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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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Henry S. Randall Esq

Cor. Sec 5 Aq. 15

Cortland Village

New York

~~James B. Smith~~

John H. Smith

Dec 15 1841

Dec 20. 1841

James B. Smith  
James B. Smith  
James B. Smith  
Command

25  
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N<sup>o</sup> 12

Agriculture of South Carolina

173

Orange

Charleston S.C.  
Parrish

Dec<sup>r</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>

1841

(11)

Dear Sir

Your letter dated Oct<sup>r</sup> 21 did not reach me until a day or two since, too late to prepare such a paper as you desire for the period indicated in the printed communication. I regret this the more as I was lately present at a meeting of our State Agricultural Society at Columbia, where information on the several subjects of your enquiries might have been obtained. The various agricultural productions of this State alone and the methods employed in their culture would require much time and some labour to describe. On the river swamps reclaimed and protected by embankments, rice is raised in <sup>(sometimes exceeding) bushels!</sup> greater quantities to the acre, and of better quality than in any other country we know of: and the whole system of surface irrigation by which this effect is produced is <sup>(certainly) equal if not</sup> superior to any practiced in Europe or Asia. On the Islands bordering our Sea Coast is produced the fine black seed cotton so much prized in Europe and in the



culture of which our Planters exhibit great skill, and industry employing very extensively the salt sedge which abounds in the neighbourhood of these Islands to manure the lands. In the middle part of the State & above the influence of the tides a mixed system of farming & planting is in progress, which promises great advantages. The cotton planters begin to find, that it is more advantageous to cultivate corn and grain and to raise their own stock than to employ hireable force in producing cotton only. The high prices formerly obtained for that article seduced them into a practice which has proved prejudicial to the Country; but on my late journey from my Mountain Homestead to the Coast I was gratified to perceive that a better system was likely to prevail. Here too the culture of cotton is different from that near the sea - Manure is used, but more sparingly and the usefulness, not to say necessity of a rotation of crops is beginning to be understood and acknowledged. In the upper districts where the summers are too short to admit of the cultivation of cotton the farmers raise corn, Wheat, rye and oats. They are beginning to pay some attention to the cultivation of the grapes and to the improvement of stock and will I doubt not succeed in reclaiming

their worn out lands and improving their cattle.

In the low Country of S<sup>c</sup> Carolina there is an abundance of shell lime which is not so much used for manure as it ought to be - of its beneficial effects upon our sandy lands I can speak from experience - In the Middle Country there exist on the banks of the river inexhaustible beds of Marl; but in the upper Country Marl has not yet been discovered and Limestone only in the favored district of Spartanburg where it abounds, although little used for agricultural purposes.

Our cattle has lately been improved by importations from Europe and I saw at the Cattle Show held in Columbia last month as fine a collection of horses, oxen, black cattle, sheep and hogs as could be exhibited in any part of this Country - This improvement is confined however to that district.

This rapid view of the agriculture of S<sup>c</sup> Carolina will be sufficient to convince you that to treat such a subject properly will require more time than has been afforded me - Another year it will <sup>give</sup> afford me great pleasure to comply with your request.

W. S. Randall Esq<sup>r</sup> - I have the honor to be Dear Sir,  
 Corry. Sec. of the Mass. Bot. Socy  
 Wm. S. Randall