

MEMO.
These are some stones on the Yorkshire mowers with the Churinga markings
on them. I saw two or three of them at Spectator Publishing Co. Proprietary Limited,
Place. ~~Spectator~~ had been set up in an enclosure there — a churchyard
if I ~~remember~~ ^{270 Post Office Place, Melbourne.} ~~remember~~ ^{right}. They may be like Lang's find.

My dear Spencer,

You altogether misunderstand my position as
to the totem. I have no theory whatever as to its origin. Now,
any more than yourself, do I "see the essential connection
between totemism & exogamy". I only see that they are connected
almost everywhere in Australia, in all the ^{that I know of anything about} N. A. Indian tribes
in New Guinea also & elsewhere. How they became connected I do
not know, & I am not going to form any theory about it. Of one
thing, however, I am quite sure — no Blackfellows on the face
of the earth ever set down & reasoned out his totem in the
way set forth in Frazer's letters. The process may have been
as you say — who deniges of it, Betson? — but the most you can show

is a "maybe", & there are such hords of "maybes". My own have
come to such ignominious ends that I have sworn a solemn
oath not to hatch any more; & "shall I try perjury upon
my soul?" But I quarrel with no man because of his
theory, if only it is a reasonable one - a real satisfactory
"maybe" & not an absurd "isn't it can't be" like that fellow
(Edmund) Fraser's book.

I was greatly taken with Balfour where I was at
Oxford, & should have been glad to see more of him. He went
away for his holiday as soon as the Ass: meetings closed. I
called upon him when I visited Oxford just before I left
England, but he was out, so I did not see him then, & I saw
very little of him while the meetings were on. Miss Weld had
given parties & dinners galore for me, & I never was so hard
wrought in my life. When you are writing to Balfour, please
remember me to him. I hope you gave him a good character of me.
Miss Weld's invitation to de Rougemont is just what

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From Editor

Spectator.

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270 Post Office Place, Melbourne.

might have been expected from her. She is not a strong-minded woman; but to me she was kindness personified + with a touch of deafness, + I shall always feel grateful to her for the immense trouble she took to make me comfortable. I have not written to her for two years + more, + I tried to make up for my neglect by inveigling Chief Justice Way + yourself to call upon her with my tenderest remembrances. I grieve to say that the Chief Justice was as deaf to the voice of the charmer as yourself. Another word hereupon. What I hold is simply this. In

Very many tribes there are exogamous ~~and~~
divisions, regulating the laws of marriage &
descent, & causing the classificatory system of
relationship. In most of these cases that I
know of, the divisions & their subdivisions are
distinguished by totems. "Merely this & nothing more."

How those exogamous divisions came into existence,
& how the totems became connected with them, this
deponent sayeth not. I said when addressing the
Anth. Section at Oxford ~~that~~ "My own conviction is that
we shall never be able to arrive at certainty as to the
origin of exogamy, & that our best plan is to accept the fact,
confering our inability to account for it." I say the same
about the totema. At all events, I have no theory "to account
for it!"

W. Th. Kirkland regards, Yours sincerely
Howitt - today was talking about a meeting at his house. ^{after I left him I found I had left out a name}
as least for the moment.
a surgical operation, the result of which is doubtless fatal to the patient.