

Anderson, Alexander T

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P. O. BOX 366
DELRAY BEACH
FLORIDA

December 9, 1929.

My dear Colleague and Friend:

Your welcome letter of Oct. 30th, from Sevilla, was not answered at first for two reasons: because I had entered into correspondence with both the Hon. Alexander P. Moore, Ambassador to Peru and the Atlantic Monthly Co. of Boston relative to our MSS and I wished to report on them and then both my dear invalid and I have been very sick with a touch of Grippe. I am now better but she has been much prostrated and of course lost ground. I feel most anxious about her.

Mr. Moore has not replied to my appeal for help to secure a publisher. Perhaps he sailed for Lima before my letter reached Washington where he was staying. I addressed him care of the State Dept., so he should ultimately receive the letter. The Atlantic people have just written me and I enclose for you a copy of their letter to read. Now I am going over the poor MSS and recopying some soiled pages preparatory to sending it to them. You note they promise to return it or report within a month. So there is nothing better to do. But, permit me to say, the expense of so much correspondence and sending of MSS is enormous. And it is my hard luck to be here in Florida where the distances are so great it will cost at least a dollar each way for the traveling expenses of the MSS, perhaps more as it was almost that from Washington. The way of selling a literary work is in fact a thorny road and one

suffers many deaths before a hard earned success which I still hope will come to us at last. But I am quite ready to declare that this is the last time I shall ever be willing to negotiate with publishers for a translation. I will most gladly do the work for personal remuneration. But never again try to sell it. Original work is bad enough. But this is too hard. Miss Grant never wrote me a word. Did she ever communicate with you? She owed it to you to at least exonerate herself from absolute failure to redeem her promise. To me she owed nothing personally but we writers usually demonstrate some small courtesy to each other. And I expected her to send some word of excuse.

I am glad you liked the last of my work and you will pardon my discouragement over the hard delays. My anxiety over my darling child and the great demands on my slender purse all combine to increase any disappointment and weaken my own powers of endurance.

Your account of the Exposition is most interesting. I believe more people would have planned to visit it but just before it opened all the papers in this country published reports that all hotels and inns and railroads would put on exorbitant charges for the Exposition. One journal said even the small country places in Spain would charge prohibitive rates for the plainest lodging and fare. So that discouraged some people of my acquaintance and must have influenced many more. Too bad for such beauty deserved wider patronage.

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This is a quiet, dull little place but the Beach is very lovely: miles of blue ocean rolling in over yellow sands, with waving palms, feathery pines, red hibiscus and beautiful bougainvillea. Palm Beach is 18 miles away and the drive there is beautiful, along the ocean all the way. The climate is a bit too warm for my taste but better than the cold winter of Washington. We have a nice little cottage a mile from the Beach and a neighbor High School boy drives Mary down every morning for 25 cts. a day. She has lunch there and I join her about 1 and we walk home together about 5 p.m. But for the past week my illness pulled me down so that I cannot walk the mile so kind friends have been driving us back. We are the only one in town who have no automobile I believe. Oranges, pineapples and tropical fruits and vegetables abound and living is about as high as at home. Last week we went to Palm Beach and it was very strange to see all the vast hotels closed, the season does not open until January. All that splendour and pomp dead; it was like seeing the Palace of the Sleeping Beauty, held in the bonds of sleep awaiting the Prince to waken it.

Please accept our best wishes for the Blessed Season of Pascua. May the Madre Santisima take you under Her care and give you what you desire. Think of us sometimes and pray that my dear child may improve. My heart is very heavy!

God bless you!

Your devoted friend,

Alexandra K. Anderson