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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.

To Mr. J. J. Morse

Charleston
near Cambridge
Boston

of war between
France & England
on the breaking out
15 July 1803

London
Nov. 2. 1803

(14)

Rev. Friend

Accept with this a few pamphlets chiefly connected with vaccination, which is now rapidly spreading throughout Europe and Asia, and I hope also America.

Whilst we are thus by the extension of the Jennerian practice, saving the lives of our fellow creatures, a scourge for their destruction, is now formed in Europe; by the war between Great Britain and France. It is useless to talk of the primary aggressors; right will be determined by might. The ultimate result (guns) will have more influence than the pacific voice of morality and reason. The war is popular both in France and England, and commences with unusual animosity, like the wars of Rome and Carthage (delenda est).

All the powers in Europe, Great Britain alone excepted are prostrate before France, some from terror, and some from interest, so that we shall receive no continental aid. And America, after securing Louisiana, will be too prudent to interfere with

with the belligerent powers, beyond that of
mutual carrier, and general trader. On one
hand we are oppressed with an enormous nation-
al debt, whilst France wants a navy, to do
all the mischief, which the infantry of Bona-
parte, and the inflated soldiery are ready to effect.
The war, however, will not prove beneficial to
either of the contending ^{parties}, for each is tottering under
its own enormous weight. Our colonies are
six times bigger, and four times more populous
than the parent government; and children
when rendered more powerful than the parents
will think of independence, as the main object,
it apt to overtop the parent stock, from which
however, it originally derived its source, hence
the independence of North America; and I fear
that the rich and populous provinces of Asia,
will not always remain subordinate to a for-
eign power less populous, and placed at the
distance of 9000 miles.

Spain which maintains its empire over its col-
onies more by their superstition and ignorance
than

Frankly superiority of military power, must
lose that controlling influence, as soon as the
present bonds are dissolved. Great Britain
in a political manner stands upon a pivot,
and great management will be requisite to main-
tain her independent balance.

I cannot conclude this letter without repeat-
ing my thanks for the valuable present of
Geography - Devised & Glances exchanged
shields, for the golden one, except the brassy
one of the god

J. C. Lettson

London July 15. 1803.