

Bondiosta

Nov 12. 01

My dear Sir,

At length we have
 got across to the Gulf. It was
 rather a monotonous kind of
 journey and we are glad that
 it is over. En route we came
 across two more tribes - that is
 after leaving the Chingilli at
 Powell's Creek. One of them
 comprised about the most villainous
 looking set of men I have seen
 in Australia. They would
 have cooked & eaten you with pleasure.
 However they were quite friendly
 with us and did not attempt to
 interfere though it is not more than
 two or three years ago since they
 speared a white man and ate him
 and piled his bones carefully
 up in a heap where the white men

could find them. These tubes

have all or all carvings and we have a very interesting account of the funeral ceremony which I should much like to see. Also

that we found many of the bones of a dead man who had been eaten some ancient funeral which

is kept in a place about a year after it is eaten. And I think very

interesting to find that the bones are placed in a hollow log which is carefully decorated with the

design of the dead person totem. And yet it is amongst tubes

like those that Roth says are totem exist.

There is at least a wonderful agreement in the custom & organization amongst all the tribes right through from the Arunta to the Guly.

we have been able to trace an

interesting transition from the highly developed kind of descent amongst the Arunta to strict

personal descent in regard to the "clan" and totem amongst these Guly tribes.

We have seen many of their sacred ceremonies in some 10 distinct tubes and in a few days we are to see some here where there are many of these totems.

They are all wonderfully alike and all of them refer to the totems.

If the railway be carried right across the continent as seems likely now to be the case in the course of a year or two we shall hear once

more been just in time. The Aruntas had changed very rapidly and so will all of these

Other tubes.

In about a month we are hoping
to be able to leave this place which is
a dreadfully dull uninteresting spot and
then go direct to Port Darwin whence
we shall if there be time go south
a little so as to touch one or two tubes
whom we want to see and then
I shall thankfully turn home.

I hope that things have been
going well with you. It seems
ages since we started and we are
looking forward much to seeing you
all again. I'll be long
in Melbourne but you must spare an
evening for us while he is there.

Yours very sincerely

W. Aldrich Spencer.