

Santo Domingo, 4 Jan 1923

My dear George,

I read your 19<sup>th</sup> ultimo, with great pleasure. I reciprocate your good wishes for the New Year – may you and your dear Ones be blessed with prosperity, good health & in a word, of all sorts of felicities, that we mortals can be endowed not only for 1923, but the many that may be allotted to them & you, by the Power above us. I see with great sorry the impossibility for me to visit my old “Home” for some time, as, so far my plans have not matured. Seems to me, that this country is cursed – it has riches buried under the earth — & great fertility on its surface, but for some reasons, all fail. The principal cause lies upon its inhabitants, that are envious to see foreigners succeed — & to prevent such results, put all kinds of obstacles in the road, that they fail to receive compensation, become disquieted & withdraw from this field. The war, the low prices for these staple products as sugar, tobacco, Cacao — hardwoods – has put this Republic in penury. They export less in net value – then they import – therefore balance is against them, besides the large sums they are compelled to remit, monthly for interest etc. (over \$250,000) — drains the country of ready Cash – This sum leaves no interest & settlement made yearly. All these mixed breeds, Pan American States, are cursed by not knowing what economy means – They spend, not thinking that a day of settlement shall come — Look at Cuba, & even Puerto Rico. Politicians are in power for lucre – There exist no Patriotism. Any Nation, having any negro blood in their veins, are not fit for self gov’t, they have not the least idea of what are the real obligations of citizenship — They don’t know the difference between true personal Liberty and licentiousness — by these words, I reply to your question put to me, in one of your letters. All such political or religious societies — are detrimental & prejudicial to progress — These may begin or start with laudable aims — but, by time, degenerate to all Kinds of abuses. In my youth, I was an active member of the K.K.K., White League & other societies — all were necessary — as, we had to protect our race against the obnoxious levies of Congress & Republican Party. We had to defend our “Homes” against the negroes — lately our slaves — We were in the great

minority — We had to kill, create fear to that race — & we did succeed — but, by time, the said societies were employed for personal vengeance, benefit & what not — & the good element, little by little withdrew. How often did I risk my life, for my race, for my home. How many of my companions were Killed — but I never regretted what I did & must be today again ready to take in my hands, my gun.

These were times of excitement — for us it was great “fun” — It was at times very funny — laughable — “The poor Jew” — that we got, one night & we put a rope over his neck — to make him speak — trembled — & in his fear he bellowed — “Jesus Christ save me.” And many other cases — but, others was terrible — Let that sad dream — be forgotten. Although many years have passed, it’s better to remain mum. These K.K.K. of these days, are a menace to our institutions, should be suppressed. I admire the stand taken by your Governor — fine — I read about his movements with great pleasure & if I be living in N. O. would be with him, heart & soul. I know many of my old companions, must be alongside of me. But alas! How many have gone to join the “Great Majority”. The Catholics are with these vagabonds & in some states, some Episcopalians — first cousins of Rome.

Our Congress, legislatures lost a great deal of time, to throttle this viper or a dragon that aim to trample upon on Constitution — upon Religious Liberty. We will succeed, with time to destroy these gangs of rascals.

It is far better, not to have excitements as I went through — far better to have Peace - quiet. There are so many great things these days, for the good of humanity. I always look upon Justice, Honesty — & to keep these moving right, gives sufficient excitement. Am having ?? days now here.<sup>2</sup> As we will have lots of worries — if some tendencies that some rascals here try to create. We will have assassinations, too, if these vagabonds are not gagged — They hate our people — they hate everyone that opposed their nefarious acts — & I flatter myself, that I am heard with respect — having a large full-following — nonpolitical. Well, this letter is quite long — will next time, if you are

interested in my words — continue. Extend my best wishes to your parents & all your dear Ones — would like to read a few lines from your sister — the graduate of “the College.”

Your old uncle

Emile

(appears to be post script)

Do hope that the young couple shall enjoy their trip — One learns so much traveling — May they be happy. But, a fruit never drops far from the tree. Good example you all have had your Parents! That tells.

(left margin) You have glaring examples in our dear family — like father, like son — few exceptions to the rule — blood will tell, alas.

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