

Casaro,
6th Decr: 1916

My dear Mr. Deane,

It does not seem possible that another year has flown by & that a whole ^{another} ~~whole~~ ^{mouth} of carnage has left its impression on twentieth century civilization! When will it all end? The thought is all-frightful. Let us hope it will come suddenly.

Nothing unusual (except Roosevelt's visit) has taken place down here, ours has been confined to the usual routine, spending all our spare time with ~~flowers~~ ^{here} and other plants and in encouraging the children of the working people, to love nature's splendid gifts which in such profusion have been lavished on us. It is true that all but a few acres here and there, of virgin forest remain to remind one of what Casaro was like 29 years ago, when we pitched our camp among our amusing though noisy friends, the red howling monkeys, tree dogs, tiger cats, ant eaters, peccari, paca, etc; alligator, river bobster (Cray-fish), Boca constructor Bushmaster, Fer-de-dance, Parrot, Por-me-one, etc. etc. In place of most of these interesting members of our acquaintance who very often called without invitation at inconvenient moments, some howling within 100 yards, or less, of the house, others ^{emerging} ~~discovering~~ ^{from a den} themselves in a large tent with a duck-sized chicken constructed to death in the back-yard, another peering from the thatched roof above one's head, with beady eye and sinuous movement in search of a rodent, and our minute friend of the doleful voice (Por-me-one), perched on a stub near the yard from which to pounce upon unwary fire-fish etc., we have the genus homo with all he brings in his train, substituting lovely patches of scenery with ugly little houses and monuments and yards, making, in most cases, an endeavor to replace by cultivated plants and flowers the beauties of nature destroyed by him. It is for this reason that we have provided a school for the

poor children of the district who, along with the usual studies, are being taught to love flowers, birds and other of God's creatures. The result after two years is very promising, no less than 250 children having been enrolled in our school. Mrs. Carr is heart and soul in the work and is helping the children in their singing with great success. The colored races, especially in the West Indies, are known to be musical and give little or no trouble in their training in this art. But would you believe it, in trying to help so large a number of children who were utterly neglected by the education authorities, both government and ~~and~~ ministers of religion, we have brought down upon us a hail of abuse on ourselves from the Roman Catholic Priest of the district who has been bold enough to assert that no one has the right to provide education for the children ^{as the Roman Catholics are in the large majority.} but himself. This must sound strange to you and will bear explanation. The elementary schools of the colony are run by the Government and by the R. Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and Wesleyan denominations. In the case of these latter authorities an annual grant from public funds is made of a certain sum per capita for each child in school to receive such assistance unless an average attendance of not less than 50 per term is secured for the year.

This arrangement, while being perhaps slightly cheaper than a government school, has led to much recrimination between the various denominations who look upon the advent of a new school in a district as a rival which should be looked upon with suspicion, especially if it is being run by a private party. We pay no attention to him and find much pleasure in the work.

I had quite a pleasant surprise a day or two ago when I received a very friendly message from Mr. Frank Chapman who met one of my friends at Barbados. Mr. Chapman was then on his way home after a rather big trip on the ~~comager~~ ^{comager}, of which we are such to hear soon. What interesting and valuable work he accomplishes, year after year, on his travels in the tropics



Carr, Albert Bonus. 1916. "Carr, Albert B Dec. 6, 1916." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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