



AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Lagos, Nigeria; February 19, 1943

L-244

Dear Mr. Campbell:

As you know, Philinda has arrived and the great day of our wedding is now almost two weeks in the past. It was a happy day for me when news came that the ship on which she was traveling was approaching the harbor and would be inside shortly. I then spent an uncomfortable hour or so in the offices of the Barber Line waiting to find out where the ship would anchor and for the tug to arrive. Finally we chugged down the harbor, a dirty, tiny boat with an enormous American flag whipping out behind, and reached the ship. That was quite a moment, I assure you. It was some time before we regained consciousness.

I will leave it to Philinda to tell the rest of the story, about how we struggled with the customs and local lack of transportation trying to get her baggage here in time for the ceremony (we succeeded), about selecting the ring in the shop of a native goldsmith and all the other details. Now, as happily married people, we are getting down to work. Philinda is going after her new job with a will and showing that intelligence of which you are justly so proud. I think it would have been a great mistake for her not to take a job here, for there is very little else a woman can do here. The house boys do all the house work and cooking, and, although they require some supervision, it is hardly enough to occupy the full time of an active woman. Then, too, all the women without exception in Lagos work; it is considered a part of the war effort, and if we hadn't been able to employ Philinda at this office, she would have had no difficulty at all finding work elsewhere. In fact, British Airways sounded her out within three days of her arrival. It may be harder to adjust to not working after the war, but by that time we expect to be in a different place where the situation will doubtless be different.

So far everything has gone smoothly in our personal relations, and we seem to be adapting ourselves to life together very nicely. Of course it is too early to say anything about the long run, but we both feel that "everything's going to be all right". We love each other very much indeed; our getting together has been a long hard struggle, and I think we mean more to each other for it. ^{Just for me} ~~Alifetime~~ ^{is} hardly long enough to compensate her for all she has been through.

Please write me often; I greatly appreciate the sound advice you have given me and would like more. Warmest regards to you and Mrs. Campbell.

Sincerely, *Bill*