

10-1-1892

Akpan Papers, October 1, 1892

Arthur W. C. Smyth

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My Own Love,

Orlando, Florida, Oct 1st 1892

One question in your letter of 14th ulto. (which came Wednesday night, very, very much to my delight) seems to me to demand my first attention, & that is your question about the length of your letters, - Darling, every line of your dear letters is precious to me, no, once for all, you could not possibly make them too long, for I live, dream & think of ~~them~~ each one till the next comes, and I don't know how to thank you love, enough for your sweet promptness & regularity in writing (I know, no other fellow ever did you such a gem of a sweetheart as I have), & I hope you are receiving all my answers regularly, I think this is my seventh since I landed, four weeks ago today, including the steamer letter (or rather failure), I do, my love, like very much indeed to write to you, but you know I am subject to moods & when I have one on, it seems quite impossible for me to write satisfactorily. I will try however to come nearer giving you something more readable. - I am very sorry indeed that the Steamer Arcessia was abandoned, for I really am very much ~~interested~~ by Harold not being here, in fact, I should have made him come back with me, - I had a letter last night from ~~him~~, saying he would sail 29th on the Rome if so he should be here in about 2 weeks, by which

Oct 1st 192

True how long I will be in the west, but I shall not stay as long as I expected, but get back by the 20th if possible ~~in any case~~ I don't suppose I will see Addie or Gussie on my return through Richmond, as H. says he has notice from Gussie that she will not come by the Ponce with him. — I don't think I wrote you of my efforts to get R.C. to work while in Virginia, and of my success, with the result as I expected, as per my mother's letter which I enclose for you to read.

Although he had started to work I felt so sure of his giving up, that I stopped in Petersburg on my way here & got his brother Walter to agree to help me in a scheme, which I had just formulated to get him back there to the mountains, & get him interested with Sister M in small poultry & Dairy ^{raising} business, he & I to divide their monthly expenses, in excess of what they get from the rent of their house, & to provide them capital to ~~start~~ ^{buy} chickens & cows &c &c to start on. I have written all this to Sister Mollie, but have not heard yet what she thinks, I am however very sanguine of ^{its} success as he is strong & well & does not & cannot drink any thing up there. My dearest I only write this so you may know that I am spending some of our income this way & for your approval, for you know I consider every thing I have as much yours now as it ever will be.

Sunday morning 2nd 6 A.M. I wakened about an hour ago