My dear Spencer,

I am getting the Scenery plates done the same as the boat. The map is nearly complete and will be sent out as soon as finished.

I was rather surprised yesterday to get a letter from the Director of the Natural History Branch of the British Museum acknowledging the receipt of a number of shells from me from Central Australia — the only conclusion I can come to is that some member of the party has been trying to get an unfair advantage over the others probably with a view to FRS — However, I am going to call there tomorrow and see what it all means — The
You mentioned I was coming the next week. You are to write to me of the boiling all the colonists are not yet. I am not well and I expect to die soon. I am living with my father and mother in London. I have heard of all your letters and I think of you every day. I remember your last letter. I have not received your last letter. I am very sorry. I am detained by circumstances beyond my control. I hope to be with you soon. I will write to you soon.
I quite forgot to tell you some time ago that having had a son born since my arrival in England I have called him Spencer. I don't know whether you will include him among the new species of Reptilia.