

Grand Tang, Grenada
Nov. 8. 1912.

Recd
Nov. 19/12.

My dear W.D. The first letter that reached me on this tropic isle was yours which found at the Colonial Bank before I left St. Georges and I can assure you it was very pleasant when it was handed across the counter to me, just before I set out for this Kingdom of Plebeians. I had a good voyage and there was nought to complain of in the Maracas which, tho' old, was larger than the Orissa on which I embarked seven years ago, tho' she is a freighter and the cook has an unrivalled genius for the destruction of good food. St. Georges I found almost unbearable at night, the hotel is so shut in and the mosquitoes so numerous the one has to sleep under a net and stifled in the evil odors of the evening. So I was very glad to depart for this place which is reached by a winding road up 2000 feet, with the higher part of the crater rim rising to the N. some hundreds of feet above this southern rim on which the Rest House is set. The Southwest Trades which are blowing about all the time sweep up without obstruction and bring with them ever accumulating clouds that are very apt to unhinge below like a steam dredge and let down a heavy shower over the forest which here covers everything in sight except a part of this S. rim which has been cleared and on which the road runs to the Rest House and then abruptly over and down thro' a break of the East rim made by a brook flowing from the crater lake.

many times successively. I am not getting great quantities of insects but they are of interest so are the fungi, mostly inconspicuous, however. It has rained deluges sometimes with a little thunder usually without and every thing is soaking. But it is more apt to rain off and on most of the night and let up during the morning so I can get out. A man brought two armadillos - a few days ago, a shilling each - the regular price. I had to let them go. The monkeys are a saucy lot and very large and noisy. There are some trees close to the house which bear a dry berry they are fond of. I am afraid I must cease as this has to go in the early morning for the S.S. Grenada. I have a lot of things I should like to write about. Birds, there are many, but I have nabbed 3 kinds and other things - the great industrial opportunity here. While these poor planters are frittering away their time and capital growing Cacao they might be making fortunes manufacturing hotel stair carpet out of the native beef. Then the soil here would make a splendid cement and with very little ingenuity could be converted into a superior brand of axle grease. Wish the W.D. Dines would organize a company for these purposes. Barbour could finance it and Batchy could be the business head. I have just gone down to set my lantern. Tho' I feel a bit wobbly, and bait some bundle traps with a bat I got last night and some lizards. I never saw anything with as little juice as a lizard. They are almost n.g. for bait. Well good night. With me I have even if I do not write you I find it difficult to seem plink that

The "Sanatorium" which I occupy, is perched on the highest part at the end of the clearing and looks down to the Rest house perhaps 25 feet lower. As I sit up here afternoons I am entertained by the "Peasants" who coming over from St. Andrews to St. Georges or the reverse stop here to rest. The "peasants" with their heavy loads and graceful movement born of carrying great weights on the head (two boys carried my two ghostly trunks thus up hill six miles from St. G.) planters in buggies or on horse back sometimes with their wives and children which make me feel quite homesick and an omnium gathering of miscellaneous humanity which it is interesting to watch at a distance. This Sanatorium is a fine place for my purposes with plenty of room, a large work room with door and blinds facing west a bedroom where I can try to dry my things and one where I sleep. Mrs. Drakes the cook escorted me up on my arrival and did the honors of the place. Took me down the back steps and showed me a huge tank of blessed rainwater under the house which I drink and also draw upon for a refreshing bath in the backyard about sunrise. Then escorted me around a stable through oozy mud sod and introduced me to a small and suspicious looking building in the rear quite recognizable even to my untutored gaze "This" said she "am de back ob de house" and then still more impressively "de back ob de house" she repeated while I thought of the Scotch landlord who when asked a certain question conducted his guest to the door and with a comprehensive wave of the hand remarked "foot al about" which seemed at the moment preferable though I have been here so many days I do not feel as if I had accomplished much. I fear I am

a poor doddering old man after all. If I had not brought with me an old pair of spectacles adjusted to the time when my eyes first began to dodder I should find almost nothing for with my present glasses I can only see things at a distance of 10 and 1 1/2 feet which is an impossible combination. The reading half of the old also focusses it about 4 feet so I get on very well and can see things or logs. This is a fine forest, very wet and very mixed with many palms scattered through it. All the usual lianas, aroids climbing and other a climbing palm, lots of filmy ferns and others including tree ferns in spots, a handsome and Entomologically very interesting Heliconia, like a banana, with zigzag red boat-shaped flower-bracts and really a very varied flora of things I wish I knew the names of. I have written Henshaw as to the paucity of beasts. One night I caught a number of nice moths but though I run a trap out in a lovely vista of the lake-palt, I get very little. Tell Barbour when you see him that I have bottled several more of those snakey newts or newty snakes of which I wrote Henshaw, in case they prove of interest. There is a frog in the lake that spits & goes when you grab him in the most extraordinary fashion, opening the mouth wide and expectorating with considerable noise.

Wood night. Remember me kindly to Mrs. Drakes. Do not forget to tell me to St. Andrews. The rain is much better.

workings are beginning to cough and was coughing at night. Can get sleep apparently.



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