

1901

Williams, Mary E.

Susan Hale

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To Mrs  
Mary E. Williams  
Brownstown, Jamaica  
March 17. 1903

Dear Moiniech.

You are a dear girl to write me nice letters, and if I don't respond now it may be not at all, for I am actually beginning to wind up my affairs (and have only four pens left I can bear to use) Nelly wrote a fine account of your wedding, and also the Reformed Philip mentioned it in his (only) letter just received. Nelly says your mother was deeply sorry, — and I hear also favorable reports of her daughters, all her daughters. So now, Mamie, when you are married, I must be sure to see. This reminds me of dear Katy, and her wedding. I saw the death of old Mr. Caribbean Codman with great pleasure in a Transcrite Mrs. Olmstead had at Mandeville

Another or three or four on Great Mountain who with friends of notorious robbing country and away - away the sea, -  
I think about sunset Wednesday we came to the town of  
Sancti Nicolás & Santos, and road hedges with seals  
his illness, & Chishiana, where I saw with his typy was waiting;  
Saw the Board of Trade Office, who took us hence, & mounted up to  
Falmouth and Montego Bay. So that night I slept at one  
in the harbor of two Cockmans, "and poor horses set to hasten  
in Miss Mullins excellent boating, — my door open on an instant's  
warning (there was no window); outside, the full moon gleaming on a  
forest of banana groves that shone and glittered in a soft haze  
Only a sheet muslin gay in the morning. I had coffee taken a bath in my tub,  
and when I made a face at Condensed milk, a male dark chill naked  
with a coffee moccot and apparently caught and pushed a wild cow, he also  
came back with a bare pole (spade) ready to stop me like a tom-fool.

and I meant to write Katharine at once  
but while I was trying to decide whether  
to rejoice or weep with her, the time  
slipped by without writing at all.

- Jamaica has kept on being just  
as delightful. The climate suits me  
absolutely "~~All aches and pains forgot~~  
~~Whar' I fly~~"

[This has nothing to do with the hymn  
which it parodies] - My paddling is  
driving about in a buggy with all  
my lots and Paws about me. I am  
just off the crowning trip of all, -  
more than 100 miles, from days past  
beautiful and unusual country; that  
called the "Cock Pit Country" so snarly  
with hills and crags, ravines, <sup>a few</sup> swamps  
waterfalls precipitous ~~that~~, <sup>roads</sup> have  
been but lately wriggled through -

It started early in the mornin', David  
and me and the two mules, and had  
only coffee and bread (Jamaican butter is nasty)

Somewhere on the road I got the habit of buying little eggs from  
my carl boy Mr. Met, and white or blue changing horses at  
the rest place - Generally it's a pike in the road with a horse  
or two, I would get the big birds and a little salt one  
up in a bag, and some bread. At Port Antonio a man gave  
me six bananas. None for sale, but the country full of them.  
That day David and I cracked on up on rocks cutting along  
a banklike surprise path full by the side of a river that went  
bounding along with great tropical trees overhanging the stream  
hung with elephant ears (so trifling name) and great cords hanging  
down, and lots of monkeys. Oh now say what an <sup>white</sup> grand  
place with a bed, and perhaps a cup of tea, where  
David did not set the horses (changed from horses at ~~London town~~) -  
but nothing much eat till bedding at night.

To Miss Mary E. Williams.

Browns Town, Jamaica.  
March 17, 1903.

Dear Moinntch,

# # # Jamaica has kept on being just as delightful. The climate suits me absolutely. My passion is driving about in a Buggy with all my Pots and Pans about me. I am just off the Crowning Trip of all,--more than 100 miles, four days through beautiful and unusual country; that called the "Cock Pit Country" so snarly with hills and crags, ravines, swamps, waterfalls, precipices, that a few roads have been but lately wriggles through.

