

Antigua June 25 1883.

My dearest wife

Again I take my pen in hand &c, &c. The concert came & went and now all is peace. The Bermuda got in this morning & brought the letter of your arrival at home & I am much pleased. Surprised to learn that the Paris arrived in such nice condition & glad you did not forget to send a bit to Abbie Beebe - It is laughable to learn that "gran pa" the seaman of the Perry should so unbend as to get down on the floor with a baby. Capt Whittham says the baby is <sup>the</sup> best natured child he ever saw. The stewardess did not return on the Bermuda this trip <sup>the one</sup> that you know & or I should have sent her a dot - The concert was a success in every sense of the term - will clear nearly fifty pounds. Our jury men was a sight to see. - One escaped convict, <sup>(Liddell)</sup> a respectable planter (Pucker) a job (Porling) a fast young man (Brown) Respectable trollesman (Mehdrockin) wild eyed old man, & foreman (Murgore) myself - an every day man shabby gentell. Yesterday afternoon I took a ride away out in the country - English Harbor way - with Young Nugent, he is Deputy Coroner and had a job of a black fellow who died suddenly - The man had been dead about 33 hours & was something terrible to see, so far gone as to make a post mortem a next to an impossible thing, at least I should think so, Saw a decent looking negro woman picking lice from her pickney's head & munching them the way you would a carraway seed. Nugent said that they kill lice that way in a sort of spirit of revenge. as. "You have bitten me now I will bite you" This afternoon I am to go out to Boddleys to tennis along with Jim McDonald. in his buggy.

Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> 1883.

Had quite a pleasant time at Berkeley's. Refreshments under the trees, a lot of lalleis, long shadows from the palms & tamarinds - nice trade winds - and a very velocity lawn although some but shorter than the regulation size - I had a set with young Gordon & finished him severely although he had a notion I think, that he could get away from me.

Then Berkeley & myself against Heave & Gordon and they beat us by one stroke, which was lost by Berkeley missing one of the ~~earliest~~ easiest plays of the set. Invitations have been sent out for tennis by the B's for six Saturdays in succession - Mrs Heave was there and is immense than ever - The B's had a dinner party ~~given~~ given in honor of the Judge & Attorney General - last night

Joe goes to church this morning - just before going and <sup>as</sup> I was writing she came & said, "Tell Baby I send lots of love to her and that I must hear next time that she have four teeth", & then she continued partly to herself "if she was here I could get those teeth before dis time, long ago" - Ambrogino sends love to Baby - It is rumored that Bennett thinks of having the concert repeated in July. I do not know for what object I am sure, at one school to day I go to Yorn Baynes to meet a committee of lawn tennis to arrange for the tournament.

The Attorney General - Mr Gatty - takes the house opposite Jim McDoulls house. Edmund Baynes & wife came back yesterday and now stop at Mrs Madkay's for a spell then he goes to St Alito to act as Magistrate in place of Mr Wisley. Mrs Baynes & family will stay here.

Sunday evening - The day came & went with sleeping & eating and quite free from concerns although I've had you all in <sup>mind</sup> ~~my~~ often,

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>. Baul Edwards stood in great jeopardy Sunday  
eve from the fact that "Mc Severy" - May Farlings included - took umbrage  
at some remarks of Edwards at an occasion of a boat ride the Saturday  
night previous when B in his chaffing way, intimated that Miss S - was  
a flirt - Mac was not in the boat but somebody told him on  
Sunday & he came to the Hotel at 7 P.M. on that day with the intention  
of having it out with Edwards, but happily for S - he was out for  
a walk - Mr Mac said he would be back at 8 but he did  
not turn up on account of the Farlings persuading him not to do  
so. He had blood in his eye - Edwards waited for the hour of 8 with  
his heart beating Jane Anne's hands & feet were cold with apprehension  
and she begged me to stay & parent bloodshed on her threshold -  
& suppose things have cooled off now - Yesterday I spent most of

