

nB
I want some
more tubes, and about
a dozen of those glass
tubes for clay pen heads

Charlotte Waters
20th Decr '95

Dear Professor,

Your letter with Catalogue lizard plates and the Kwidatcha notes received, but not the notes on Notoryctes.

Many thanks for the Catalogue, which I can see gives much fuller descriptions than Lydekker, tho it is rather technical in places, and I will have to trust to inspiration for the meaning of some of the terms used.

The plates are splendid and the blacks were delighted when they saw them - They identified everything at once, and during the next week, brought me in *Taranus Lilleni* (a-punna) 7 *Cremius* (Er-punda) a *Maculatus* (arta'okila) 20 *Winnecchi* (Pungalituina)

and they are now prowling round after C. demands which should be findable in this hot weather.

I quite agree with what you say in the Kurdaschela notes about the natives being able to track the Kurdaschela if they chose. In fact I am very sceptical about most of their professions and beliefs and feel tolerably certain that their most cherished secrets and belongings can be purchased for brass - provided that the deal can be made privately.

While Lillien was here I had a chat with him about the Kurdaschela lizard, and he was of opinion that the idea was never carried out, but created solely in the imagination of the blacks, and he also held that the lizard mentioned by them was not a reptile, but a stone, called the Lizard - As to the fabled I think the description given me by the old man was too circumstantial to be purely imaginary, and the blacks doubtly maintain that the

custom was in vogue until some years ago - Lillien made enquiries amongst them and found the lizard, and not a stone, was used.

Since then the old men have informed me that three kinds of lizards are used. What I heard that more than one kind of lizard was carried I got it probable that there was one for each class but the old men say no - The lizard which was most frequently used was called *Blaniella* and resembles 'L. White', and after that the *Sanpawina* (*Hypocis*?), and a slender longitudinally striped lizard found on the Fids - I am sending you the *Co-Camella* and *Sua-Kouris* -

I am glad that you are gradually bringing more round to your own way of thinking about the Fids, but you must be getting tired of eternally stirring them up. When it is finished and he has how well the work is done I think Sewell is rather

ashamed of his simulated indifference.
Anyhow, he should be. And if he is at
all wise he will drop the introductory Chapter

Your Mission to Adelaide must have been a
particularly delicate one, and I should have
to have been an unseen witness of the
Machiavellian manner in which you satisfied
the Amour Propre of both Parties, and
yet maintained Peace, when you and
Pate met Wunnick!

Since writing you we have had a
very heavy thunderstorm which filled all
the waterholes and made the Country
for three or four miles around the
Station look nice and green. Unfortunately
it did not extend as far as the
Funds, and I was utterly disgusted
when the fire had started out
after noon returned with the
news that there had been no
rain. The fire was so favorable

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For getting them with young that it was especially disappointing.

If no luck this season we must have a big try for them when you come up next year. We will also - rain permitting - go out to the Eastward of the Finks into the Uru-pela and Lowera Country after Pleucura, and that yellow fat-tailed rat that I have been looking for so long. If leucura is anywhere in the vicinity, he is in the sandhills to the eastward.

I'm not altogether certain that the summer is the best season for collecting - no doubt reptiles and insects are then more numerous, but judging from this year's results winter appears to be the best time for beasts: tho possibly the aversion the blacks have to overexerting

themselves in the hot weather has something to do with the case.

Our fields are still under a cloud and the few on them with sufficient energy to go anywhere are off the track. Remarks Count Herbert yet been heard saying to the first not having any forward with an offer to put people on the ground free, had them in everything, and put them three pounds a week while overfeeding. The money he advanced to the said facts in yearly instalments including over five hundred years, still, South Australia would part with their Florina for thought to an English syndicate, and I suppose things will be at a standstill with a Royal Commission - at a cost of several thousand pounds is appointed to report on matters

and then, probably, a Railway will be constructed to bring the trunk Road to Adelaide for building Railways. Nothing building, possibly.

I am still in W.A. think but that I will come out all right when they get rain next year, that is unless they conform to the banks and diggers cause a panic in the English money market. Johnston and John's affair is absurd. There would seem ruin to both, as America would lose her fuel and her emeralds and her coral towns and the tobacco while England would lose Canada, and possibly India if peace that the opportunity favorable. How much they should show more consideration for holders of W.A. stock and not get dancing

around and frightening people when they really mean nothing.

I shall have a very quiet time all to myself, but it will be a much pleasanter one than I expected. Before the rain the country looked wretched and our water supply had rather more bouquet and taste than was necessary, now there is a coat of green over that noble exposure to the S. W. and I am getting the boat ready to launch.

There are hundreds of turkeys and ducks about the Billabongs so we are all certain of a good dinner at any rate, and the blacks, with the assistance of your tobacco, and an indigestible duff which I have made for them annually, should hold high revel. With Best wishes for the New Year

Yours ever sincerely

Professor W. Baldwin Spencer

J. M. Lynd