We started early in the mornings, David and me and the two mules, and had only coffee and bread (Jamaica butter is nasty). Somewhere on the road I got the habit of buying six eggs from any old Lady we met, and while we were changing horses at the next place consisting generally of a fork in the road with a house or two, I would get the eggs boiled and a little salt done up in a rag, and some bread. At Tombstone a man gave me six bananas, none for sale, but the country full of them. That day David and I cracked our eggs on rocks sitting above a beautiful Turquoise Water-fall by the side of a river that went brawling along with great tropical trees overhanging the stream hung with elephants ears (a twisting vine) and great cords hanging down, and Gobs of orchids. At noon very likely we found some place with a bed, and perhaps a cup of tea, where I rested while David took out the horses, (changed from mules at Tombstone) but nothing much to eat till Lodgings at night, and then we drove on again over great mountain tops with views of glorious rolling country and away-away the Sea! So finally about sunset Wednesday we came rolling down through beautiful arcades of Bamboo, and roads hedged with scarlet hibiscus, to Christiana, where Dan with his buggy was waiting; Dan the Brown's Town driver, who took me hence, 2 months ago to Falmouth and Montego Bay. So that night I slept secure in the keeping of two "Coachmans", and four horses out to pasture in Miss Mullin's excellent lodgings,--my door open on an upstairs verandah (there was no window); outside, the full moon gleaming on a forest of Banana fronds that shone and rustled in a soft breeze (only a sheet nind you). In the morning I had coffee (after a bath in a big tub) and when I made a face at condensed milk, a small dark child rushed into a coffee thicket and apparently caught and milked a wild cow, for she came back with a pail full (boiled). Next day Dan brought me here 30 miles. The whole village came out to greet my return. It's a dear little place, and besides, a convenient gete on this tour which was planned for me by experts. I am resting here (reculer pour mieux sauter) for my race is nearly run in Jamaica. On Thursday I drive 30 miles, then by train from Ewarton to Spanish town, thence rail to Kingston, thence drive across the Island to Annotto Bay and finally Port Antonio, where I want to stop awhile before sailing for home. Probably I shall take "Watson" the S. S. I came in from Philadelphia April 14th, but things nautical and Jamaica are so uncertain, it may not be Watson and it may not be Philadelphia and it may not be the -- 14th. Anyhow it will be Arthur's, Baltimore, by April 20th or thereabouts; and I want to open the Matunuck House May 1st--I want to go there, shed my trunk,--my winter clothes are smashed to an unused pulp at the bottom of it, and my summer clothes are in Rags. Then I want to come to Thorndike to refit, and press all your hands

and have you see me with my fine Jamaica bloom on me. The dust,  
and eke the water here, are so red that my skin is also, and my  
hair a delicate auburn.

All of which, dear, if all goes well, will soon be happening.  
I have had a lovely winter, but begin to hanker for "folks", and I  
am always your loving

Susan.

She is a good soul indeed, a simple talker, but with plenty of silence.  
The husband is a gentle, mild man, with a taste for drawing, ~~but~~  
who can be agreeable when his wife gives him a chance. He  
has just given me a pretty poem about Guanacaste he wrote yesterday.  
— She has been leaving the ~~and~~ <sup>delight</sup> after seeing three species of absolute  
excellence from the book and of course <sup>various</sup> communication with Nature (and change).  
Dr. Woodbury, Dr. Rice & Prof. Knobell, the ever so Mockingbird, never to  
see, & thinking a right, or more, or much at each other place, he  
waited for them (and then  
my fine ladies are  
leaving the sea port, & I am to  
that is Philadelphus or the Rd. of Phil. St. & while until  
Arthur in Washington — open ~~Washington~~ — when you know get back of the ground — &  
come later & return when you know get back of the ground — &  
see about yours and theirs. Dear Jessie, one of the things I think  
of oftenest (there's a poor Mother in my mind) makes me have a nice  
time with it is trying to accompany. I suspect & don't know, and =

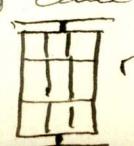
You will not  
get this in time  
until we go  
down to see  
Addams Arthur's  
1333 Eastland Street Washington or Matunich Rd.  
My dearest and only Morimitch

Susans Room, Malvern,  
March 7. 1904. Tues. 10°

I had a funny time last night  
so I will write you about it. We'll  
make a change upon my everlasting  
Coconut-Palm- and Casuarina which  
I am sure you are all tired of.