my time on my annual report which I hope to get through with this week.  
In the afternoon went to tennis as usual - a good many there -  
the fight for the racket for the girls seems to be divided between  
Ultima & Miss Fanny Baynes - The contest for all will last  
three days & the last day devoted to the ladies & surviving two of  
the Gentlemen contestants - I am about deciding to have an  
auction & sell our household stuff - the most of it - off - Owing to the  
number of parties having come here lately needing furniture, making a  
lively demand, I think I would do a speculation, besides getting  
stuff into money that might burn up, or be destroyed in a  
hurricane during my intended absence this year - when I think we  
could replace it, probably more to our liking and about as cheaply,

Wednesday June 27. Called on the new Administrator yesterday and he invited me to tennis of which I took advantage of. Played ladies sets all the time. and although victorious it went rather slow. Sir John Forrie skipped around like a boy of sixteen on the tennis ground. He is so energetic & pushing as to push the balls out side more than half the time, when one gets inside it stays generally, though. Sir G. & Gatty left for Montreal last night on mail steamer, also Bennett. B. leaves for England the 26 prox, & will have the concert repeated about 15<sup>th</sup> July —

Mrs Shand is unwell. Think she is quite anxious about her proclivity for being a mother too soon for convenience & good speculation. Forego is out of jail and barring an increase in the size of his boot — is the same old boy. perhaps a bit wiser. The treadmill has arrived and the "neggers" call it the "dancing machine" — when the porters carted it up to the jail they sang their customary ditties which provoked some good wench to observe that "Ph! Ph! when you get on well, you soon lose your sweet voice". It's a stupendous affair, took 12 porters over two days to take it up in piece-meal —

In order to cover up the apparent hostilities of "McSweeney" the Forlings have made up with Baul Edwards & have said that M's movements on the hotel were only to bring word from Edwards brother in the country and that, although a trifle annoyed, they had harbored nothing of a serious nature against Baul E. But Edwards considers it a most flimsy excuse and bauls like a fighting cock over what he considers a great victory — The set are to have a dance at the Fort tomorrow night & Edwards 2nd. I go out,

June 28<sup>th</sup> 1833. Well another day is here - now this is soul stirring news for you & will ~~not~~ excite you beyond anything of a preceding kind.

Last night's tennis was a complete failure as far as I was concerned, for most assuredly I was not "myself at all" even the evasions Jones beat me six to four - The club committee have given the ladies 3 nights in a week now and last night (Wednesday) showed up a respectable, fair, & comely gathering of such stuff - This morning I have fully decided to authorize the sale of the household stuff for the 9<sup>th</sup> Proximo - Some things I will reserve - others will be bid in if not bringing up to the mark, & all in all I don't think I will lose much & stand a chance of a profit - Now as far as beds are concerned, by purchasing a couple of 'National Antiques' wire, with bedstead we can get better beds than we now have at less money - I have a sample in the exhibition room and they are beautiful & I can get them at inside prices as also the rest of our stuff needed in the same way -

Evening time - Had dinner at ~~5~~ this afternoon so that Edwards and Jane Ann could go to a dance to be held at the Fort to night, given by Roden, Poling, & Co. Private Secy Jackson goes I believe. They pressed me again & again to go but I declined, tho' hardly my crowd. - I noticed to day that the Borolita vine looked dead or dying and in looking at it closer found that it had been broken off about where it enters the lattice work - I suppose it will spring up again. I think it would do much better if placed out side where it could get the rain & dew and train it to run on the lattice work there. The Marechal Niel rose is sending out nice vines in every direction and with its budding buds, makes a very pretty rose bush indeed. The Orchid is still blossoming & promises to

