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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.

Bask. Aug 24th 1866.

My dear Mr. Shurtleworth.

Could I write myself you
would have heard of me ere now although
I have very little to say indeed, my
state of health being always much
the same & my doings equal zero,
but I long to hear from you and
I am afraid your silence is not
of a good omen. Your nephew
Lurray has visited me about ten
days ago & told me that the
Rheumatism had done you good in
the beginning, but that at last
you had suffered much from
rheumatism which I think was
merely or chiefly the effect of that
abominable weather we had for
so long a time. This being now
changed for the better I hope you
are better too. I was very glad also
that your project to spend the
winter at Figères with Mrs.
Shurtleworth & wife is now fixed
& I hope it will finally restore

you to good health & spirits, would
I could go with you. Perhaps it
would do me good also, but my case
is such that in the first place I
dare not expose myself to the fatigues
of the journey and in the second it
requires absolutely the constant
& vigilant observation of the physi-
cian — not to speak of the heavy
expense & of the inconvenience of
neglecting my official duties for so
much longer. On the contrary the
Doctors & myself hope that I shall
be able to resume my lectures at
beginning of the winter semester.
At present my only occupation is
reading and now & then some mecha-
arrangement of my books & plants.
For more than six weeks I have
not been in Toronto or anywhere else,
my only movements being short
walks in the garden with the
assistance of a stick.

My last products which fortunately
I could finish in May before
getting worse were the Laurinae
flor. Brasil. of which you must allow
me to send you the accompanying
copy, & a paper on the geographical
distribution of the whole family
which is printed in the *Ann. Bot. Soc. Lond.*
of the Academy of Munich but
of which I myself have not got one
single copy although of course I
had demanded in good time a number
of separate copies. My repeated
reclamations having proved fruitless
till now I am really afraid that I
shall have none at all which is
very annoying.

I have now in the garden the
splendid *Relbunium speciosum*
with flower buds ready to burst and
the *Victoria* promising to flower
in a few weeks. I wish this could
induce you to pay us a visit. Perhaps

I shall spend some time with
Minna at the same next month
or so & then of course I shall visit
you too. Minna who is here
since a week was extremely
sorry to miss your kind visit at
the same with Mrs John Willcox.
She will return to her home
about next week when her husband
is expected back from Weissenburg.
My sister & children are thank God
doing well & we all unite in
kind regards to you both.

Yours ever affectionately

L. F. Weisner.

Your nephew Jerry appears to me
a nice & good sort of fellow &
I rejoice at the prospect of having
him among my pupils next summer
— if I live!