

Charlotte Waters
30th April 96

Dear Professor, I am glad the
last collection proved of some
interest - I was very doubtful
about it, but that the *Gulimandia*
did not quite agree with any
of the species described in
the Horn work. I have since
tried to get some ^{more} of them but
without success, and I am
inclined to think the species
is a short lived one. The ~~one~~
I found were in small, rather
deep, crabs which had a
good deal of vegetation growing
on them, but, even in these, ~~crabs~~

They were much less numerous than the Cethers, and in the hollow muddy Cloppins, and billabongs they were altogether absent! By this mail I am sending you what appears to be the permanent species of Cethers (?). They were obtained in the Tank Lake, while carting water from the big billabong. They are very thick! The umbones

I shall not be greatly disappointed with the zoology as I didn't expect much. The only zoological effusion of Yates I have seen is his inaugural address to the Society for the advancement of Science and that was simply all fishings and very poor readings at that. I am glad that Horn has been at it again, when you speak of his feeble jokes! He surely isn't going to re-enact that labored

out about the Camel, and inflict it on an unexpecting Public under a Scientific Cloak? I am sorry the truth is not over with Munck, but am certain he would not do anything he that dishonors. The only thing is, would he in a fit of sudden remorse himself that a course was right, which in his cooler moments he would condemn.

Many thanks for the Days' verses, several of which I had not read. He writes skilfully and knows the back - that is the back of fences and Steaming Chests, but as a poet I think he comes behind Victor Seely ^{of whom} and one or two others - not to speak of our big Jim Stephens. Still I suppose he is to be judged as a writer of ballads, and comparing him

To Stephens is like comparing Kipling
to Tennyson. What do you think
of that ineffable act our new Poet
Lawrence and his poem about
Jameson's Raid?

I think the Alice Springs blacks
only know of the Mole their being
it on the upper ^{bank} and their opinions
on this beast are more than usually
valueless, as even here, where it is
comparatively numerous, the natives
know little or nothing of its habits.
Still, I think, when all is discovered
Witchettis will be found to form a larger
proportion of its diet than ants.
There's no doubt if feeds largely on
insects of all sorts, as you say.
I cannot for the life of me see
that this beast has been modified
to feed on ants. His mouth seems
as unsuitable for this purpose
as for feeding on Witchettis

while his strong claws would enable him to dig the flatter out of the soft roots among which he probably builds his nest - Besides the horny extremities are required to protect him while travelling thro' the sand, and the soft thick fur is necessary to keep him warm - There!

By this mail I am sending you a couple of Peramides a worm-like Snake some Spiders, and a villainous looking Grasshopper, besides the Ethred - I should have had Urfeula long ago but for the dryness of the Country. We are in a deplorable condition here - no feed anywhere, and only between two and three troughs water - or rather mud - I'm afraid we are in for it in earnest this time, and we have

never been in a worse position to
meet with a big drought. However,
there is a slight glum of light and it
is all in the advance of N. A.
Stocks, and I am taking your
advice and getting rid of them.
My asset class arrived about
a fortnight ago, but as he is
almost a Chippie, and an
inferior operator. In little
better off than I was before.
And thus ends the sermon!

Our Sections are all over today
and the result for to show that
the woman sector is not Communist
but rabidly Socialist and she also
seems to have a penchant for Socialism
without brains, rather than with that
commodity, judging from the result
of some of the actions. But you
will hear all about it - from a certain
point of view - from Ellen - The

only thing I am afraid of is that
the rate at which they will want
to "Advance" South Australia will
be too much for her weak back
and broken knees and that she
will collapse altogether. Our only
safeguard is that the Powers that
be are such fitted ^{and} that
in all probability they induce the
unsuspecting stranger to put his
money into our concerns and so
save our own declining population.
I believe we are going to have a
surplus but it is derived solely from
the advance in Western Australian
trade - no mean proportion of it being
due to telegrams.

Don't be a bit surprised if you
hear of Prangeries at Charlott's Water
before long or that the S.A. Govt
purpose breeding collecting camps
in the magnificent Landell Country

to the Eastward of Charlotte Waters
and forming the Valley of the famed
Ridge Field!

I am glad you are coming up again
and only wish I could get out with
you to George Lillo's Range, but I'm
afraid it is impossible. Cowle, however,
should have no difficulty in getting away,
and while you were chasing up the terminus
in that direction, I could make a grand
raid on the Lashell Country to the
Eastward with an army of old women!

I intend trying to get back in September (3
months) This would bring me back in
December so we might come together, and
if Cowle were here to meet you, you could
go on to George Lillo's Range, and on return
I could run you back to Stanadatta - that
would suit? There is just a bare possibility
of my being able to go as there will be a man here
reliving me with whom I might arrange if the
High & Mighty Todd approved.

I hope Mrs. Spencer is now quite well. Kindest
regards.
Yours ever sincerely
P. M. Cowle
Professor Baldwin Spencer.