



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

from Macfarlane

4320, Osage Avenue

Philadelphia,

16th December 1922.

My dear Sir David Brani

The period of greetings and good wishes is again approaching, and even should this not reach you by Christmas Day it will be in time for the new year, that has many pleasant memories for every Scot.

Your letter of a few months ago was to me of interest and suggestion. For it told me of your coming retirement, and all that such would mean to you, as my own retirement did to me. So I have wondered how you are engaged; where you are staying, and whether as of old you are actively busy. For myself I scarcely seem to have realized the change. I keep at work in my own study here from morn till near midnight, varied by an afternoon visit to the Department that often lasts till near dinner hour. Then we have Botanical Society meetings, Graduate

Botanical Club meetings on alternate Monday evenings,
and the Scientific Society meetings downtown when one
inclines to attend. No one may express it in energetic
terms, one's time seems "terribly full". But one nice
thing is that it is nearly all to one's mind.

Then I scarcely think an enthusiastic scientist
can ever feel the want of some line of work. This is
in melancholy contrast with a colleague of mine whose
subject was Latin, and who - from age limit - retired
two years before me. There is no Latin research for
him; his life was bound up in teaching exact Latin
construction, phraseology, and translation; his contact
and outlook were with his students; and so he has
become a veritable wreck, though quite your equal in
physical build to start with at the time of retirement.

If you are still near New, or within the lure
of the mighty metropolis, I am sure you will have
ample to keep you active, cheery, and well.

2)

Maggie Lane to Prain 16-XII-1922

A new interest also has come into the lives of my wife and self. For Wynnie made us both grandparents last April. So at least one afternoon a week each of us runs out to Germantown section of the City, and keeps the two company, till Ralph reaches home.

I regretted much to learn of the indisposition of Lady Prain's sister, and only trust that now she is greatly improved in health. Also that Lady Prain and you are both well and enjoying the autumnal rest of life. I know that London, and things British in general, must be different in many ways from former times. The outlook also is most unquieting, and assuredly seems to proclaim that the old order passeth away and new events appear. What those events may ultimately blossom out into, even the most prophetic can scarcely imagine.

I had once hoped to have reached the Old Country and especially New by September at latest.

But my studies here have held me much longer than I once imagined. So now I am looking forward to May or at latest June as the time for starting, if all goes well.

My good lady and young folks are like myself in health. Alister my oldest got an auto this Spring, and so we are getting to know all the roads round the City for about 30 miles, better far than by the many tramps that I have taken with the students or members of the Botanical Society. The auto rage here in fact is supreme. About three quarters of a million throughout the State, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ millions in N. York, and other states in proportion. So I at times say that the motto now is "Humanity in haste on wheels".

Norman is greatly interested and very busy in his second year of medical study, while Archie my youngest hopes to graduate this summer from the University of Toronto School of Medicine and Commerce.

(2)

to Page 16-XII-1922

This afternoon at a meeting of our Bot. Society we had a very striking address on recent economic application of the Large Algae by Dr. J. J. Lawrence from Washington. The enormous scale on which they now harvest the giant Kelps along the California coast was a surprise to most of our audience I judge. Then the iodine, potash, special grade of Carbon, flotation oils, food products etc. that are now derived from the Algae, open up an entirely new vista. But it was all greatly developed and even hastened as a war measure, and so huge sums were spent in establishing the undertaking.

We all join in sending to Lady Main and you our united kindest Christmas greetings, and best wishes for a healthful, happy and truly prosperous New Year. May many also still dawn for you both

Very sincerely Yours
Edw. M. Macfarlane

Contrary to the
practice of the
Society.

4320 Oregon Avenue,
W. Philadelphia, 6th June 1923.

My dear Sir David

I recently noticed that you are now closely associated with the Royal Society, and I know well also your close affiliation with other of the London Societies. I am therefore sending with this two small packages of M.S.P., in connection with which I trust you may do me a favor. They are duplicates, and each contains the main results of studies made during the past five years on an important group of organisms - alike scientifically and commercially.

I am pushing the printing of the two volumes, but it may be 3-4 months before these see the light. Now I am anxious that these results may be secured in priority. For a small group of individuals on this

side "the pond" are doing their best to ascertain main conclusions and forestall. So might I ask you as a favor to have one package placed in the safe of the Royal Society, and another with the Zoological Society, or the Linnean. If the two could be quietly be put in charge of the Secretary of each this would suffice.

Further I give full liberty to you or to them to open each packet after the end of October, and to do with them as may be considered best.

