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Miss Berrie F. Kuyd

*Andles
New York*



Antigua Jan 15th 1880

My dear dear Girl

The mail leaves again for the U. States in a weeks time and as I have some leisure hours will use them in chatting (if it can be so named) with you - a pastime I must thoroughly enjoy.

Well, she has come and gone. the great gunship 'Northampton' A.M.S. 600 tons big guns, torpedoes, gay officers etc. etc.

Saturday afternoon the aristocracy of the island were invited off to spend the afternoon aboard. At 2.30 two steam launches with two boats came for us - we bundled in and sailed out got aboard at last. The band were playing their prettiest and the people struck was began to trip the light fantastic - but as your humble servant, he went below to see the pistols. He first invited a young lady to accompany him but she refused and so he in his great extremity went below and laid his head on an eighteen pounder and wept.

A festive lunch was spread, where sundry individuals mended their weary way and replenished - The Governor took his leave about 6 P.M. when 16 guns were fired at him much to the delight of numerous females who persisted in holding their thumbs in their ears and who smelt of gunpowder a long distance like unto an exploded cartridge - The Governor was not hurt and landed on shore safely much to the surprise of the populace who expected to see him sink with many shots in his back. At six o'clock we left the stately ship after having discharged the right arm of the Vice Admiral at the shoulder and reached the shore in the due course of time - In the melée of departure I have forgotten to state the powder I so carefully laid aside was as carefully extracted from its supposed secure position - and in my dilemma I shut my eyes and reached out and closed another which proved to be better than the one lost - therefore another soul made happy and the equilibrium of the universe although disturbed - yet sustained in the end -

3.
The following day - Sunday. I spent
in a tramp to the country, and I
must say I got enough of it. Climbing
mountains through thickets and steep stony
places. When the day happens to be about
cloudless and no wind to make it
~~more~~ better isn't much fun I tell you.
I got back with a good appetite
and that's what I went out for.

On Monday - yesterday - the officers
came ashore to play a match game
of cricket with the Antigua club. The
Band came in the afternoon and gave
us some fine music. The ladies all
came out the Governor, etc. etc. The
Marines beat the Antigua club of course.
Now if I had played there no doubt they
would have been beaten! -

Well, this is some later and I
have just received your letter of the 2nd
inst. and wasn't I glad to get it.

You write that you will not write
but one more letter - but then you
must you know - for the steamer that

Take this letter will wait in New York long enough for you to reply. Now there a good girl - but you I will have to reply at once to catch it.

And so you had heart enough to cry when you bade good bye to the children's dear brave girl: I love you for it.

I have to smile though when you are so anxious that they may fall into the hands of some green teacher. What difference will it make to you - You certainly must have been a rising teacher to take so much interest in your scholars -

But then I like you all the better for it dear, and please don't think that I am insensible to your efforts -

I think you left school more too soon for now you can get the ease off your mind and take some solid employment with Hattie: six years is quite long enough for anybody to teach -

It is a literal breaking up of your home isn't it and if you should cry again when you leave your old room and Mrs Blyde &c!

6
I partly expected my leave of absence
this last steamer but it was rather
soon if they should refuse Oh My, Oh My!
but then they went:

Now if I don't put in ^{an} appearance right
on time don't get nervous. for you
can depend upon it I'm coming before
long

It will be a bore to be a show
just because we are married and
have got some relations with it -

I tell you how it can be avoided
entirely. you can jump on the steamer
and come down here. and good
Archdeacon Branch can marry us. It
would suit him to a T -

My friend Dr Griffiths had his girl
come out from Ireland to the Mauritius
to marry him, a journey of 7000 miles
or more. and she didn't hold half so
venturous as you - But that can be
avoided I think -

I keep hearing of the extreme cold
at the north but can scarcely realize
it so many even when I try to - It
makes me shiver though after dwelling
so long:

6
With my sweet one this must be
the last Page and I reluctantly leave
as I would were it a stormy night
with all sorts of devils out of doors. My
mind carries me back to the sweet storm
in Cleveland I so thoroughly enjoyed & as
long as I knew I would find you at the
Journeys end all so cozy and glad to re-
ceive me. with the water to take off and the
umbrella to pose in the corner and then
the Cherry stove so still and glowing - I
never shall forget these nights -

I know we will enjoy our home wherever it
may be for I do believe we have the capacity
for it. I am sure I could be so thankful
and happy after all my wandering around to
find a place where I could retreat - from
the page of the world and leave all its
discordant sounds outside - I am sure
there will be no discordant sounds inside.

I must stop and devote some time to
friend Hornaday and Bro Charles and
others. I am finishing this at eventime
The house is still to the ticking of the clock
The dogs are napping at my feet. Mrs H.
is dozing in her chair - The town clock rings
out VIII o'clock and all is well - With many
many warm kisses I will leave you
But dear me! how I hate to.
Yours forever Chas.