

4-15-1893

Akpan Papers, April 15, 1893

Arthur W. C. Smyth

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Orlando Fla. April 15/93

My Own Love,

I received your letter returning the house plans &c &c, & Gussie & I today saw the Architect about the changes you want & do not think there will be any difficulty about getting them all arranged as you suggest.

I will send you another sketch of what we have decided on in a few days. I am so pleased that you like the plan & think myself that it will be very nice, but fear it will cost a little more than I had expected or intended, but can't tell yet as the bids are not yet in.

If it does cost a few hundred more I think we had better have it as we want, & if necessary not ~~to~~ buy all or as expensive furniture as we intended at first, as that can be

added to or exchanged at any time.
Yes, it is nice for you to have your
mother agreeable, I knew you would
be much happier, when she did
decide to give in.

Harry Catton, invited me
to allow him to take some Photos
of the lot today, to which I gladly
consented, so a party of us went
there today & he took Photos of three
different views, & he told me to
say to you that wanted the pleasure
of sending copies of them to you
as soon as he completes them.

He proposes to take others as
soon as the house is finished.

We have all been to the Palace
this afternoon for tea & Tennis & spent
a delightful time there, we have
several very good gentleman players
but the girls are not very good

Essie, is decidedly the best girl
player here, she played very
well today & enjoyed it very
much, did I tell you love
that I had determined to join the
Presbyterian church here, well I
did so this week & tomorrow will
be my first communion, & I am
expecting it with real genuine
pleasure, for I feel it proper for
me now & my great privilege, I do
wish you could be with me but I
am sure you will be with me in
spirit, for you will have gotten
my letter by this time, telling you
of my change of heart.

You know you told me some
time ago that you would join
the Presbyterian church with me if
I wished it, well, my joining now
is not to say I positively want you

to ^{join} go with me, but I suppose for you
to see the condition of things here for
yourself & if you see will decide
later on, whether I shall move my
membership to your church or you
come with me. any rates looking
we will go together, in this all
important matter, as well as in
all other matters all our lives.

I rather think now I wrote you this
in a secret letter.

I wrote you quite a long letter
by post mail, so there is very little
other than what I have said above to
tell you now, but I will write
another sheet to add to this tomorrow.

We are still working on here & will
have two or three cars to pack next
week which will finish us up
entirely, but I fear it will be the
middle of May before I can leave
here for Richmond.

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Sunday night. The day is over darling
& I now am a member in good
of fall. Standing of the Presbyterian Ch.
here, today all the new members
were called out by name & requested
to come & stand in front of the
Pulpit. when the usual questions
were asked & then about Six of them
(there were twenty four in all I think)
I think, were baptized, after that the
communion, which I joined in & now
I must say I enjoyed that service
more than ever I attended. I can't
write darling how I feel about it
but I can tell you when I see
you, Gussie, by my special request
left her own church & went with
me today & I was so pleased to
to have her.

I have got a sore finger & it hurts
me to write so you must excuse this
letter not being longer or more

interesting, also Bradley written.

I hope to get the house started before I leave & then will have both Harold & the architect to closely superintend the building every day, of course the contract will be in writing & all the specifications will be fully & plainly put in, so there will be ~~no unusual~~ nothing more to decide.

They are all very well at home & write cheerfully,
with much love, darling, I am
your own Arthur