

Melbourne.

7.

Aug 23-06.

My dear Fison,

By today's mail I have written to Drager and am indebted to you for opening the door of repentance. The fact is that routine work, in connection with the University, Public Library, Museum & in later months the School Teachers Registration Board has occupied, and more than so, every spare minute of my time & it is at least two years since I have been able to do anything in the way of research work.

apart from going carefully over a series of papers which Horritt has sent home in reply to sandy's very clever but utterly misleading & unscrupulous criticisms of his work published by Andrew Lang in his "Secret of the Open". I have had no time for ethnologic work.

Horritt has simply got Lang

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tied up in a knot out of which  
I do not think that he can  
extricate himself though his power  
of wriggling is enormous.

Most important for himself  
Lang has attempted to show that  
there is no such thing as 'pomp  
marriage' in Australia; that what  
we call 'pomp marriage' is merely a  
'spot' added on to individual marriage.

On this point I think that Hovitt  
shows the utter incapacity of Lang to  
judge of evidence. Lang is an  
ethnologic charlatan who does not  
care in the very least about the  
truth but is only interested in  
upholding any theory which for the  
time being he favours.

You did not tell me what  
you thought about Frazer's theory  
of 'emotional Titivism' as laid  
down in his article in the  
'Fortnightly'. It is very suggestive  
& the point which he makes in  
regard to the time which elapses between

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intercourse - that ~~from~~ at which the  
woman knows that a spirit has  
entered her or that she is pregnant is  
a story we. Inasmuch as all  
women attempt savings have such  
interests they, naturally, can have  
no idea of the truth of the same from  
empirical cases in which 'married'  
women have children & 'unmarried'  
do not.

I am expecting Hovitt down again  
some time in September. He is not  
long in writing his address as President  
of the A.A.S. at Adelaide in January  
next. I fancy that they will have  
rather a warm time there.

As soon as I can get a chance  
I will see you - meanwhile every  
minute of my time is occupied - just  
now especially so as we are very  
busy with school-teacher registration.

We have no fewer than 8000  
applications to go through & examine &  
pass as primary or secondary. When

this will be done it is hard to say  
+ when it is I fear that there will  
be very many heart burnings.

Two weeks ago to my surprise  
I had a letter from Taylor written  
just in his old style. He sounded  
perfectly well + says that he is writing  
another book on primitive manhood  
which will be his last work.

I am now a lone bachelor with  
Mr Spencer + my two girls away in  
Europe where they are having a delightful  
time. as you can imagine I very much  
miss the companionship of my Sunday  
walks but she is a most charming  
letter writer. At the present time the  
two girls are in Paris where they have  
gone into residence at a kind of school  
to learn French + I fancy enjoy themselves  
at least I hope so. If there be a cat  
+ a dog Chappie will be happy.

I had almost forgot to convey to you  
the kind regards of Sir George Le Hunt whom  
I met in Adelaide two weeks ago. He  
asked particularly after you.

Yours very sincerely

W. Baldwin Spencer.