

2-19-1893

Akpan Papers, February 19, 1893

Arthur W. C. Smyth

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Orlando Fla July 19/93

My Darling Bee

I expected to send you an extra letter this week with this deed which I now enclose, but I was so busy all the week that I did not get the chance to write it,

Now I have two of your dear letters to answer, my own faithful Darling, your last week's letter only came last Tuesday & this week's came on Friday.

I was so glad you had that nice trip to town, & it pleased me more than I can tell you, to hear that you would see to come and take you away, yes, I want to come ten times more than you want me. Still, I am sorry that I am the cause of your home being unpleasant to you.

I hardly know how to write to

Aunt Emma, but shall do so
and send it in my next letter
and if you do not like it, just
don't give it to her, you say
you will leave it to my good
sense what to write, I fear you will
be disappointed when you read it
which you surely must do before
you have it read to her.

I have at last gotten the
deed and paid in full for
your lot, you will see I
have put it in your name
for I want it to be yours, I
hope you will not mind my
doing this, I had much rather
for many reasons.

I have had Gussie draw
a sketch of the lot, but I fear
you will not be able to tell much
about it, I am quite in a
dilemma about when to put the

house although it is not necessary
to decide that quite yet, I have
been talking today to Mr Bell Clark
who lives just across the street,
and who will be our most desirable
neighbor, & he advises, ^{very strongly}
strongly not to let the house face
to the west as I had proposed,
that being the natural position
for it if it faces its principal
street. Again must it be
on the corner opposite the church
among the pretty pine trees
or must it be on the corner
next the Summerlin house
when there are no trees, both
situations have their advantages
& disadvantages, & I do not know
which to select for one about
balances the other, I do wish
you could see it first & decide
for yourself, for I am quite

certain I should be satisfied
with what you liked best.

I think you had better make
some effort to find a suitable man
& wife to come over with us, but
don't bother yourself too much, if
we can't get them we will have
to just do the best we can with
negro servants. I hardly think any
work I have would suit for the
boy Cousin Clara has enquires about
for most of my men are of the
working class, & a Gentleman would
not get on very well with them,
although I have had a young
English gentleman at work
here all this winter packing
& he has made about 9⁰⁰ a
week. I think, but a new
hand could not make so much
besides our work only lasts about
five months & the summer here
is very dull & work is scarce

I am very sorry to have to
close this letter but I have
a very bad headache & can
hardly keep up, so must go
to bed, you see I have
once more put off writing
till the last moment,

With much love & looking
& a promise of a better letter
next time, I am ever &
always your own devoted
Arthur

Develop a programme of an
affair gotten up by Miss
White, which I took Gussie
to see, Cousin will likely
be interested, Dresden Clara
is here & often speaks of
Cousin Clara, & is very anxious
to know you & has invited me
to her home in Va. this summer