

12-11-1892

## Akpan Papers, December 11, 1892

Arthur W. C. Smyth

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Orlando Fla. Dec 14/92

My Darling Love,

I had your letter on Friday night this week & so much good it did me.

I am the busiest man in Florida now, the past week we have been in full swing at all the packing houses getting oranges off at the rate of about 1000 boxes a day, & frequently more.

Friday night we worked till 12.0 & last night, Saturday, till nearly 12.—

It seems impossible for us to get much work done on the books & and writing letters &c during the day, as we have so many interruptions, but sticking with it all on my mind, the hour seldom passes without my mind turning to you. It seems to me I love you more all the time, and the peaceful satisfaction that my

happiness now & comfort in the future is secured by your dear love for me, makes my life more worth living now than ever before. There has been all my life so much uncertainty in my plans, & a constant anticipation that someone would soon turn up that would fill up the gap in my life.

Every girl I meet in former times would have to come under my mental scrutiny to see if she were the one & as none seemed to come "up to the mark." I was living a very unsatisfactory life, now its all different I know I have found the girl god intended for my wife & I can go on with my work with a sure object before me & thank god for being so good to me.

Have I written you all this

before? if so, excuse me, its very poor memory, & having so much business on my mind all the time makes me unable to concentrate my thoughts properly & consequently often write a very poor letter. but love, when I love you for my own dear wife, I feel that by "getting you some" all the time, I shall be able to make you forget some of my many shortcomings in the literary line, I feel very weak & ignorant, very severely, but fear its too late & I must be at work too constantly, to correct it now.

The business looks very satisfactory at present & as I am trying to "sail as close to the shore" as possible & not take any fortune risks, I can but think that we will succeed well this time. I believe we have cleaned up to today about \$3,000<sup>00</sup>, but its not

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sure yet. I am still trying to close  
the bargain for that lot, but have  
not done so yet. will likely  
not know certainly about it  
for two or three weeks.

You must pardon a short &  
poor letter this week dear, for  
I am quite tired from last week's  
big work, besides I cannot  
write tonight as I have an  
engagement to drive up to Mr  
Worsey's this afternoon & spend the  
night there, in order to be on hand  
early tomorrow morning to buy  
some oranges up that way & must  
do so & be back here by noon.

~~If~~ don't say anything about Mat  
Emma & us, lately, surely you  
are keeping our marriage before her.

Good bye my dearest  
your true lover Arthur