

house contains. Now, don't you think  
me mean for taking <sup>my wife</sup> from her home  
in New York, where such things, or  
nine-tenths of them, are unheard  
of and placing her here when she  
has continually to be in contact with  
those awful creatures mentioned above?  
Well, entre nous, she does not think  
so, as all this is so very interesting  
and new to her. It is an education  
in itself, such opportunities for studying  
the habits of these busy, amusing, if  
you like, little creatures, but useful  
<sup>as only to be found in a tropical home.</sup>  
all the same. She has started a  
collection of moths, as a beginning &  
our evening passes but some new species  
is added. As I write she is now engaged  
setting out last evening's catch. She  
has now got quite accustomed to  
the little pests. What an interesting  
little fellow is the mason wasp

March 12<sup>th</sup> 1899.  
Guanacama.

My dear Mr. Deane,

My wife and  
I were delighted to get a letter  
from you. Yours and Mr. Brewster's  
names are household words in  
our home and we never tire  
speaking of you. We enjoyed  
your joke about the howling  
monk's immensity, but which  
a lively time my dear little  
wife is having with the insects.  
Mr. Brewster told her she would  
see here. First in order the  
mosquitoes paid their visit (and  
have not yet left), then that

little torment, the flea, then follows  
the spider, whose perseverance in ac-  
building, as often as you destroy,  
their webs, is unequalled in insect  
life, night moths, attracted by  
the lamp light, mine tunnels out  
of den scraping their little wings  
for their pains, then a large house  
ant with a big head and strong  
mandible, who means death to any  
tempting morsel in the shape of  
other creeping thing (once two of  
my pet, the venomous fer de lance  
snake, of which your friend Professor  
Gorman will tell you, were eaten  
alive by these ants, their skeletons  
only being left to tell the tale  
and all in the space of half  
a night. The snakes measured two  
feet long by three quarters of an

inch thick). These little animals are  
respectors of persons, never attempting  
to bite. On top of all these slight  
annoyances, came a colony of hunting  
or as it is called in other parts  
soldier ants after their manner of  
travelling in columns. Then I made  
short work of by simply dropping  
hot wood-ashes in the front columns.  
You should see them scamper away  
when this radical means of defence  
is resorted to. They are our best in-  
sect scavengers. After a visit from them  
your house is completely cleansed of  
everything in the shape of vermin,  
rats even included, but during their  
scavenging visit one is forced to leave  
the house to them, and this, in some  
cases, runs to two days, and just  
depends upon how much vermin you



ahead, at least, are very good. Sugar  
also, is sounder than for it has been  
during the last five years. This won't last  
long as Cuba & Porto Rico will supply  
the states with all she requires and  
the Protective Tariff will do the rest  
for us. England will then be forced  
to levy a countervailing duty on Boun-  
fed sugar from the continent. This will  
be the only means of saving the sugar  
industry of the West Indies. A new  
industry, which promises to pay well,  
is being gone into rather largely by the  
Planters, and that is the planting of  
rubber. The favorite species here is the  
Castilleja elastica, a central American  
tree. Our little island (1700 sq. miles) is a  
go-ahead place, all that wanting being  
new capital and blood. My wife and I  
join in sending our very best wishes  
to Mrs. Deane and "good Mr. Deane" as we  
call you, also to Mrs. & Mrs. Brewster.

Believe me,  
Sincerely yours,  
W. J. Farn

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Of course the ordinary house-wife does  
not think so, since the spot he  
chooses to build his mud-hut is  
either within the folds of your lace  
curtains or on the widow pines.  
First he comes along, after selecting  
his site, with a small piece of  
wet earth which he sticks to the  
pane, let us say, then he smears the  
spot on which he intends to build  
with this piece of earth, softening it  
all the while with saliva from his  
mouth. This, I believe, is done <sup>in order</sup> to avoid  
transparency and therefore to ensure  
safety against its natural enemies.  
In the space of 4 hours this persevering  
little mason complete ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> hut, leaving  
a small opening at the top, and  
through which it inserts part of its  
body, leaving a small egg hanging from  
the roof, well out of the way of

the half a dozen, or so, of little green caterpillars which are taken in on the third day after the completion of the hut. These latter are twisted around each other, in fact are interlaced in such a manner that they are unable to move about and have simply to stay in their position until that little egg, which hangs over them like the sword of Damocles, has undergone the process of incubation. This little new-comer descends upon that wonderful host of stinks, rotis, etc., and feasts thereon for <sup>four</sup> three to <sup>five</sup> weeks after which he breaks his way through his thin wall and goes forth ~~to do~~ as his parents did before him. This little nest has been the subject of a very interesting study for both my wife and I. The builder

being very accommodating in the selection of its site - just near to our hammock in the partly-opened veranda. I suppose you will be tired reading about our insects so I shall "move on" to other things. It was very nice of Dr. Brewster to send us a photograph of his cabin. What fun it must have been to be snow-bound in there. We pictured Dr. B. trying to get at his provisions and Gilbert's look when there was no-thing to make a meal of for so many hours. What a terrible winter you are having. While you are shivering with the cold we are keeping our windows open as wide as they can be, to enjoy the pleasant trade winds, without which our dry-season would be perfectly intolerable. Our Acacia is in as sound a position as it has ever been, and prospects for a year



Carr, Albert Bonus. 1899. "Carr, Albert B Mar. 12, 1899." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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