Spec. Office
Tuesday
Feb. 6/99.

My dear Spencer,

All hail!

Your letter came this morning as I was on the point of going into town, & I brought it with me. Now, while the devil (printer) is quiet for a time, I write a few hurried lines in reply, ere a batch of linotype proofs comes in.

If I were capable of so evangelic a disposition as ever, I should envy you your nights with the anthropological gods of Trinity. As it is, I can see, I almost hear them, as I read your letter.

When I read Tylor's account paper on Primitivism I felt veryвидимый
enignant, it began a letter forthwith to Fragier about it; but when I had written a page or two, I laid
The letter aside for two reasons—first, because I was angry, as it is a good rule to cool down before writing; second, because it came to my mind that you would be out in a few days. Tyers, as you say—the next Tyers—is a thing of the past. Junger will be glad to hear of the proof. I can give him an account of the evidence of the token in Sanna, or rather of what was a token.

Junger, whom Tyers quotes, knew nothing of tokens, therefore the word "god," as equivalent to the Romano-Latine atria. Now what the atria was may be gathered from this fact. A chief, whose atria was the domestic altar, & who therefore could not eat chicken, was told by somebody, when he lusted, that he ought to eat a fowl by way of demonstration & testimony. He scattered the fowl carefully & put it in the fire; & then blew the feathers away as an offering to the atria.
I am horribly afraid that you did not go to make my peace with Miss Weld. If you failed to do what I implored you to do at 5 Norham Gardens, it will be necessary for me to lay anathemas upon you. The duty will be a painful one.

I admire your discernment as to the Macgregor. But when you get thoroughly inside him, you find all that downers to be only skin deep; though it must be confessed that the skin is a long way through.

He was quite snappish with me some years ago when I told him he would find, sooner or later, the apogamous totem chief in N. Guinea. He had written to me asserting that there was nothing of the kind, & he was angry with me for hinting that he was mistaken.

In his last Report he had to announce that the egot. t. classic there. By the way the N.A. Indian...