

May Snyder

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Stanley Pool Leopoldville Africa Mar 9th / 1903

My dear, dear friend

Yesterday in unpacking a box, my copying book came to hand, and on opening it found a letter commenced for you, and never sent, how this ever occurred I do not know, but determined to finish it to day, and send it trusting it will reach you. Although our voyage was pleasant in so many ways, still apart from my dear husband's society I had no companion in Margaret, some times when Dr Witt was absorbed in reading or writing I would sit with them on deck for an entire afternoon, and she would not address one word to me, or to her husband either for that matter. But that, and the long wearisome journey around the Falls is over, & we are now quietly resting here and waiting for a Steamer to take up to Leebo. We were 23 days coming from Matadi here, I detained them about two days at the Baptist Mission at Bangamantika, with the fever, we all had it but Margaret, and just now she thinks she is in a condition that renders it unlikely that she will give her time to anything else. I hope it will prove a false alarm, for every-body's sake. Dr Sims says we may have to wait here until June for a Steamer, failing one then we cannot get up to Leopoldville until Oct! only think dear Mrs Griffith we have now been seven months from Fla, and still have not reached

destination. I can only say of that journey of 250 miles around the Falls, that I sincerely wish every Mission Board could send out some one of their Board to take it, for they would appreciate their helpers as they never could otherwise. However we never saw a wild beast of any kind, no snakes, and very few birds. But it was like mising every day, put up tents at night, eat a badly cooked supper, then to bed so tired, it was near morning before sleep came, then a hasty breakfast, pack up and start on again. It was tiresome enough lying in the hammock in one position for from three to five & sometimes seven hours during a day, but Oh how much harder for the dear ones who had to walk it. Mr. B. had the fever when we left Natadi, so he had to use the spare hammock men, and therefore he escaped the hardest part of the journey, those terrible Palla Balla hills, but no doubt you will read a description of it in the Journal. We are all well at present, and trust most fervently that you all are.

We saw a "Christian Observer" two days ago, in which we read that the dear little church at Tampoai was in want of a pastor, my friend said we say we were shocked! we have known for some time that there was considerable disaffection there, but could not place it. We hoped that all would come out right in the end, as we know it will in any case dear Mr. & I'll dear Daisy Dean I think of her, and her dear little letters so often, and wish if ever possible to

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to me to write just as often, and as much as I want
to but with my letter costing 10 ¢ it is pretty expensive
still I will try to do my very best. To tell them all just
to keep on loving, trusting, and paying for us.

All the dearests, Mr & Mrs Petty, Bertie & Mrs J. Mrs M. Mrs
Baugh, Mrs Mrs Campbell, all the Carrithers, also
Mrs Finlay. Kiss all the dear children for us many
times. Ask dear Daisy to give my warm love to all
the dear "May flowers." I have so much I want to
write about but cannot now. Now my friends will
be asking too much for a letter just as soon as you
can? they are so much to us out here, and not very
much to you, once a month or two is not much, is
it dear? Have had one from Mrs P. Bertie, Mrs Fuller
and Mr Seymour since coming to Stanley Pool.

We are housekeeping here, with a house of three rooms
between us, we each have a native boy to help us, and
do our cooking, and O how much patience is needed
with them, poor boys how my heart aches to talk with
them, they are all under Christian influence here. Margaret's
boy is named N. Kundo, mine is N. Condo. It seems almost
impossible to teach them to be cleanly, especially about the
cooking, but I hope to be able to help them a little by constant
example. De Witt joins me in warm love to you all, he
has written two letters to D. G., and would like very
much to hear from him. May God be with you in all
that may have come to you since we last met, and surely
we do know that He will care for His own.

Lovingly your friend May Snyder.