Melbourne, Feb. 23, 95.

My dear Home,  

I have just got back again from Charlotte Waters after a warm somewhat exciting trip but have got some very good things and in a better position to write on certain points than when we came back in August last.

A most precious after the rainy season.

The contrast between the country now when we passed through especially on our return journey is something marvellous.

Along the Macumbaester the water is lying about everywhere:

The billa and fayder were both running for a time but of course by the time that the rains at the Strangways was replenished.

I could put up things were getting comparatively dry again.

I got a happy at Dodudatta with 5 horses got through to Charlotte Waters in four days as the roads were rather washed away or very
hearty or five I thought it likely that we should not get there at all.

My most important addition to our animals is a marsupial—the size of a big rat—which I fancy is a new genus. So is a good fund—also I secured a good female Hystrix temela, a
gigotated bandicoot (Chirogus carinatus—the native Tabarua which you may remember that we were anxious to secure on the expedition but could not as it is now getting very rare) together with other new or rare forms.

Also I added to my knowledge of the frogs.

So far I have sent you the lists available. I am sorry that you
fell deliriously at not getting them earlier but I think that if you
could consult such men as are further the
head of the Zoological Dept. of the British Museum at S.K. he will tell you that
you could not possibly have expected
them earlier. The annual collection had, in fact, all to be distributed to various of the different groups as no one man could pretend to identify those belonging to more than one or two groups at most. They have been distributed as follows:

- Birds — A. F. North in Sydney.
- Orthoptera — J. G. O. Tepper at Adelaide.
- Hymenoptera (ants etc.) — Mr. J. W. Kirkby at London.
- Crustacea — W. B. Spencer.
- Amphibia — W. B. Spencer.
- Mammalia — W. B. Spencer.
- Mollusca — W. B. Spencer.

Those marked with an asterisk you have had either complete or nearly complete lists already — that is they were dispatched to you at the expiration of four months from the distribution of the annuals from Melbourne. Anyone acquainted with the difficulty of the work will probably tell you that this is both useful work.
As to full reports which include
of necessity in the case of my sections
drawings of the animal - you will
easily understand that this cannot be
really done yet. In my own case
I have spent all available time on the
work since we returned and know that others
have done the same. A decent drawing
of a fly way will take at least a
day's hard work or it may be longer
and a manuscript colored will occupy
a good deal more time. This trip
up to the Charlotte Waters has of course
occupied a month of my two-month's
vacation which has of course thrown me
back somewhat but in the end it will
result in making my part of this log not
a little better than the
delay which it has caused.

I am extremely sorry that you should
feel at all dissatisfied. Personally the
work of the expedition has - apart from my
university work - occupied all my thoughts
ever since your letter has acted somewhat
as a 'damper'. You say 'if you
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will send the complete report.

later. Also, I will get the whole thing done here or get a good man to do it.

In your absence at home, we have of course been working under considerable difficulties. I need hardly say that I fully realize of course that you must see the report. I had of them value before incurring any expenses in publication, but I was so much hoping that you would have seen them out here.

The difficulty in my own case is this. A full report such as I hoped to draw up on the fauna of the Central desert region generally will entail or rather in entail a great amount of work not only in regard to letters, but also in the matter of drawings. How, otherwise, I draw up such a report? Some scientist to whom you also at home suggests the omission of a considerable part of it or of a number of drawings or supplying that...
I am not yet justified in going to the expense of reproducing all the letterpress, as my time has simply been thrown away. I have so much publishing work about me that I must confess that such a result would not be pleasant as it would mean so much waste time.

Again, I must confess to not liking the idea of anyone editing my work without my careful revision, especially with letterpress and plates. The latter, especially, I very much desire to have drawn under my own supervision; the work can be done quite as well and I think quite as cheaply (except in letterpress with regard to the reproduction of photographs) out here as at home.

If you finally decide to publish at home could you allow me (1) to correct proofs of letterpress out here before they finally go to press + (2) to have the plates of animals drawn out here under my supervision. I will g
come send reports to you as soon as possible. Write the details
I will send an estimate of the cost of drawing on stone. Quantities
of copies can be so that you can decide in respect of them what you
think is best to do.

