, I have just had a large Barn burnt; & shall be much engaged in getting it rebuilt, before harvest. Nevertheless, it is my intention to devote every hour which I can command, to the payment of my Botanical debts, as far as I can - as soon as the warm weather will permit me to go to work. All

All this long story is by way of apology for my seeming extraordinary negligence, in not sooner rendering some return for your kindness. I hope it is the last time I shall be under the necessity of offering such excuses. I beg you to accept my sincere thanks for this last parcel. Of the 80 species contained in it I think 22 are new to our collections. The package you speak of, as having been forwarded last year, has failed to reach me. I think the last parcel I received, was two or three years ago - containing one also for Dr. Short which was duly forwarded; & which I learnt from him was duly received. I am glad to learn that you propose to visit Florida, the ensuing summer. It must still be a rich region for the Botanist; & I hope you & your young companions may be favored with health, & good opportunities, for exploring the vegetable treasures of that country. There must be many new things there, yet - especially in districts which have been but partially examined, or never visited by Botanists. - After all my delinquencies, I have not the appearance to ask for any portion of your collections; But if you could find ^{your} heart to lay in one or two extra specimens of rarities, for me, you would add greatly to your former favors. There is one plant, in particular, which I have never seen, - & which you may probably procure without much trouble - I mean the Whizophora Mangle, or Mangrove. If you can get me one or two good specimens, in flower, & young fruit, you would greatly oblige me. I am highly gratified by your intimation that I may hear from you, when you reach that region of flowers; and shall be happy to receive tidings of your welfare, & progress, whenever you can make it convenient to honor me with such an account. Twenty six years ago, I had the pleasure of receiving several letters from Florida, from my friend Dr. Baldwin, who

made an excursion from St. Marys, along the eastern coast
of Florida, as far as St. Augustine - & I believe somewhat
further South. It will be like a renewal of pleasant
old times, to get botanical tidings from the same
region, again. By the way, I may mention, that I
have, in press, a small edition of the Epistolary
remains of my friend Baldwin - which I hope
will be ready for distribution on, or before, your
return: when I shall do myself the pleasure to
ask your acceptance of a copy. It is intended as a
little monument of a most enthusiastic Botanist and
excellent man: and I trust will be found somewhat
interesting to the lovers of the Science, in our country.
Those who devote their time, and peril their lives, to ob-
tain information for us who remain comfortably at
home, can hardly fail to interest us in their
history, or to awaken an affectionate regard
for their memory. - With my best wishes
for your welfare - & for a prosperous journey -

I remain, Dear Sir,

your truly obliged friend
Wm. Darlington

Mr. S. B. Buckley,
New York.

P.S. If you should happen to be in at Wiley & Putnam's
Bookstore, during your stay in New York, would it be too
much trouble to say to those gentlemen, that I have re-
ceived from them the London Journal of Botany for
January, & March - but not the February number?
I know not whether they received, & forwarded it; but
it has not reached me. I trust it is not finally lost.
Pray excuse this liberty. I thought it might possibly save
me the trouble of writing to W. & P. without putting you
to much inconvenience - if the Bookstore lies in your walk.