

THE WORKS OF FRANCIS J. GRIMKÉ

Edited by

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Letters

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Matthew Anderson to Francis J. Grimké

New York, Aug. 16th, 1921, on board Sleeper

Dear Grimké:

Here we are in the metropolis of the world, having arrived 2:15, I was up and dressed by half past six, Phila. time. Most of the passengers of our sleeper are still wrapped in the arms of sleep. I have just aroused my little. She was dazed, didn't know where she was, commenced to talk rather loud, when I shook her telling her she had better get up before the crowd. We will take breakfast in the depot, then take taxi to our boat. I am greatly refreshed, and I feel sure we are going to have the time of our lives.

Grimké I want you to take my place while in my house. Direct as you know I would. Tell Dr. Jackson that he and his son are perfectly welcome to stay at my house as long as he may be disposed. It would be a fine thing if he would remain as long as you will. You will be good company for each other. Be sure and show Brother Jackson over the School.

Tell every one of my guests I want them to enjoy themselves to the full, not to be stiff, to take off their coats and collars, throw their feet up on the table, tell yarns and enjoy good hearty laughs.

Write Margaret a letter. I am sorry I could not talk to her longer.

Tell good by to all the people of my church, give them my love. Tell them I am thinking about and praying for them.

Good by old friend till we meet again.¹

Blanche joins me in love to you and all, as ever,

Matthew Anderson

¹ Anderson, at this time, was on his honeymoon, taking a trip to the West Indies and Latin America. He had just married the second time. On this trip he combined pleasure with profit. He longed to see the Panama Canal, and he desired to know more about the relations obtaining there between the races. He had heard much about those conditions, but he now desired to secure first-hand information. Negro leaders believed that they might do something to improve the condition of Negroes in the Canal Zone, but they must first have the real facts in the case. This traveler would supply their need. There was little doubt that citizens of the United States in taking charge of things in the Canal Zone had transplanted to that place their usual race prejudice and its concomitant segregation; but the question now was the extent to which they had gone in this direction. Negroes were especially anxious not to have race prejudice extend too far into Latin America among people who had so long practiced democracy. That same question deeply concerns the Negroes of the United States today.