

6 Clamieards Gardens.

London W.

28<sup>th</sup> May 1902.

My dear Spencer,

I was very glad to hear from J. I. Hall of your safe arrival again in Melbourne, after your adventures both going across and after your arrival on the Gulf of Carpentaria. I wrote to you I think to Port Darwin but as you never ~~was~~ got there after all you may not have received any of your letters - or at any rate till long afterwards. What you have to write is sure to be very interesting and will be one of the last records possible of many of the tribal habits and peculiarities as the Country gets gradually entrenched on.

Some friends of mine have taken up Country from the north of the Roper river - not quite down there - to the Sea Coast N. for the purpose of grazing cattle in the monsoonal rain Country where they ought to be free from droughts but the Company they are endeavouring to form has not yet got its Capital and there are so many difficulties that I do not know if it will come off.

There seems very little known about it though with the different style of climate there ought to be a much richer and probably different fauna. I suppose you did not learn much about that portion. There seem to be a fair number of rivers through it -

2. M. B.S. 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1902. Contd.

I have just received a fresh volume of Royal Society of Victoria publication - I saw Dr. Sclater yesterday and he told me the Zool. Socy had agreed to send them publication to you. It was passed at the last meeting of the Committee - but he was not certain whether Hall would get the advice of it this mail - so you can tell him it is arranged if he does not hear.

I think I told him that Deud, is here now, and would like to stop in England if he can get something enough to live on but when once a man has lost touch with the people here I suppose it is not so easy. or at any rate it means beginning a prod deal lower down.

We had a very good lecture yesterday afternoon at the Zool. Socy. rooms by Prof. Ewart of Edinburgh on Zebra & the origin of the horse. They have recently been able to get a troop of foals of Przewalski's horse from Mongolia. Hardenbeek got them for the Duke of Bedford and they landed 28 out of 41 caught.

They are hoping to get a prod 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 over Tartar mares to Dachele there and it turned out a great success.

Hoping to hear from you one of these days when you have a few spare moments I am as always

Sincerely yours

Prof. W. Baldwin Spencer  
Melbourne -

J. D. Briggs