I am hoping to be at Kew by Oct. at latest, and to spend some months on some plant groups. During the course of my stay I may be able also to make a communication to one of the societies, on a phase of the subject treated of in the enclosed M.S.S. It opens up possibilities of a commercial nature that may mean many millions sterling for British possessions. But more of this later! It is not "tall talk" either.

3
Here, we are having an early June
spell of hot weather, with shade temp's
running from 88° to 94° F. It makes
one somewhat "sticky" for active effort,
as you well know. But genial summer
weather suits me quite well.

I sincerely trust that you are
all in good health, and that the
freedom from cares of office which
is now yours is wholly to your liking.

Now I hope that in making the
present request, you will not regard it
as a presumption and intrusion. I
merely wish to have a full synopsis
of my work placed by a certain date
in some independent scientific
centre, or centres, so that if any priority
question comes up, such can be re-
ferred to. Each packet can remain
sealed till the time I indicate above.

The study has cost me long
years of close effort, and sets forth
some highly striking and verifiable
results.

I am glad to notice that our
amiable republican party is beginning
to take a sane and sensible view
of world events. But when the world
will settle down to sensible rules of
useful endeavor, seems to be the truly
unknown quantity.

Very Sincerely Yours
John M. Macfarlane

I am sending the two packages
one or two days apart. The present
one I am registering.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

THE COLLEGE

4329 Lodge Avenue,
Philadelphia, 14th June 1923

BOTANY

My dear Sir David Prain,

With this I now send another set of Summary results, as stated in my first letter of a few days ago. If you can kindly place this with the Secretary of one of the Societies indicated, or even in Herbarium under your successor you will greatly oblige.

Meanwhile however you might pay nothing to others, beyond yourself and the one or two persons indicated. I can only in this way protect myself somewhat.

With sincerest good wishes-

Very Truly Yours

Edw. M. Macfarlane

from Macfarlane

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

10th November, 1923

My dear Mr David

After all your extremely kind effort on behalf of my two packages, I am sure you must regard me as a huge ingrate for not writing you, or sending some tangible indication that work was proceeding. The time too, I remember full well, is now "up" during which they were to rest.

Well! my only apology is that I have been working continuously - summer and autumn, day and night - to get my results out. And I am heartily glad to say that the later-written, and so second, volume is now ready. A copy of it I send you with this, and you will probably find it decidedly the more interesting of the two. But the first-written one, though now being printed off, has lagged for several reasons. Thus it is larger - about 580 pages - it has

required more proof-correction, and printers, as well as publishers have gone slowly in getting all details to work harmoniously. But it should be ready in about a month, when I will at once send you a copy.

Now as to trend of these studies, and contents of the two volumes! I fear most will view me as a crazed lunatic who is plunging afield and that widely. But ^{all} has developed quite naturally and gradually through long years as part of my general evolutionary studies.

But, I have had to go very tenderly and so-to-say secretly, till free from my beloved university duties. For had not a few here known of my "leisure time studies" they would have striven mightily to "have him removed". For the last phrase has been widely used and as widely acted on in College circles on this side, till within very recent years.

You will see in time then that

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

one of the volumes is entitled "The Evolution and Distribution of Fishes", and is a detailed examination of evidences for the trend of fish life, as briefly outlined already in my "Causes and Courses". I think and hope too that the whole study will truly hold water.

That now sent was started, or if one may so put it, started me, nearly 50 years ago when as student and instructor in Edinburgh I spent days amongst the Carboniferous rocks of the Edinburgh fields and over a period of several years. I encountered many puzzles, not least also when I looked into the oil-shales of this wide country. But light seemed gradually to dawn, and will I trust, light others along similar lines. For much remains to be accomplished.

I had fully hoped that both volumes could have been pushed through

the press during the quiet slack time of summer here. But needed and needless delays have come up. So instead of seeing both volumes out by Sept^r, I am only now closing up the first, that will be second in appearing.

As I told you I had expected to be in the Old Country by October, and by now to have been working quietly at New, but "the best laid schemes" etc. I do not expect therefore to get away till early April, as several unexpected matters have come up that will detain me. I had intended also to have presented at some one of the London Societies during the winter, a remarkable extension of the "fish-oil" question, that may be of great value to the Old Country. I only have the skeleton results in drawings and papers worked out however. But when I am quite free of the present two volumes, I may try to clothe the skeleton tolerably, and send you it. It is concerned with the entire and enormous stretch of Oligo-Miocene oil shales that extend from

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Persia, Baluchistan, N. India (or more truly Turkestan-Tibet), Assam, Burma etc. But I hope to send you fuller details later.

