The Meuse Coxyde 19 May 1878

Dear Prof. Spencer,

Many thanks for your letter and the copies of your papers. I shall be happy to quote the latter. The Alcheringa legend is intensely interesting as also the connection of the ceremonies with particular terms.

I have been off work for a week or so. I don't intend to deal finally with the "classes" until I have revised
all the other proofs. It will probably be about a month before I have completed revision. My chapter on the "classics" will necessarily be brief as being only incidental and necessitated to secure some degree of completeness to my work. My book will have mainly a linguistic value. This is my hope and aim.

I would be happy to let you peruse part of my proofs which would be of special interest to you. Here is a possible difficulty in the way of my doing this. I may submit the book to the Professional Board as an essay for the L.H.D degree in which case you would probably be an examiner. To have seen part of the essay might be a disqualification.

I have not written the book for the degree. I am merely bringing to fruition a study of Australian usage which has, with intermissions, extended over 20 yrs. Italian
I can throw considerable
fresher light upon them. By
having acquired a fair
knowledge of one dialect filed
me for further study. Of course
there will be other original
matter besides what especially
refers to language.

Again thanking you for your
kind offices

Remain

Yrs. Sincerely

[Signature]

P.S. I am delighted with the additions
you have made to our knowledge
about totems. Etc.