

The Maase Colony 19 May 1898

21.

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 ~~is~~ ^{is} also the
connection of the ceremonies
with particular totems.

I have been ~~off~~ ^{away} work for
a week or so. I don't intend
to deal finally with the
"classes" until I have revised

all the other proof. It will probably be about a month before I have completed revision. My chapter on the "classes" 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 ^{the} part of my proofs which would be of special interest to you. There is a

21
possible difficulty in the way of my doing this. I may submit the book to the Professional Board as an essay for the Litt. 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 Langs. which has with intermissions, extended over 30 yrs. I believe

I can throw considerable
fresh light upon them. My
having acquired a fair
knowledge of one dialect fitted
me for further study. Of course
there will be other original
matter besides what specially
refers to language.

Again thanking you for your
kind offices

I remain

Yrs. sincerely
John Mathew

P.S. I am delighted with the additions
you have made to our knowledge
about Totems. J.M.