My dear Spencer,

I was very glad to hear from Mr. Bell of your safe arrival again in Melbourne, after your absence both going and after your arrival on the full of your fortune. I wrote to you, I think from Darwin, but as you never wrote any of your letters, or at any rate till long afterwards, must you have to write is sure to be very interesting and will be one of the best records of the many of the tribal habits and peculiarities of the country, as gradually extended on.

Some friends of mine have taken up country from the north of the Sepik River, hot quite down there to the sea coast N. for the purpose of finding cattle in the monsoon rain country, where they ought to be free from disease, but the company they are endeavoring to form, has not yet got its capital and there are so many difficulties, that I do not know if it will come off.

That seems very well known about it. Though with the different style of climate there ought to be a much wider and probably different fauna. I suppose you did not learn much about that portion. There is to be a fair number of rivers through it.

I have just received a fresh volume of Royal Society of
Sci's publications. I saw Dr. Clark yesterday and he
asked me the word. He had agreed to send their publ.
cations to you. It was passed at the last meeting of the
Committee. But he was not certain whether they would
get the advice of it this week. So you can tell him it is
arranged if he does not hear.

I think I told him that Dr. Clark is keen now and
would like to stop in England if he can get something
easy to take on. But when once a man has left
England with the people here, I suppose it is not so easy
at any rate it means beginning a new deal
from down.

We had a very good lecture yesterday afternoon
at the Zoological Society by Prof. Edmond of Edinburgh
on genetics and the origin of the horse. They have really
been able to get a troop of foals of Reginald's horse
from Mongolia. Hardwick has got them for the Duke
of Bedford and they bought 25 out of 120 Carlisle.
They are trying to get a good deal of information
out of them as to the origin of present breeds. When they
are full grown but at present are not 12 months old.
They brought one Tartar mare to tackle them and
it turned out a great success.

Hope to hear from you one of these days. When you
have a few free moments, I am as always

F. W. Botkin. Neve
Melbourne.