last sometime yet. The large red roses are out of bloom  
now with one or two exceptions but they promise to come  
in soon, Gee keeps the plants watered regularly & we had  
plenty of rain for the week. I don't know how many times I have  
read your letters over but more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen - How you must  
have enjoyed the ~~company~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~good~~ ~~people~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~Sunday~~, the  
first Sunday at home. I am longing for some more  
letters bringing the news. You should have wished yourself  
upon your arrival & then periodically afterwards. I have to think  
that you will fatten up well about peach time. Now you  
must be into the strawberries, I have found that I cannot  
come in August because the return Bermuda will not bring my  
leave of absence, or if she should, my application for a pass could  
not return by her at any rate - Don't think I will come until  
about the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, then I can draw my salary  
for the quarter and will have time to be in Washington  
during the sitting of Congress to shove my plan through on  
the Council knowledge, besides getting some bracing weather and  
coming away about the holidays when the winter will drive us  
thankfully away, I want to be in Washington the first two  
weeks in December. By staying that time away from here -  
October November & December - we will pass over the unwholesome time  
of the year - But things may turn my plans -

June 29. Any amount of flirting at the dance last night, so  
it is reported, and more than all conspicuous, were Private Secy Johnson  
and May Garling. In the antique view it was outrageous. Now  
we seniors will have fresh troubles, you follow -

The weather begins to warm up some and soon it will be hot enough & expect. The "Antigua Times" & "The Era" have gone out and amalgamated into an 8 page paper called the "Antigua Standard" which promises to be a lively combination compared with the past. - Brown says his "baby is too precious, that when left alone, it travels right to the bottom of the bed" - wonderful child. Tomorrow you shall have been a month gone. As I feel now I wish I could go on in August. I want to see you and the baby God.

It seems that the Caribbean Line of Steamers (Benett) have been withdrawn - and that it is the intention of the company to build new steamers with fine passenger accommodations - the first in the service between here & New York and to begin I suppose about next February, well! more the merrier.

June 20, 1843. Bank Edwards is in trouble over his bro. Frank who it seems, is in a bad way from the effect of his indiscretions - that seems a light word for it - amounting to a severe & probably fatal attack of that peculiar "Rheumatism" so apt to come to young men of the "I don't care" type. Bank says he has paid out over \$1400 of his own hard earnings since '79 to carry his brother through his several scrapes & bills - The tennis ground was crowded yesterday after noon - I shall drive out to Berdags Tennis this afternoon with Dr Arthur who kindly invites me to go with him - Now, since the Governor is gone, they make little use of the yacht - An engineer fresh out from England, at a salary of \$1000 a year & board and nothing doing.

Sunday July 1<sup>st</sup> went out to Berkeley & had a very pleasant tennis  
indeed. Quite a number of people were there including Mr & Mrs  
Barr. Jim McDonald & Miss Carrin always play together and he  
makes it a point to be on hand when there is the least likelihood  
of her being present on any occasion whatsoever, and when they  
meet they beam on each other. Lieut Jackson was there, Sir Goring,  
the Hon. Wale Porter, Shand. Mrs Gatty - Ad. Brown - There is an  
intimate relation existing between Shand & Miss Bulbourn and  
it is the talk of the Island. She lights <sup>up</sup> whenever he comes and  
he comes often - and her soul seems full of gladness. It will  
be filled with sadness & madness if she doesn't look out.

I never have felt so strong, both physically & mentally, as I do now  
so my backword life can be borne for a while at least, but I do want to  
see you so, and the little chickabiddy too. I have to notice that the  
S. Hamburg is in from N. York this morning, which must have left  
New York about the 25<sup>th</sup> so I'll no doubt get a letter from you.  
Old Gray won't deliver the letters till one o'clock - so I must wait  
3 or 4 hours, confound it,

July 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday - I so much expected a letter from you, but  
was disappointed. I'm half a nation to scold because you let it  
slip or by without writing, now I'm not to wait about two weeks  
before I can get a letter from you. I heard from Armadon though,  
said they were to write you. He is in the middle of his year  
"Canon & Rifle on the Orinoco" for the Youth's Companion consisting  
of six letters for which sets \$500. I am made a prominent  
character with desperate encounters with wild beasts, under the