

Recd  
Apr. 17/13

"Hemidromum" Estate  
Capri  
April 6<sup>th</sup> 1913

Dear Mr. Keane,

How shall I send my thanks to your  
good wife and excellent self for having remembered the  
anniversary of my birthday and planned the arrival of  
your highly appreciated gift - "The Story of Panama", to such  
a nicely. Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> March reached me at  
C. J. on April 3<sup>rd</sup> & the book followed the next day  
at noon! Mrs. Can & I went over the interesting pictures  
first and this afternoon I shall start to devour it.

It is sure to be a most interesting story. From the little  
glimpse I had at the chapters devoted to schools for native  
children, I saw how very practical in the education given.

I have also to thank you for your & Mrs. Deane's pretty  
letter card & the letter accompanying it. Although we both  
felt how hard you must sometimes find it to give the time  
to letter-writing, like Oliver Twist, the more we get the more  
we want. Just think of it, three delightful letters ahead  
from you this year - one per month, viz. Feb. 10: March  
8 & 21. It is really very good of you and I can assure  
you we appreciate it highly.

Mrs. Can, the kids & I send you our heartiest con-  
gratulations upon that most interesting & happy event  
which is drawing so near - the anniversary of another  
birthday. To mark the event I am forwarding by the

earliest mail a little gift which I think will please  
you, it is Audie's work "A Naturalist in the  
Guianas". Audie is a native of our island and is about  
54 years old. We have known each other from boyhood.

I saw ~~Dr.~~ Thanks a few days ago only for a few minutes,  
but there is a probability of our going out to visit the habitat  
of Anacondas for a day. Don't get alarmed. Should any of these  
creatures show his face I shall come him into a snare and  
bag and won't call in D. T.'s assistance. In fact he will have  
as much to do collecting jumps, etc. that he will not find time  
for anything so enchanting (?)

As I write I am attracted by the peculiar buzzing sound made  
by bees when swarming and on looking out of the window I  
saw a very large swarm, indeed. The good wife, kids & two  
men - servants are as busy as they can be making  
preparations to lure them into a box. The wife with a  
dinner bell, ringing it loudly to keep them near while  
the others are busy knocking up a box to place upon an  
adjoining tree upon which they are now hanging in a huge  
bunch measuring fully 18 inches long by 24 inches circumference.  
A trial will be made a little later to cut off the small  
limb upon which they are hanging & drop the lot into the  
box. If successful we will have a good haul which ought  
to produce honey within the next 6-8 weeks. How beautiful  
is nature and how ~~the~~ marvelous is she in the tropics. Just  
at the back of our kitchen we have a small ash heap upon  
which we burn all wrapping paper etc. Sometimes the seeds of  
certain vegetables such as Pumpkin, cucumbers, peppers, okra, peas  
& beans are thrown there when presto! in a few weeks the earth

being in cucumbers, beans etc. - so core whitebore having been given  
them. of anything more substantiated is wanted, why one may have  
to pick a large broad fruit (*Antocarpus incisa*) weighing possibly  
4 to 6 lbs. and have it either roasted or boiled. This is  
an excellent vegetable.

I have no good pictures of myself, but I intend to get some & if  
yet Freddie and Gladys taken also when I shall send you copies.  
You were not as nervous as I as you sent me three different  
ones which I have & prize.

I am kept pleasantly busy all the time and find the  
days all too short. What with my walks in the even studying  
the ways and whens of the variation in the bearing capacity  
of the ever tree, which in a casual glance would appear to  
show no difference in the soil or health of the tree, another  
the progress of insect <sup>& fungus</sup> pests, etc. then a plunge into one of my  
books in the evenings - this programme even the days when I am  
at home - racing to and from some far district or professional  
work, attending meetings in town on agricultural matters and  
being some of my own business, etc. the time simply flies.

What a grand thing it is to be able to make every hour of  
one's time pleasant and not sit with a perpetual scowl on  
one's face blaming the world for all one's troubles, real or imaginary.

Before doing this letter I shall make a search among my stamps  
to see whether I can enclose some good Indian varieties. I am  
not sure whether I have yet bought one the various small ones  
entering them and will not see.

Notes:- After a short hunt I found one of my duplicates  
I have much pleasure in enclosing <sup>a few specimens</sup> for your collector  
friend. With much love from all,

P.S. You will find a small surprise enclosed with  
the book. M.B.  
Yours very sincerely,  
A. J. S. M.



Carr, Albert Bonus. 1913. "Carr, Albert B Apr. 6, 1913." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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