

Essendon <sup>12.</sup>

18 May, 1901.

My dear Spencer,

I was most agreeably surprised by receiving your letter of April 26<sup>th</sup>, which the postman brought this morning. I sympathise with you in your hammer from the flies. They are not very discriminating insects, & have no respect for professors. They may perhaps have been sent with merciful intent, but I can find no sign in your letter of the peaceable fruits of chastening. A tone of hardened impudence sounds from it.

I am very glad that you are benefitting physically by your journeyings. A stone in weight is a great gain if the additional flesh



admirably well, & everybody  
who came out with our Royal  
visitors is fervent in praise. They  
say with one voice that our  
welcome will be highly appreciated  
in England.

Last Wednesday I dined at  
Howitt's to meet the Bishop of  
Tasmania. He has got the queerest  
notion into his head, & he  
wanted to talk to Howitt &  
me about it. He has a plan for  
raising the blackfellows by  
marrying them to white folk!  
You need not be told that he got  
very poor comfort from us.

You are doubtless right in  
saying that if we could get at  
the bottom-meaning of the Initiation,  
sub-incisions, we should find the way  
to a great deal, but the if is a very