

2-25-1893

Akpan Papers, February 25, 1893

Arthur W. C. Smyth

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Olaundo Fla. July 25/93

My dearest Love,

This is Saturday morning & I am at the office alone, no work being done today, as I have given all the men holiday, to go to the fair, which is in progress here this week & has proven a great success. I took Essie out yesterday & she seemed to enjoy it very much, the exhibit is not as good as it would have been had they more time to prepare for it, but we have a fine track & some splendid horses & good racing, which the average man enjoys most.

I have written to your Mother & enclose the letter with this for you to read & if you like it, get Cousin Clara to read it to her. I have read it to Essie & she likes it very much & thinks it just what I ought to say. I hope she will take it in the spirit I intended & write me a satisfactory reply.

I enclose a slip of paper, which I wish you to sign & get two witnesses to sign it also, & then just pin it to that deed I sent last week. I hope you will not mind, & indeed I know you will not, but life is so uncertain & if any thing should happen it would be so much trouble to get the title straitened, whereas this little bit of paper is all that is necessary.

I am very pleased with all you say about your being a Christian, Mrs. Bee, I really do believe I am one now, but a very poor one, but now it does me good to pray, evidenced very fully the other day when I was much troubled by the gloomy business outlook & felt troubled & depressed, I went to God with my trouble & then I felt very much relieved & have been ever since

I should not get here to the Anniversary, but I know I am feeling better and if I go on so I shall certainly never refuse to go with you again, in fact I am looking forward to that as one of the great joys of seeing you again. So don't be troubled any more darling about me on this matter. I am sure all will be well with me now, but don't stop praying for me, for I need it badly all the time, I feel my weakness very much.

I would like to know who that friend is that has such a good opinion of me, it's well he does not know me, likely he would change it. Almost by the same mail as yours in which you spoke so sweetly of my dear old mother, I had a letter from her in which she says, "I am almost

as much in love with that sweet Patricia
as you are; Addie was here yesterday,
& read us one of her letters, which
pleased me greatly. - she is so frank
and unaffected & with all so affectionate"
Yes you will love her I know.
I never in my life ever had any
feels that my wife & my Mother would
not be friends.

I hope love, you are taking extra
care of yourself for my sake now.
I feel uneasy about the influenza &
do hope you will not take it.

I find I have not the description of
that lot about me, will you just ask
Warrick to write out a slip of paper
describing the lot, & saying that you
will it to me & then you sign it &
keep it with the deed.

Sunday Evening, I was greatly in hopes
of getting your letter by this evenings
post but it has not come.
I have not made a move towards

the house yet, in fact I feel as if I had better wait till the Orange season is fairly over, as it looks now like the profits are going to be much smaller than I had expected.

I have had reports of a great many oranges rotting since my last letter to you & that will cause a big loss, however we have quite a lot more to ship & I expect they will pay well. You know if we don't do well we cannot build as an expensive house as I had intended. I have got the lot paid for and about \$4000⁰⁰ beside to build & furnish the house, but this is in addition to what is in the business, but if this season is bad I would not like to start out too big, & have to not be able to keep it up.

Gussie has written a very good letter to Aunt Emma, in which she has said some very nice things

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about me, I expect Aunt Emma
will think that we are opening
all our guns on her at the same
time. I hope you are not going
to have a very bad time, when all
these letters are read. I rather think
that Addie is putting in a few
shots from a letter she has just got
from Gussie. The rain today and
yesterday has kept Gussie in the
house & she said this morning
that she was getting very tired
of being cooped up, but we went
across the street between showers this
morning to the First Church.

Addie seems determined to go over
to see us married, at least she said
in this letter that she was making great efforts
to do it. I hope she will succeed.

Goodbye, My Darling, this is another
very unsatisfactory letter to me but it seems
to me when business is depressing me, I can't write
even to my dearest love, as I want.

Ever your devoted lover. Arthur