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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.

Darwin College Cambridge
30 April 1855

My dear Misses Gates,

I must throw myself,
without any pretext of excuse,
upon your good nature, for
having so long delayed the
fulfillment of my promise to
send you specimens of *Sup-
pygnaea* & *Larychinium mini-
-mum* - I don't know how
it has happened that I have
been so long negligent, but
it has been partly connected
with my not having fulfilled
another promise to put the
names of a few plants for you

Melley - There are few persons
whom I would less willingly
disoblige by neglect than
yourself to whom I feel
so much indebted - As I am
not quite sure I know how
to direct to Mrs Melley, may
I trouble you to let her
have the enclosed note - I
had also promised her some
of the Pupae & Cerythium, &
perhaps you will be so kind
to send her some of them -
I am sorry I could not pro-
-cure more of the latter, but
they were scarce last year

than I have generally known
them to be - I think you half
promised, (if you could find
it feasible) when you visited
London, to come on to Hitcham,
where it would give us great
pleasure to see you - Until
I get home again (in a month)
I hardly know what our plans
for the summer may be - but
I rather suspect that I
shall get to the Paris exhibition
with my daughter & a son
early in June - I say re-
member me most kindly
to your Mother & believe

me very sincerely Yrs
J S Herndon