



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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low and more near
being mining & partly by itself

W. J. Hooker.

J. W. Hamilton
15. Oxford Place
Plymouth.



Glasgow. May 28. 1880.

My dear Sir

In forwarding to me your letter of Apr. 25. Mr. Bostland here the week since drops to offer to receive & forward to you a letter from Paris to Paris from me. I gladly avail myself of this opportunity.

The *Centropogon* specimens, you allude to, as coming through Mr. London, did not reach me; & having written to Mr. Watts respecting them, the subject was dismissed from my mind as I should have spoken of them in my last letter to you, & at least said what I did to Mr. Watts; that, if the specimens are to be of any avail in botanical science, they must be really good ones, without which, instead of facilitating the progress of our studies, they serve to retard them, & cause us to fall into errors, if we make use of them at all. The *Cypripedium* especially cannot be determined, except the more common ones, without fruit as well as flower, as you will see at once by the arrangement adopted by DeCandolle. With regard to the *Fraxinus* & *Quercus*, you are right I doubt not. I have asked Mr. Watts for good specimens in flower, & in fruit, for the

latter you were so kind as to send me, were broken & destroyed: then & then only can I possibly present a figure of it which will convey a characteristic idea of the original. —

I cannot but differ from you on the subject of the whole portion of the Calyx in *Pygmaea*. That it is cylindrical is not at variance with its being orbicular: — so an orbicular leaf may be conduplicate, as well as orbicular. In the form instance the cylindrical character arises from the curving upwards of the margin. Although I

have figured your *Pygmaea montana* as a new species, I am by no means persuaded myself that it really is so. I am too little acquainted with the other described individuals of the ^{genus}, & the character given me too imperfect, to enable any one to speak with certainty respecting it.

If you do go to the West Indies, ~~where~~ with I cannot doubt but that much good will result from your researches, & you will do quite right in first investigating those vegetable productions which will be of importance to Agriculture, Commerce & to Medicine. There is, indeed, an ample field in itself, & a most important one.

Still I could wish to know the general botany
of Jamaica well determined. The Plants of
Chili; Peru, Brazil &c will soon be better
known than those of this fine island
which has been so long in our possession,
& notwithstanding the labors of Sloane,
Brown & Swartz. The interior has not
been well explored: & least of all the
vegetation of the higher mountains.

I am glad to find that Mr. M. Lessygen
agrees with me on the same of the plants
we have discovered together, such as the
Michey tree, the Lemonia & the Cow. nouri.
folius. The Marthia must be at least
allied to Cactus Peruvia: but with that
trifling matter can be satisfactorily done,
except with living specimens. Dr. Candolle
has just published a most valuable Me-
moire on the Genus with numerous &
beautiful plates.

How is it we do not obtain good speci-
mens of the flowers & fruits of the Peper
wood of Jamaica? & then show us the
Botanists who do not determine its
place in the System. Then & many
other such doubtful points you will settle
shower if you go to Jamaica, & the climate
if I understand you right is quite suited
to your constitution.

I trouble you with the enclosed for Mr.