

Charlotte Waters

16th Decr '25

Dear Mr Baldwin,

Another milestone on the road to the Dawn of Nothing is in sight, and with it come memories. Many of the old faces have gone, and the few remaining accentuate the difference between the past and the present. And not only the faces, the manners & the customs have altered. The motor, as you foreknew, is finally established, and with some further improvements to the road, and alterations in the machines, large trucks will be running next year. They will supply all the transport required, and if the Govt build a railway it will increase its financial difficulties enormously, and unless Uncle Tom comes to the rescue, land Australia in the Incoming Court, and railways & other things that cannot be made to pay, irrigation and soldier settlements that are insolvent, and the intelligence of her politicians as her only assets.

I have just read 'The Antiquity of Man', and was pleased to find that the Anchet had extended the boundaries of the Garden of Eden to the Southern Hemisphere, still it is a long cry yet to anything approaching finality. Whether the Australian was driven here, or merely stranded while on his way elsewhere remains a puzzle. Some day a relic older than the Talgai skull may be unearthed, and shed some further light on the subject.

Whatever the past hides, the present of the Infortunate Aborigine is sufficiently miserable, Native food of any description is almost
now extinct

non-existent, and, under the circumstances, the nations issued to the old natives are inadequate. But for the cunning of the Younger men who buy food, and the kindness of some of the older residents, the old blacks would be starved. All these old people have been accustomed to clothes and tobacco, and now, the amount supplied to them is absurdly small. In addition, our missionaries undermine their authority, and ridicule their traditions, we take from them everything that makes life worth living, work them until they can work no longer, and then hand them over to the police, whose main endeavor is to work things as cheaply as possible, and thus place a God that has richer knowledge not conscience. It is a deplorable crime.

There have been a few showers of rain lately, but no considerable and other things, but practically the drought is unbroken, and in my opinion likely to remain unbroken for some time, but, of course, rain in this country is accidental, and accidents will happen!

Hope yourself, family and family are quite well,
With the best of good wishes for the New Year

Yours faithfully
R. M. Payne,

Mr Baldwin Spencer K. G. M. G., F. R. S.