



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

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized version of an item from our Archives.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

Sir,

Having observed in the Times Paper of yesterday that at a Meeting of the Medico-Botanical Society on the preceding day at which you presided, General Stewart is reported to have stated that a most valuable plant existed in the West Indies which had been proved to be a complete antidote to the bite of poisonous reptiles, and ^{to have} promised to furnish specimens of it, I am induced to submit to you that on leaving the Island of Cuba in the month of April last, a paper was put into my hands by an esteemed and scientific friend of mine, (the President of the Patriotic Society of the Island), description of the Plant to which the General alludes (and called by the Spaniards the Guaco), and accompanied not only by specimens of the plant in question, but also of others which had been successfully used in dangerous cases of fever and child-birth.

Sir James M. Gregor

Through

Through the researches of my friend a decoction from the
"Guaco" had been discovered which had proved most efficacious
in inveterate cases of dysentery not only in the Military
hospitals of St. Yago de Cuba, but also in the neighbouring
Island of Porto Rico, in the Dutch West India Islands, and
in different points of the almost indigenous soil of that
dreadful malady, the North Coast of Spanish America.

As immediately after my arrival in England
I proceeded to Paris and Spain and have only been in
town a week, I am ashamed to confess that so much time
had elapsed since I first took charge of the document and
specimens I have alluded to, that I had begun to feel
almost inclined to forget the strong recommendations of my
Transatlantic friend - of making known in London a
discovery so valuable to the best interests of Humanity. I
have however been called back to a due sense of my neglect

by the Article of yesterday - and must now depend upon
your zeal for the promotion of science for the information
whether the discovery of this decoction be original with
my friend, and whether you would recommend the transmission
of the specimens I have, to the Director of the Society. - The
Paper in my possession is in Spanish; I should feel ^{therefore} much
obliged if you could previously assure me whether it
would on being translated prove from its nature interesting
to the Society!

I have to apologise to you, Sir, for thus
privately addressing you without having been previously
made known to you, but as I have been absent throughout
the last six years from England in both Americas, in
the West Indies, and on the continent, I have not been
able to preserve one single English Medical acquaintance
of whose recommendation I might have availed with
you

you .

I have the honor to assure you that I

am ,

Yr

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

Wm. Hardy Jr.

13 Webster Place

28th November 1828

Yr. Family Servant
Wm. Hardy Jr.

Wm. Hardy Jr.