The Spring Rain has begun, and already  
the mornings are Rapturous, like now  
almost every afternoon or half showers.

Yesterday it rained till 5, and I got  
back from afternoon tea in the Heat House  
before it began; then it poured, not drops  
but sheets from every quarter of the sky,  
away out over the Caribbean, curtains  
of mist, and far back on the mountains.  
I'm in my little Stone House by itself  
set up on its stone foundation, with a  
flight of outside stone steps to come in,  
The windows are great frames  
<sup>glassed</sup> like this that turn on a skid



The result was that I cut & stored hay ~~in~~ with  
straw, and figure this, as cabbage and turnips, and  
afterwards Herring Island Peeling, all of which I ate of my candle  
fat a big swall down and then returned to my pillow. The straw  
was on and Moon shining & hot time - but it ended soon  
a by lightning bushes I sat on the big house in all the stop.  
= The only people here are Mr. <sup>or</sup> ~~or~~ Chancy and his wife Martha Mrs. Fitch  
and Mr. and Mrs. is miles away directly, and South.

in the middle of the sash. They are  
covered with dark green Cawdrie, so when  
they are shut it's dark inside (like blinds).  
They don't shut so very tight, the rain  
gets through the cracks, and under the  
front door, and dripped down on the roof  
of the veranda, wind beat the rain  
in, thundered <sup>into</sup> and flashed of lightning  
flew like a storm at sea in a  
catboat with battened-down hatches. When  
it became pitch-dark, with no attempt  
at a sunlit, I concluded the best  
thing to do was to undress and get into  
bed, for altho' it was a cold here,  
it was decidedly damp, what you might  
call clammy, and I thought it would  
be more interesting with my candle  
lighted to describe the gloom; so I watched  
at the front door, and called down to  
Henry & tell me if I was sent coming over to  
Annie that I was sent coming over to  
dress, and didn't want any, and was  
going to bed there. This was about  $6\frac{1}{2}$   
The bed was nice and <sup>warm and</sup> comfortable. But  
when Henry heard this, she came  
stomping over & say I never have dinner, &

Brown's Town, Dec 23. 1905

7 a.m. '05. But address  
United Fruit Co

Port Antonio  
Jamaica P.W.I.

Dear Mamie,

Who shall have today my

lungs Morning song but you after  
good letter which came yesterday!

Give my love to Carla. Tell her how  
long I am feeling for her and them all;  
girls with them but not just this  
minute. Wasn't it strange that the

new baby ~~came at the same time~~

It delightful & think Mr. Atkinson  
had his Scotland trip, and time & think  
had it over, and talk about it, in full health.

The sun is just rising over the ~~edge~~  
of my bowl, and the Coverings (or something)  
must be waking up. They live 

just on the rim of it, up   
there, and I see the <sup>sun</sup> light striking them  
before it gets & shining down here on me

I think of you Mother except there flowers and pens. When she and love them.

alright my thermometer says 70°. - But at the Harbor it used  
to say 80° in the night. I can know Smokey a great deal  
with my thermometer, and it seems true in bed this  
morning, that Smokey calls my age, right its 70° Fahrenheit.  
Only Dr. Cuthbertson, don't you think so? He was very friendly

- At Dr. Hartman says used to have without a word exchanged  
except with Mrs. Smith and the Captain's little cat. Here  
here there are people, - admires; - in the first place my friend  
Dr. Hartner, who is really a cultivated Jewish man; he is an  
old man, very much like the time. Judge Cole. (English)

both some day [with Brown] be agreeable. No Dr. Holt, English character -  
No at Hartner, bushy hair, has a cold black



The little Brown's Town is a bowl  
Dawn reading Henry's Golden Bough by  
the way but at the rate of one  
sentence, i.e. a page, a week, & light  
between each, ~~lined~~ with Banana  
Trees and churches; and my "lodging"  
is down in the bottom of it with  
weighty going by. - Early inhabitants to  
open their little shops, children on  
errands, very likely with logs  
of wood on their heads, and  
very straight little backs, a  
small boy, with no special clothes  
on but a crush felt hat, carrying  
somebody's breakfast somewhere else on  
a tray. - I am taking my coffee and  
Below me in  
mauve in our verandah. The sun's yard  
a tall pole is festooned with morning glory of  
deepest blue (more than cobalt) It looks a  
little too much like a Christmas card. If it  
decorates the sign of the "Hotel and Liverp."

