

King's Arms Hotel 21, Infirmary Road
Blackburn.

May 4. 1915.

Dear Professor Spencer,

I must apologise for the very great delay in answering your kind letter of Dec. 29. I have been wandering about so that Dr. Malett has never been able to forward it on to me, & I have only just returned to Oxford. I cannot say how much I appreciate your kindness in taking such an interest in my work & in thinking to prepare it for the press. Whatever alterations you see fit to make I shall be pleased to acquiesce in, but please do not trouble to send me a revised copy. I am probably leaving England for Nigeria in a few weeks.

When I prepared the Gayateri I

almost decided to leave out any reference to R. H. Matthews as his works seemed to be confused. I was aware that his observations clashed with yours & of course I never hesitated which to follow. I do not think I have ever given Matthews as authoritative where I could possibly find any other evidence. Certainly I agree with you that all reference to works of his is better deleted. I only used him as a last resource. However perhaps better ignorance than false information! I understand you intend to leave out all reference to the marriage classes even where they follow Hamlett & Spier & Gillen. Please do it entirely as you wish. I thought they might be useful, but as references are given it is always easy to pursue the subject.

With regard to Earl, of course the reference is a very old one & I suppose it is impossible to find how he got the names. As you say they now appear to be

KING'S HEAD HOTEL
190

non-existent & he gives no details I think they may well be entrusted to the realm of obscurity.

I do appreciate your letter as to the difficulties of the location of dikes. I suppose we at home have no idea of the vagueness of such a unit. I assure you that when I began to tackle Africa in the same way the assurance even of a home stayer failed me & I realised the difficulties. I hope to gain some experience of my own & as the gazetteer is meant, when finished! to give perhaps approximately the location of a dike in the world I hope it may be of some little use.

I need to thank you again most sincerely for your trouble, & I feel only too pleased that you should give your own intimate knowledge to amending it.

Yours very sincerely
Hannah Cross
(nee Byome)