Now don't think, please, that I have dropped BOTANY. It was and is my first love. But there are many questions of interest in this world, while variety is one of the Species of Life.

As to the two packages that I sent you, these could either be kept by you, or kept or destroyed by the Societies you placed them with as is thought best. But from the priority stand point, if they can be held for a few months longer, such might be desirable. For when some mailing of the Petrolium volume escaped here, marvellous efforts were made to capture the main results. It is effrighted however now, and therefore so far is safe.

As I write, the evening papers seem to indicate that France, Germany and the world generally are inclining to see eye to eye rather more willingly.

than in the past few months. Everything might have gone smoothly long since, had not a miserable group here, for their own selfish interests, held up the entire peace proceedings. But even they are beginning to see that the "Poles" are against them.

My youngest boy, Archie, left in August for a teaching position in the International College at Smyrna, and has since written us some most informing letters as to the unrest, want, dire straits of the people, etc over that region. The Principal, Dr. Macaulay, is evidently a Scotchman with both tact and grit, qualities much needed, I doubt not, at the present time.

I trust that you and Lady Prain are both in good health, and enjoying your freedom from cares of office. Dr. Hill and all of the New men are doubtless very busy as usual. I must write one or two Christmas letters to them soon. Letter writing has rather gone by default with me of late, I fear. But it is never too late to mend. Give my kindest remembrances to all, please, and with warmest thanks for your kind efforts on my behalf,
Very sincerely yours
Edm^d. Macaulay

ansd
7.1. 24

from Macfarlane

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

My dear Sir David 31st December 1928

At last the first volume that appears second in time, has made its appearance, and I am now sending you a copy as a New Year remembrance. You will note that there is added at the end the summary of results that I sent you *Copier II* in June. Its all need for the latter has now ceased.

The volume is strictly introductory to, and to some degree explains the cause for appearance of, that sent to you some weeks ago. Both may cause discussion, in fact I now know that the oil one has not only caused such, but has been the means of stirring up every oil-prospector, oil-crafter, anti-evolutionist, etc, within many miles. So a good deal of my time & plate has been wasted in trying to answer at least some

of these interrogators. I am sorry that I could not insert a dedicatory and presentation line for you in each book, but that would be contrary to the laws of the "moderns and Persians" with their liberalized wisdom. Still, my best wishes for a very happy New Year to Lady Prinn and you go with the volume.

Europe, and especially Germany, is still the Centre of a world-welter, but I begin to see a gradual though slow clarifying of the situation. And when the ferment of clarification has fully worked, the units of humanity will be very differently grouped, as compared with ten years ago. But meanwhile the old world will swing and whirl on as usual, just as it did after all the "cataclysms" that I have tried to follow in the past history of fish life.

I have been kept so hard at it for the past seven months that I have entirely failed to send greetings to botanical friends in the Mother Land. But if opportunity presents, please convey my

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4329 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Sincerest New Year greetings to all of them.

From a notice I have just read New seems to be steadily and ever more efficiently serving the nation and the world. Though not provided with the host of "workers" that the U.S. Department of Agriculture can boast, it can quite hold its own alongside.

What I should greatly like to see however there, would be a strong school of advanced or graduate botanical education, with a suitable lecture-laboratory building possibly adjoining and connected with the herbarium. Twenty to thirty advanced courses of instruction given gratuitously or with small fee by specialists in every department of botany would attract men of the world over, and give New the Confirmed Supremacy that it well deserves. It may be said that there is no provision for such, but then the provision should at once be made. It would

"pay" hand-over-hand to put it all in semi-
slang phraseology.

Now the Midnight bells are begin-
ning to ring in a New Year, so with all
the Compliments and kind regards of the
Season to Lady Prain, yourself, and all
friends around you

Very Cordially Yours
John M. Macfarlane

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

My dear Sir David Davis 8th January, 1924.

Just a week ago I sent you my second volume with accompanying letter, and two days thereafter received your kind and interesting letter. I regretted to learn of the continued serious indisposition of your sister-in-law, and of the natural strain that must have fallen to Lady Davis to bear. I do trust that both may soon and steadily regain a good measure of health. If I may suggest, would not a trip for a month or six weeks to the Riviera for both of you, be a helpful and health-giving experience. I speak thus from a lasting sense of personal benefit. Antibes, Menton, etc. are quiet and truly delightful places.

