

Jan 6. 96.

may see an alliance between England & Russia, though I would prefer above all an alliance with Germany; Italy is too bankrupt to be much use.

The U.S. imbroglio is evidently simply a Tammam Hall affair upon which subject I have written to our friend the "Nation builder".

Poor S.A. seem to be getting rather into a financial fix - worse than Victoria: indeed we are beginning to improve & are managing to pay off a big lump of interest without raising another loan to do it with.

If only we had a decent railway administrator we should be perfectly right but with fillet's friends in power whose idea is to find people in land, money & clothes, we stand but a poor chance of having things managed from an ordinary business point of view.

I really hope that when you get anything like a decent Chama you will sell out of W.A. I don't a bit believe in the place: for the most part it is a case of booming + unless they can get a change of climate or a much better water supply plenty of their mines - the majority of which are not worth much really - must really go.

We are getting splendid gold results in Victoria but then thank goodness we are not on the boom so that we don't have flaming paragraphs called home to take in the unwary widow-cleergyman.

You want to be like W.A.H. one of the original sucklers to get much or else you want to have so much cash that it doesn't matter if you lose a few thousands. Nothing in this world appears to be run on the principle that "blamed be that hath for unto him

shall mine be given etc."

Refer I go further there is a question to which I want an answer -

You sent me down - may thank you for it - a sacred story which you said "belonged to the Kullthara Class": now what do you mean by that? Do you mean that it is peculiar to some ceremony performed by Kullthara men? May not Kumarra + Pirula even see it or what?

You can have no idea of the mass of information which Jellens is pitting together on this kind of subject. He must be expending vast quantities of her majesty's

bacon + blankets. Now for the sake of conservation - not that I

in the least distrust Jellens's information but that it is always advisable to get the same story from the point of view of two men - can you set to

work + find out as much as
ever you can about the rain-
making ceremony which I believe
your C.W. blacks perform. You
need'nt photograph them! but it
would be very interesting to see if
you would translate their ideas in
the same way in which Jellen does
but perhaps you were with him
when he was getting his information.
If ever you have the chance could
you secure for me a musical
instrument with the somewhat ornate
bit of stick. You gave me the two
rounded sticks but what I want to
get if possible is one something like
you may remember the one which
you sent to French. I am getting
a beautiful collection of C.A. things
which ornament my study + are
associated with most pleasant
memories.

The view as I sit at my study window

out on to green trees + a fence
 covered with creeping geranium in
 full flower + a small lawn which
 regardless of water we manage to
 keep tolerably green is very pleasant
 but I have a kind of hankering
 after the interior + rather long for
 your view over the fertile plains
 away to the S.W. This time

next year I hope to be with
 you: we must persuade Jillen to
 come down as I see very little
 chance in the limited time at
 my disposal to get as far north
 as the Alice. I would much
 prefer if such a thing were
 possible a run across to the S.
 side of the Lewi Range.

Now as to beasts. No lizards
 were splendid: you could not have
 got - barring new species - a more
 valuable lot. Jillen, Eremius +
 eminechii were especially wanted +

still more valuable will be
dancers if you can lay hands
upon it. I don't mind how
many of all these beasts we
have as they are still extremely
rare.

The *winickii* set
was specially good - it is really a
very pretty beast & the reddish
variety made me wish that we
had had time to figure instead of
the black one.

As to the two lizards which you
kidd together "Ocellamella" as you
say is *E. whitii* & the banded one
"Inapourina" is *Gerrhonotus fasciolata* -
the same beast which runs about
the house catching flies. It varies
a good deal in size & colour.

Last mail you sent me down a
little beauty with a bright yellowish
body ^{thinly} ~~that~~ ^{that} also is *E. fasciolata*.

The little "banded" one which you sent

down at the same time is
Hemilia lesueurii. Some of these
beasts vary very much indeed. There
is amongst the lot you sent
down this time a whitish ^{cross} ~~beast~~
smooth & with faint bands along
its tail but none on the body: this
I made sure was a new species but
Iw Foot the lizard man tells me
he thinks it is only a variety of
the strongly banded *fasciolata*.
However there is no doubt but
that there are a goodly number of
new species to be secured around
C.W.

I have sent you three times one
filled with bottles. I did not put
spirits into them for fear of the
customs & will send more next
mail. I have just run out
of them & could not get them made
in time to send off today. I
will send more spirits up soon.
As to the long thin *Kurdaitcha* lizard:

Fillen sent me down one last
mail - it turns out to be Rhodona
bipes - a beast with small limbs
& a long body.



There is a small bivalve
shelled beast somewhat
like this which you will
find swimming about in muddy
pools. I got just a few in a
small pool by the side of the
Stevenson. If the blacks could find
any (make them bring them to you in
water so that the soft parts won't be
dried up) they would be very
welcome.

It is disappointing to think that
Notoyeta can't be found. It must
be either a little after or just his
breeding season & a pouch embryo
would be a grand find. I'm not
describing the new Perayale as yet but
am waiting to see if you can by good
luck land on one with its plumage
fairly intact so as to have a decent
type specimen.

Curiously enough Fillen sent me down