

San Marco. St. Augustine. Florida
Jan. 31st 1893.

Dear ~~Anna~~ Anna

Whilst we have been
making our quarters & settling papers
nearly you has assumed my correspondence
& tempted me to delay thanking you personally
for your letter of Jan. 11th - This also makes
it difficult for me to know where to begin
I suppose I shall only be one among many
if I take up the weather for such widespread
Cold makes it the topic of the Continent. We
saw in the papers of today that last Thursday,
while we had a Cold rain here, that in
Swampscott there was the unheard of experience
of a heavy snow-fall. Last night there was frost
here & I saw Carey Critic my eyes when I got up
this morn. I saw hairs frost on the grass. of course

this degree of heat is nothing to us - we can
 walk further ~~to the~~ has fatigue & in our
 walk this forenoon - we were glad to find
 that the birds ^{now} did not give evidence of
 being injured. It is chiefly more tropical
 in its vegetation here than in Anamab - the
 same trees & shrubs are larger, more vigorous &
 fine specimens of hork date & Cocco nut palms
 are to be seen with orange trees in profusion.
 From the windows at which I sit there is in
 the foreground the hotel of rooms ornamented
 by alms, guavas & orange trees. Beyond that
 is a large piece of well-kept grass traversed
 in a number of directions by long stretches of stone
 footpaths - to the right of this large piece of ground
 is the old Spanish part of San Marcos with its
 dome roofed "look outs" & "pepper boxes". It is kept
 in good repair & is a favorite promenade for his-
 torians & forms a fine feature in the landscape.
 This grass extends to the edge of the sea where

A substantial sea wall runs along
 the front & is continued for a mile or
 around the harbour. In one corner stand
 14 palms at the sea edge ~~at~~ at the base of the
 sea edge of the fort. Another group of pines
 the whole scene as good as any W. India delimit
 ed eyes. The city is a small one & the main
 street for shops Cobble-stoned & narrow, at parts
 of it so narrow that there is no side walk, so that
 one has to be on the alert to avoid carriages.
 In older times the city has been surrounded by
 strong walls but all that remains are the strong
 gateways, now, but a little beyond the fort.
 It is at present emphatically a place of modern
 hotels, & we are told that the average number of visitors
 in the season of three months, is ten thousand.
 The "Pome de Jean" is the finest in the world & it
 was opened for the season, with much pomp, Dec.
 last 1844. It is an immense building standing
 in beautiful grounds of the finest type of Moorish
 architecture. It was opened at 3 P.M. we got there
 before three hours & found the house at in part of

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of the Court filled with Carriages & the great semi
 circle in front of the iron Gate (a port-Cullis) crowded
 with well dressed people. Two play-holes, one at
 each ~~at~~ extreme of the semi-circle were manned
 with ropes in hand, & two men one at each side of
 the port-Cullis chains in hand till 3. o'p. struck
 when two guns were fired & up ran the flags
 & up lifted the great gate & we streamed into
 the Court, while a charming band played national
 airs. Ascending a broad flight of polished marble
 steps we reached the principal door of entrance
 & passed into a magnificent hall where soft
 light entered through stained glass windows &
 where every pillar - every cherub was a study in art.
 In the center of the hall is a large dome rising tier
 above tier & ballustrades at each floor so that
 guests can sit around them & view what is
 passing in the hall. Opposite this entrance door
 another broad flight of marble steps brings one
 to the dining room door. It is a long shaped room
 with high vaulted roof & semi-circular at each side
 something like this. It can accommodate seven hundred
 guests. It has four small rooms at the four corners

for private parties, or ladies travelling alone.
 The interior is also in Inuit style - soft rich Col-
 ouring & carving in such good taste & beautifully
 executed. The drawing screens or wall masks
 in style but luxurious & costly in all these
 appointments, & having many really good oil
 paintings on the walls. I cannot follow further
 in detail - but the whole is, if I mistake not, in the
 finest taste & ensemble I have seen. I saw other
 elegant hotels stands in this vicinity but
 none of them equal to the Lem Inuit for fine
 air & fine beer. The prices here are higher
 than at the Keeto so we have had to content
 ourselves with a small room but we
 are such poor friends that each try
 not to inconvenience the other so we are
 happy & content.

Just a few minutes before going to dinner
 Pappa received your letter of the 17th & immediately
 answered it. Gladly I began this letter to you
 but receiving one from George the hope of being

able to induce it by the "Majestic" of sailing
 on the 25th I dropped this to you. Now as
 I chancy paper has given you most of the
 news & probably duplicated some of the things
 I have said, I think it better to enclose
 this in its partially state. George says that
 in absence two weeks he hopes to be relieved
 from the pressure of work upon wh: he is now
 engaged, but does not say whether he
 is to accompany the Architects to Paris. so I
 wished to tell him our plans. were he to
 come say at the end of this month - our
 visit to Mr. Rogers - shd we go - wh^{ch} not I sh^d
 think be completed & nothing I perceiv^e wh^d induce
 him to follow us there, or perhaps as far as
 as we are at present - it is so difficult
 to arrange anything at this distance. I too
 have had a kind & reasonable letter
 fr: R. in wh: he does not fully commit him-
 self to Montreal, but speaks of it as a pos-
 sible thing - He says were George only a friend

I had a letter he wd. ask him to get
 him a berth on the ~~Commission~~ ~~Archduke's~~
 He delights in such affairs & is willingly
 tempted to every S. his position. I much wish
 to know when he may go to Montreal. I don't
 see anything there ought to detain him in
 England longer. As return to Mrs Keyes
 she has again renewed her invitation but
 is still detained at East Warrick while
 her Coll & says she sees no prospect of
 leaving for the week before early in Sept.
 We do not wish to remain here beyond the
 end of this month, however we shall
 see - the ~~Commission~~ start - viz: this to Milton, here
 wd. have to retrace our steps (at least) to
 Jacksonville. There are twenty other things
 I wanted to say but paper is wanting to
 have some Sunday evening. I have had
 so much other writing that it is quite bur-
 densome. I have not answered Miss Dunn
 nor written to Miss Wilson & other friends

in England & as per. nothing there is not
a half hour to be found per it. How I
scuff at at your suggestion to write a biography
I am aiding & criticizing paper as I trust can.
But I must stop.

Most affectionately

Mother

Sunday 22-