Here we have had an extremely mild and sparkling autumn-winter till a few days ago, when frost came.

But we have had as yet practically no snow. The next two months however may bring a sharp and marked change.

I was very glad to note that by kind skill of Dr. Hays, and aided doubtless by Dr. Hill and others from "The Botanical Magazine" is not only to continue, but to progress steadily to ever better states. He prizes the entire suite greatly, and constantly use the volumes in our advanced graduate classes of 5 to 12 students. So much is this the case that some volumes of recent series have been twice rebound. It would truly, have been an international calamity from the botanical standpoint had such ceased to appear.

Dr. Hill's trip to the West Indies should be a pleasant and profitable experience. If he is by any chance to reach or pass through New York I do trust that he will arrange to give us a little of his time.

Very appropriate it was to have a memorial in Aberdeen University for

to Prain 2-I-1924

DR. J. M. MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
W. PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Professor Traill, and equally so that you should have been a prime mover and also the one who dedicated it. I met him first at the Edin. Bot. Garden, when I was still an undergraduate student, and greatly enjoyed the interview.

For myself, some lectures here will certainly keep me here till the end of March. But I greatly hope that soon after I may be able to get free, so as to spend a few months in London - New.

My wife and Norman join me in sending sincerest good wishes for Lady Prain and yourself.

Very Cordially Yours
J. M. Macfarlane

from Macfarlane

DR. JOHN MUIRHEAD MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
WEST PHILADELPHIA, PA.

23rd April, 1924.

My dear Sir David

Just a line to let you know
that I hope to leave for London in
a few days, and so hope to reach the
Old Country in the early days of May.

Many thanks for your last
letter. I have had a note from Dr. Hill
regarding the Dr. S. S. Summary, which
I have answered. Both copies sent by
me to you are now useless, and can be
destroyed.

I trust that you and yours
are all in good health again. After
an interval of thirteen years we will
surely look older to each other, & a good
deal so, for the past dozen years have
been strenuous ones, and we respond
accordingly. To me Spring-time in the

"Fatherland" will be a great joy, specially if the day of it bring favorable weather.

In working over the genera and species of Papaveraceae, I was pleased to recall again your abundant studies - especially amongst the Indian types - as I worked over the literature two or three weeks ago. The family is, in many ways, a highly interesting one. But about the same time I had a funny experience, explain it as one may psychologically. The Berlin Garden had through Diels sent me a bundle of *Repenther* to examine and identify. All seemed old friends except three sheets that illustrated a common type on all three, and which I resolved was "new". But referring to the "Nova Guinea" *Repenther* that I overhauled about 10 years ago for Vent, I was staggered to find that I had figured and described the supposed "new" species and named it from the same island - *N. neo-guineensis*. I began to think: Have I softening

to Frazer 23-IV-1924

DR. JOHN MUIRHEAD MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
WEST PHILADELPHIA, PA.

of the brain, or some more apt explanatory reason". It was some satisfaction however to find that the new sheets carried the distribution much further east into Germany? that was N. Guinier.

Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you soon, and meanwhile with best wishes

Very Sincerely Yours
John M. Macfarlane

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

THE COLLEGE

30 Duane Road
7th May, 1924

BOTANY

My dear Sir David Prain

Let me thank you very cordially for the invitation card to the Convergence of May 14th, which has just reached me.

I have replied, thanking the President and Council, and accepting their and your kindness. I know I will greatly enjoy the gathering.

I have got thoroughly into swing at the Herbarium, and already have got results that to me are of highest interest. The riches in that place, almost em-pounds one at times.

With renewed thanks

Very Sincerely

Wm. Macpherson

DR. JOHN MUIRHEAD MACFARLANE
4320 OSAGE AVENUE
WEST PHILADELPHIA, PA.

30 Bristol Road
Richmond
24th May, 1924

My dear Sir David

Let me thank you very cordially for the great treat I had the other evening, through your kindness, at the Royal Society rooms.

All must have regarded the Conversation as a great success, and for me the evening was one that will truly "live in story."

I suppose your junior colleague will now be out on the ocean. I sincerely trust that he may have a very successful and rewarding trip in every relation.

Just yesterday I made my first trip to Kew, and was greatly pleased and impressed by

the whole area, and especially so by
such exhibits, as we had time to
inspect. The woods in the Austral-
ian, Malayan, and other sections
were highly instructive.

I am pegging away amid a
wealth of material, and only find
the 24 hours of each day too short
for all we would like to accomplish
With best wishes

Very sincerely Yours
Edw. M. Macfarlane