

9-25-1892

Akpan Papers, September 25, 1892

Arthur W. C. Smyth

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Mountain View.

Sept 25th 1892.

My dear Beatrice.

I did not write before this time, for fear you might be over-powered, with Love from this country - I wish to say your engagement to our dear Arthur is just what I longed for & I am sure you will never regret the step you have taken - I told Arthur the only mistake he made was, not to bring you back with him - I do dislike for him to

swam about league
with no one to love
or see to his comfort;
he feels so deeply
the responsibility of
this business, that
he needs a sum of
a little comfort, which
only a loving heart
can give. We en-
joyed his visit so
much & he talked
much of you & all
at your league & is
happier than I ever
saw him & I must
feel this decision
is made under
divine guidance -
May return always
see the joy & happiness
to you that he has

been to us; I can never
remember me shadow
between us, since
the time we played
"making carts" together
in the sunshine.
If the time comes &
you leave your
sum of a sum in
Cline, may it be
emblematic of your
future life & may
you have just
enough shadow to
temper the rays of the
sun - We are having
beautiful autumn
weather & the leaves
are just changing
their hues & I know
I will enjoy watching
them change & fall.

Sept 25th 192

I regret so much not
seeing Gussie on her
arrival, which will
be now in a few days
as we always meet
your family as
brothers & sisters &
our ties are ever
strengthened by love &
affection for each other.
I cannot wonder at
Aunt Emma's opposition
but I hope she will
yield an approval
but I cannot expect
it from her decided
Character.

Mama joins me in
much love to each
one.

Your loving Cousin
W. D. Jones.

Mountain View Albemarle Va

Sunday 25th of Sept^r 1892

My dearest Son

I will not undertake to tell you how we miss you - after your departure & how anxious I am about your health in that enervating climate - I do hope you are taking quinine every morning just to get gains - it is such a preventive - Maggie writes me, that you will be back in Richmond Va in about a month - keep me informed of your movements, & I will try to meet you there - Lucy C. has been very faithful about writing & she expresses herself in the most enthusiastic way about your treatment to her on the way & added "you were

the most generous of men, that
she "did not undertake to thank
you as she knew she would cry"
but hoped you would not
deem her ungrateful.
We had all settled down to
quietude & industry - making
butter & raising pigs & chickens -
when to our utter consternation,
in walked Robert looking
wretchedly - he said he had
two days without selling a thing
& then he went to drinking - and
as he was getting worse, he de-
termined to just come up here -
Maggie wrote that she had done
all she could - tried to get
a promise from him, & to
make him wait until Monday,
& let us know - but he would not
I feel now as if there is nothing
else to do - he won't wash & there

is an end of it - poor Maggie
she bore it bravely - & I believe
I am more outwardly affected
by it than she is - for I feel
quite desperate - she simply
said "I knew he would not
stay there without me!" he is
now dragging about the house
- in the picture of misery!
I wonder what you are doing
today - my dear Son - I remember
last Sunday so well - giving
you quinine to prevent the chill.
I hope you continue well and
always go to church - how I
wish we could - but it is im-
possible - John's two horses
ploughed all day yesterday, &
had to rest today - he went
to see a sick going man this
evening - I suppose Beatrix's
letters keep you busy answering them

but you will not forget your
old Mother in your New found
happiness - you can always draft
me a card & I shall be satisfied
I pray daily to our Father that
all things may be directed
aright, & your happiness
that you both may be his obedient
happy servants

God bless you my dear Son
your loving
Mother

write me whether you
get your time
and you to Ireland