I told you all things being upside down, when I saw the first time  
but the aptitude is never coming back, all the more for expecting it.  
It's kind of inexplicable, the charm of little Brown's Town, to  
it having any glories like my last place, or any new ones.  
It just geniuslike - in fact it is unpredictable ever. While  
cannot be easily said of any Harbor. Oh heavens! My Bed  
there. I don't know but mention it - Local news I gave <sup>you</sup> ~~you~~ the P.O.  
to write, my excellent mail which comes right here at your place.  
Brought by a pale brown man, has a little form for Excellent Mail  
which, when I call "Mail," describes the contents in my late long  
alone affectionate In a great wind, I put it down - It is cooler  
here, which I don't quite like. Can out of chilly this minute. (though  
the sun with a rose along.)

Oh a plenty of them. I am afraid they  
will invite me & traps, but they  
haven't begun yet. At present I  
have not stored out of my "lard"  
since arrived last Tuesday noon  
in my Buggie driving from Dry Harbour.  
But they say I must go to Market  
& today, Saturday before Christmas, <sup>with</sup>  
all the Dark World abroad - at  
X~~o~~ twelve, noon. to drink grace.

They <sup>the Dark's</sup> began to celebrate, just  
like on 4th of July, with untiringly  
crackers like light and strange  
bellows, and mistletoe is brought  
in from the wood to decorate us, and  
there is a Turkey shot up and patterning.

= I have such nice letters from my  
family that I feel quite easy about  
them. In the first place, Pa has taken  
part in the regular Sundays, and good  
national letters with real information in them  
not only "Love is the whole" as the boys would say.

Then Arthur is there, right with them, and he has written me  
a splendid letter taking each member by the hand & explaining  
his a her circumstances - You know we were worried about  
Ma Hale last summer, and that worried Parke, which worried  
Hely, which worried Abby (Mrs Clark) which -- put me and  
Arthur on the War Path, and we have since been labouring  
for a certain serenity which seems & has fallen upon them  
Sybil had an establishment of her own near Baltimore, and  
is to receive with the Matrons of Mrs Mason's Dancing Class in  
Philadelphia. - So I don't see but dear go on eating  
my Maus in Peace for the present. Then a good letter  
from Sally Church. They went in Miss Moto & Key. in 4½ hours.  
Polly Weston is happy as Kings and Queens. Just now  
would write me more about the Hale game when the matronised  
a party. Goodby dear Nannie with my wife, & wife again. Your affec

So ~~unfortunate~~ ~~had~~ on the arrival of the ~~late~~ ~~Mrs.~~ ~~Martha~~  
who, I am one, will have down the face  
of her mother ~~and grandmother~~ for health  
and cheer - By the way, did it rather  
smart of Ruth & Florrie a bride you have been?  
Not a word have I given Louis and Sally, but you have  
better than nothing. How Louis would hate his wife!  
I am curious about Carla "Floridiana", how will she come?  
But it promises some ~~very~~ <sup>nothing</sup> - See their  
apartment in New York a dance - has not Ruth ~~now~~  
~~attached~~. Now may we see you all and share in your  
things - I have been trying against old age ~~wishes~~ <sup>set in</sup>! ~~and~~ <sup>it's hot</sup>  
hit now John <sup>when does not get home</sup> and a  
portion from Misericordia. A man has bought me ~~broken~~ <sup>old</sup> tongue sandwich

