

Spec. Office 1.

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's) 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 unangelic a disposition as envy, I should envy you your nights with the anthropological gods at Trinity. As it is, I can see, & almost hear them, as I read your letter.

When I read Tylor's absurd paper on Totemism I felt very indignant, & began a letter forthwith to Frazer about it, but when I had written a page or two, I laid



tokens also are exogamous. I will get Maqpegas to make inquiries - or get them made - among the tribes back of Lagos.

I don't remember meeting Ridgway. I was only a very short time at Camb., for my brother in Yorkshire claimed my last 10 days which I had arranged to devote to Camb. & Oxford. He showed such grief when I told him that I must bid him good bye, that I had to come in & comfort myself with just a flying visit, & then back again to Yorks. However, it was £100 in my pocket, for he valued his gratification at that sum, & I was only sorry that I could not have another opportunity of gratifying him at the same figure.

With kindest remembrance to Mrs. Spence & my young friends in your house, Yours rejoicingly  
L. Fison

The letter aside for two reasons - first, because I was angry, & it is a good rule to cool down before inkshedding - & second, because it came to my mind that you would be out in a few days. Tylor, as you say - the real Tylor - is a thing of the past. Frazer will be glad to hear of the proof I can give him of the existence of the tokens in Samoa - or rather of what was a token. Turner, whom Tylor quotes, knew nothing of tokens, & uses the word "god" as equivalent to the Samoan atea. Now what the atea was may be gathered from this fact. A chief, whose atea was the domestic fowl, & who therefore could not eat chicken, was told by somebody, when he lute'd, that he ought to eat a fowl by way of demonstration & testimony. He plucked the fowl carefully & put it in the pot & then blew the feathers away as an offering to the atea.



I am horribly afraid that you did not go & make my peace with Miss Weld. If you failed to do what I implored you to do at 5 Workman 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 downiness 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 exogamous totem class 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 exog. t. class is there. By the way the N.A. Indian