Bondosta
Jan 12 01

My Dear

At last we have

for assistance to the Gulf. It was

rather a monotonous kind of

journey and we are pleased that

it is over. The only one came

across two new tribes - that is

after leaving the Chingelli at

Powell Creek. One of them

conquered about the most villainous

ever set of men I have seen

in Australia. Gentlemen who

would cook rat you with pleasure.

However they were quite friendly

with us and did not attempt to

interfere though I was not more than

two or three years ago. They

shook a white man's hat

and invited him. Bow carefully

they awoke where the adults men
could find them. New tuba
here we all as cannibals and
we have a very interesting account
of the final burial ceremony which
should remind me to see. Also
we received news of the loss of
a chief man who had been taken
away, some burial which
took place about a year after
the first. This very
suggestive to find that the love
was placed in a hollow log which
was carefully decorated with the
design of the chief person, latter.
And yet it was cement tube,
tube that with says are
tubes. Explanation
This is at least a wonderful
agreement in certain respects
among all the tribes right through
from the Arunta to the Gulf.

We have been able to trace an
exciting transition from the
heavily blackish kind of dezcent
among the Arunta to strict
personal descent in regard to the
"clan" and totemic amongst these
jymph tribes.

We have seen among their
sacred ceremonies in ten or
fifteen tribes and in a few days
are to see some here where there
are members of these tribes.
They are all wonderfully alike
and all of them refer to their tribes.
If the railway be carried right
across the continent as seems likely
must be the case in the course of
a year or two, we shall have once
more been just in time. The
old Aruntas had changed very
validly and so will ally these
After a month we are hoping to be able to leave this place which is a deadly dull uninteresting spot and then go direct to Port Darwin whence we shall either be taken for south a little so as to reach one or two towns where we want to be and then shall thankfully turn home.

I hope that things have been fair well with you. It seems a long time since we started and we are looking forward much to seeing you all again.

I shall write long in Melbourne but you must share an emotion for us which he is there.

Yours sincerely

J. W. Baldwin Spencer.