

Carroll's Waters  
16<sup>th</sup> Decr '91

Dear Sir,

I am sending you by this mail a female of *P. Guineana* with young ones, a brush tailed rat, and a family of lizards. The latter are fairly plentiful about here, but as they belong to a genus that I have never seen off the Tablelands, you may possibly have missed them.

So far I have been unable to get either adult males of the *P. C.* or females of *Notoryctes*, but when rain falls I think I can promise you some, as there are about 150 natives at our well on the  
Furks

Furts and they are all enlisted  
in the Lewis. One of the boys  
saw a Quail a few days ago, but  
it was too quick for him. Altho' he  
had a Spade and dug nearly four  
feet into the sand after it. Of course  
it was a beauty - almost ~~pure~~ <sup>pure</sup> white  
and very large - "It was even shot  
from Chedoke's house!"

I am sorry that my Redipres of  
the Fat Tail rat is unsatisfactory,  
and humbly apologise to the unknown  
Amphibian, who is supposed to stand  
in loco parentis for trying to  
supplant him. Still the Reuben  
is hard to account for. The Black  
say the beasts do not hibernate, and  
if the Fat Tails are provided against  
a time when food is scarce they  
should be Coon and Flabby wood.

In Summer I believe the rats move  
about during the day and night - especially  
the night, but in winter they do all  
their hunting in the daytime and  
retire to their holes at dusk.

I have nearly forgotten Hudson and  
think <sup>him</sup> a charming writer and a  
keen observer of birds. Some of  
his poems and tender hearted fables  
stories are — very affecting. His  
remarks about the antics of birds certainly  
seem to point out flaws in Darwin's  
theory, and his observations on the  
instinct of fear also appear to clash  
with the generally accepted idea.  
But I hardly think he represents Darwin  
views quite fairly, and altogether  
he disposes of them in too flippant  
and summary a manner. Even  
if sexual selection has not been the  
cause

cause of the brilliant coloration and ornaments in birds I think it has come into play in modifying the higher animals, and it certainly seems to apply to man. Tho whether it has tended to raise him either physically or mentally seems to be an open question as, despite our hoard of accumulated knowledge, the race which produced a Socrates over twenty centuries ago, and boasts of a Talma today can hardly be said to have made giant strides. What sort of selection would marrying for money be considered - <sup>Natural</sup> or Unnatural? Natural. Suppose, as money should help the professors in the struggle for existence!

After all I think climate and food cause more change in animals and man than Natural & Sexual Selection combined

Combined, and the way Australians & other Colonists diverge from the Parent Type in a couple of Generations seems to be a proof -

Allows Prospectors have returned from the West unsuccessful, but I don't think they worked very hard or knew very much about their business - The experienced man of our party brought in what he thought were specimens of Cobalt and Galena but they turned out to be Manganese and Micaceous Hematite! None of the rocks I have seen contain fossils and they are similar in character to those of the main McEwenell except that the granite is less fissile and is finer grained - This reminds me - Have you a specimen of the Epidote known as Kimberlite in

in your museum, and, yes, could  
you fit me a small chip?

I am glad the lizards and other  
animals are turning out so well  
and hope you will be able to illustrate  
them as fully as you desire. I don't  
know what getting up a good  
usually coats - but 500 seems a  
fairly liberal amount.

I shall no sign of rain here, &  
hardly expect any before next  
year. I shall be alone with  
the Chinaman at Amas and  
intend spending the day in  
cursing the V. West, its climate  
inhabitant etc., and only wish  
I had Coule here to give me  
his able assistance -

Wishing you a happy New Year

Yours sincerely  
P. M. B. W. M.

P. P.

Your telegram to Coule arrives  
too late for mail so I sent it on  
by a traveller on the 15<sup>th</sup> and he  
thinks it about the 22<sup>nd</sup>. That

P. M. B.