Essendon
18 May, 1901.

My dear Spencer,

I was most agreeably surprised by receiving your letter of April 26th, which the postman brought this morning. I sympathize with you in your torment from the flies. They are not very discriminating insects, I 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 peacable fruits of chastening. A tone of hardened impertinence sounds from it.

I am very glad that you are benefiting physically by your journeyings. A stone in weight is a great gain if the additional flesh
"I am pleased to hear of the health of all our friends and family. My mind is filled with thoughts of our upcoming meeting. Please convey my regards to our mutual acquaintances."

admirably well, & everybody who came out with our Royal visitors is unanimous 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 Tamania. He has got the greatest notion into his head, & he wanted to talk to Howitt & me about it. He has a plan for raising the blacks fellows by marrying them to white folks! 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 initiative & incision we should find the way to a great deal, but the if is a very