

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

OXFORD

July 25 1899

My dear Spencer

I am not really writing from Oxford, but from Southwold a quiet little East Coast seaside place. One of my occupations has been to read the last journal of the Anthropological Institute, & I congratulate you as I did when we sat together last, at Frazer's calmly thorough over his former theory of Totemism

which I had taken so much pains to

knock the bottom out of, in order to absorb your discoveries. I

think your contribution to the totipotency is so good that it will lead to the yet unsettled synthesis of the whole set of customs. I always held

exogamy to be independent of totem, and indeed years ago made an effort in the

J.A.S. to interpret it as a

new alliance of clans. It

will be very interesting to have the chibchas in the Pitt-Rivers and I shall of

course tell you if any turn up from other sources. All I have seen are casts of so-called ones sent me by Andrew Lang from a place called I think Dumbuck in Scotland! I have not heard

of Dalton since he sailed for S. Africa to recover from the effects of typhoid + jaundice. I much hope

he may get back restored, but
poor man, he has had a bad time.
I hope for more 'Tasmanian'
implements from W. Australia,
especially know that many like
plateau-flints are turning up in
S. Africa. Evidently pre-palaeolithic
man has lasted most instructively
in savagery of the Southern Ocean.
My kindest regards to Howitt
& regret about the Tales, but we
did all we could. I hope
Anthropology will soon hear of
him again, Tison likewise.
Have you got Heng Roth's new edition
of Tasmanians? Would
CP Tylob