

Melbourne.

4

Apr 11. 99

My dear Byrne

Many thanks for
your letter.

As you surmise
I simply detest the usual
grind which has begun again &
leaves one no time for lectures
& committee meetings. The first
lecture I always just go in take
a look at the men & tell them what
to get in the way of books & apparatus
so as to kind of break the ice. Once
in the work it is not so bad and
it is wonderful with what rapidity
the weeks slip away.

With the working off of the Opus maximum
I had hoped for a little spare time
but one thing after another come up.

This year it is the Aust. Ass. Adv. Sci.
which will keep me busy. We are

holding the meeting here in January
next & it means a lot of work
for the Secretaries.

If you could
by any chance get over I am sure
you would enjoy it as a lot of the
geological people will be here. Which
reminds me that I saw David
the other day & asked him why they
had not sent any copies of the Crown

Post glacial account. He promised
me to see after it. At present he is
head over ear in the Juraquette the
result of which ought to be of great
interest. Very soon he goes home to
England & see people there about it
as the core is being examined in
London under the auspices of the Royal Soc.

We are having any amount of
revisions of the opus - most of the leading
English papers giving us a column or two:
they are all so far as they are anything

favourable - some very much so.

I have indistinctly that the Bulletin
is going to remain in unfavourably but
why for I can't quite think after their
laudation of Rother: perhaps it is on a
question of style. It certainly is

in somewhat heavy but one can't write up
the Pyramid in the style of the
Bulletin. Chole has kindly

promised me a review in his next
letter so doubtless he is kindly engaged

thinking out something particularly
scathing. "Grimm's fairy tales up to

date" is all that he remarks about it
so far. I can imagine him using

language & tearing his hair over one or
two things in the introduction. At

the present rate of proceedings he is
rapidly clearing himself up with the
or nigger to look after.

The only excitement that we have here
is the illness of Sir F. McCoy (our prof. of

geology) he has been delivering the
same lectures for 37 years past + in
his absence we are to have a substitute
+ so may perhaps for an interim have a
little geology taught in the University.

Added to this we have some mild excitement
owing to the fact that the Gov. is opening its
purses to a slight extent. We are getting
about £10000 at the University for metallurgical,
bathological + Physiological Labs. + some
£15000 at the Public Library some of which
(£7000) is to go to the National Museum for
building so that as you may see things
are going up in the colony. What about
W.A. I'm sorry for Forrest whose time must
be nearly over now that bad times have
come.

I hope you'll get a good rain: we have had
a grand season down here + things are looking
splendid. I hope you are well.

Yr very sincerely

W. M. Percival

P.S. When if ever you get the chance could you
get me one or two death-addresses. I saw Boulenger the
great snake man at the Brit. Mus. + he is confident - in reference
to Lucas + Frost - that the C.A. Reast is a distinct species from ours
+ I want two or three to see if it be anything more than a
variety. What about P. leucorufa.