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Akpan Papers, December 18, 1892

Arthur W. C. Smyth

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Orlando Fla. Dec 18/92

My Darling, I have your letter of
the 4th tonight, but can only write a few
lines, & promise you to answer your
letter fully during the week, for
I am so tired & sleepy tonight. I know
I cannot interest you.

All the past week I and I have
worked hard from 7 am till
between 11 & 12 o'clock at night, so you
may imagine how very much we
both need sleep & rest, & I more than
he does, for I did something very
much against my will, & that I
know you will not approve of,
and that is to go to Jacksonville last
night leaving here at midnight,
arriving there at 9 this morning
& left at one P.M., & reached Orlando
at six this afternoon, after supper
I went to church with Gussie
& then went to the P.O. & got your
letter. I do not work Sunday, but

this time a matter of vital importance
demanded my personal attention,
& I had resisted, they correspondents
urgent appeal to come up there
for several days as I could not
possibly leave here, & insisted on
his coming here to see me, which
he promised finally to do, but late
yesterday he telegraphed me that he
could not possibly come &
said I must come there, so I
had to go, & am glad to say, I
succeeded in completing a very
important matter, which will
very beneficially effect this
business for the balance of the
season. I really don't feel that
under all the circumstances, it
was wrong for me to do it, &
hope you will not be troubled
about it.

And now I think I just tell you
once for all that I do appreciate

your correcting my spelling & look at
it the way you want me, and are
not at all offended, for my dearest
my love for you & faith in your love
for me is so deep & true, for me to
think you do it in any other way
than that you mention.

Of course I feel very badly and
am sorry that I am so very careless
& no doubt you are disappointed in
me whenever you come across a
misspelt word, which I know is
very often, but in full justification
I must say, it is not always
ignorance, but carelessness, or want
of time, to read over my letters.

Please don't my love, let that
listen your love for me, I will try
my best to improve, in fact I
am depending on you to improve
me in many reading ways.

It is very late & I must be
up early in the morning to
start in on another big week

work so this must be my last
page, let me do my own business
& it looks like we are
making the most, my part, I
will write you a long letter
about it when I get more time.

I agree with your idea of
the kind of Mad woman for
us & will write more of it next
time, but will say here that the
man must do just what all
my other 150 men are doing
now, & that is just what I tell
him to do, right or day, that is
what the Orange business requires,
but if I call on them to do extra work
I pay them liberally for it.

You did have a time of it with
that Mad woman & I am
so anxious to get you out of that
whirl of work & let you have
some rest & leisure, Good night
My Darling, Your own loving
Arthur