I trust that you will excuse
my writing frankly what I feel but
your decision to have the book edited
at home with the result of reports
of which we shall be individually
unfamiliar, more or less mangled
in which we have a say in the
manner of

In the matter of

in the matter of

the decision to which you come

in the world of course guide us in the
account we publish but if you do
not see your way to publishing the
foregoing report with drawings in full
as sent to you, I should like after
knowing to what expense you think it
right to go to determine what shall or
what shall not be published.

I would also like to make a sugesti-
with regard to the book that is that if be issued as is frequently done in parts with paper covers each part dealing with one or more sections having its own price. There are for example many science workers who would like to have the geological part without having to purchase the geological & zoological parts. Each part could be separately bound which would save a considerable amount of time in publication as the different parts of the work could be going on simultaneously.

A very convenient size so far as plates is concerned is that of the Proceedings of the Geological Society (London).

In Adelaide I endeavoured to see Shirley Wattie but being late on any return I don’t understand Wattie not writing to you for I know that he has been very hard at work in the Palaeography & Ornithology since returning. Wurmech has pretty well done his work his work looks splendid. He has also drawn a very interesting diagram illustrating
Feb. 23rd.

The temperature, barometer readings, and direction of the wind daily during the expedition, which will be of meteorological value.

As you have heard little of the expedition, I am writing you a rough account of it so far as I can account for. I am able to tell you pretty fully through a few geological notes, but I have few botanical notes. It will be difficult in this respect.

I trust that the negatives have reached you safely before this, and are giving decent prints. They were packed as carefully as possible, but I rather feared to trust them to the shipping about which they are put. I am sure to get on the way home, and shall be glad to hear that they are not harrassed. At the Challice the time I told a few days to.

It was too hot and windy to do much walking, and at other times the flies and mosquitoes were too tormenting or the sand too thick to see. Before did his very best for us, as helped us in every possible way.
way since we returned in August.
Costa's letters have come on everything sent
me good things down.

I send you by this mail a brief account of
the two new marsupials which, so as to secure
priority, I published in our Royal Society, and
also a brief account of the new lizard, published
in the same reason.

As I told you
previourly, so many things are now being sent
down that if we do not publish just enough
to secure priority, we shall find ourselves forecasted
when the book comes to be printed.

Also I have written twice to "Nature" once
about the marsupials, once about the so-called
"barking spiders" as there have been some
remarks made about this in the press.

I am glad to hear that you have
been Balfour at the Pitt Rivers Museum. He
is a first rate man in his work, and I trust
that a good series of specimens will go home to
Oxford as in the one ethnological collection
which is arranged so as to give a real idea of
what the subject may teach. Along with
my sister I too expect. I send you short
accounts of black ceremonial called from fallen
of whom I saw much during my stay at the Alice. The notes collected by him after carefully working for some years will be of the greatest value. Some of his sketches also are most interesting. I trust that you will get them reproduced.

I mention that fallen can get photos of many relations which were in a box by themselves. I smashed one but fallen can get photos of some which we could not in your through the country rapidly as we had to.

I can only say in conclusion that I am very sorry indeed that you should feel as you suddenly do about the expedition. The working up of the material takes a longer time than you suddenly expected it to do, but I am quite sure that everyone connected with it is doing his best to make the final result so far as the publication is concerned as successful as possible. When all is complete I am certain that you will feel well repaid for all scientific point of view.

Thank you for the copy of "The Colonies in India". I was very sorry to see in the paper the other day that you had permanently settled in England. I have sent round your message.
to the members of the expedition.

W. M. Powell.

With regard to having the plates done at home: would you wish let me know your decision as soon as possible. I am anxious to hear because if I decide that the original plates dealing with animals are not to be lithographed but here it will make a great deal of difference to me. I have carbon rubs rough sketches of such animals as the lizards which, together with the actual specimens will be sufficient to guide a good artist such as we have been working under our immediate supervision. If the plates are to go home then I must make very careful detailed drawings which will entail a much greater amount of work. I send you a few copies of papers which the lithographers has illustrated for me and hope it will be a considerable relief to you if you can see your way to allow him to do the work without my help. I have been preoccupied with the work this afternoon. There are so many things I want to see which I did not secure on the expedition. I have a quiet new one, which will bring our record up to some 40 species of lizards—this is the best collection yet brought down through the drier parts. We went over the same kind of country before we did better in lizards than in any other animals.

W. B. S.