NEW YORK 10<sup>th</sup>  
I was the only ~~breakfaster~~ at our  
long table this morning. It was kind  
rough and wobbly in the right.  
I think I must tell you about our  
leaving on Wednesday, the Dahabeh -  
Layfellow, their maid, Mr. Early,  
in his room, party & finish, and  
partly to hear our dear sailors  
& ourselves, as the Ls took no silent  
leave. We shook hands with  
them all on their lower deck. They  
adore Evelyn, she has been very nice  
about turbans, backsheesh, tobacco, &c  
while Shan amused them greatly  
by my native dances - 10 sailors,  
the Reis the 9<sup>th</sup> Rais, the Kubra  
Cook, the Cook boy, Bedreddin, the  
waiter, - Mahomed, the singer -  
all those in red turbans with  
eyes, gleaming teeth, - came up the  
bank after us and crowded round the

Carriage, while Saleh, the Magician, interpreted for us.  
"Saleh" <sup>said I</sup> tells them we love them all. "A shout arose  
from them - they touched their foreheads, some say there  
were tears in Yellow Jackets' eyes. My Mohamed Saeed  
a sweet boy with slender buff legs, who always need  
a true tight. crossing the gang plank or going to see  
Gentles, had departed with the Freaks. - but I had  
him afterward in the Hotel, and gave him 20 piastres. He  
is about 16, and has a wife and 2 children - We  
shall miss these creatures, they are children, so simple. -  
I take them our toys which we have played with all  
winter, and now they are put back in their Box. I think  
of putting George Jones, Lordy's spouse, into turban and yowee;  
wouldn't you? -

Speaking of Davis, I'm sure he has dug up Queen Tis  
the mother in law of something of Amunetek II, a great  
find, with a Chariot in excellent condition, a  
tablet with conversation on it, all manner of things -  
It is said that Theodore fainted 3 times with excitement  
(or more likely the hot air) when he first entered the traps  
he hasn't seen them since this glory came on them -  
They are now <sup>coming</sup> down the river, but walking round as we  
did probably in adverse winds. You know Theodore very  
well of course. He calls me "Aunt Hasan" and is a  
good fellow. He calls him Theodore -  
occasional fit, talk him Theodore -  
But isn't it interesting about No, the Mississippist. I  
hope she is a nice girl. Her mother was exceedingly, if  
I hear for her right in my memory. Dear Gladys -

Mail this by Garlick; but he goes  
days or departing rather suddenly, and  
I have been seeing him off for half an  
hour, so now I will take a new leaf.]  
You know we are miles from R.R.s. and  
lofty leaves in a Calyall called Biggs,  
with mules strapped on behind, bunches  
basket tops, two mules, and David or  
Jacky & dice. There is a great deal  
of standing round waiting for the beneficiary  
& come out and shake hands. This  
reminds me of Natick, where Merty  
says, "Well, Susie wants to get rid of  
us as we may as well start." Poor  
old Garlick, it's delightful to have him  
gone; but he was Pathetic all the same.  
Since that I have been reading over  
your letter again, dear. In the we lots of  
things. That American actress must  
be interesting. If she is from the Pacific Coast  
and not the Middle West, her voice is  
likely to be melodious, and her accent,  
emancipation and pro-ditto, (I have no  
skill in spelling these qualities) attractive.

Oh, Mamie, wasn't it terrible about Sam. I am so glad (since I could  
do nothing) that I didn't know about it till it was passed.  
But I hate to ever feel that he has been suffering so; the dear  
long suffering boy. I wrote them at once but have heard nothing.  
In fact I've starved for letters this year. Miss Aunt  
Lucetia's garrulous pen so much. She used at least to  
acknowledge my letters, and take an interest in my doings -  
The Hales are so absorbed in their Senator and sick, that  
much as ever they write at all, though Parke is very good about  
observing the Sabbath with a letter & me which generally  
gets posted in the course of the week. But to do his  
justice he has (lately) sent me a thrilling account of Arthur's  
proceeds in the Baltimore fire. I am rejoiced that Kelly is in  
a good place, keeping house, giving tea, making calls, doing the whole town  
&c. instead of making up <sup>and down</sup> those stairs between her Model and the  
telephone at all hours. Her flat is on the ground floor. Bad but bring  
Susan.