

Charlotte Waters
18th April '98

Dear Professor,

Your fears were
only too well founded, as I
was completely taken in over
the Young of Notoryctes. The
little lumps in the pouch struck
me as being rather formless, but
I never dreamt that they were
simply fattened seeds. It was
lucky you made an examination
before imparting any more
information to the Students, and
I have no doubt you envied Palmer
his gift of Picturesque language
when

when you discovered that I was
mistaken. I am very sorry that
I disappointed you, and will
remember in future that I have to
deal with something more potent
than the Stolid Quartzite and refuse
Mica Schist. I hope I had made
such a haul too!

I am glad the lizard turns
out well, and will try and get
some like your specimen when it
arrives. It should have reached
me by last mail, but I suppose
the Postal Authorities have sent
it via Port Darwin by way of
a change.

That Chypan dweller has not
been secured as yet altho' the
Yongaters have been on the usual
path every day - They are going

to the nine mile tomorrow and
they will probably drop across them
there.

Many thanks for the notice you
has done me in naming the
Pascologale and Leptodactylus
I hope the unfortunate beast's name
inherited the bad luck attached to
the Cognomen, as the burden of
their fatal names is a sufficiently
heavy infliction.

What you say about C. dandus
is curious, but how is it that
when a beast is found in Australia
similar to one in another part
of the world, people always wonder
how it got there? Even you don't
ask how the lizard got to Persia
and India!

The photos are first rate

especially

especially those of the Admanga and
the Finks. The venuses are delighted
with their portraits and promise to
set you unlimited rates. I notice this
that they appear to stop at the Province
as they haven't made a start to collect
yet. Female collectors seem to want
age before they are a success! Giller
was very pleased with his copies &
sends his thanks and kind regards.
But I am afraid he looks on that
snare in the light of a success, as
he talks of preserving another in a
similar manner and sending it to
the Museum!

It is difficult to understand Horn's
idea in having the book edited
at home. He surely must know
that the members of the Expedition
are better qualified to do the work
than

than any outsiders could possibly be
Stirling's personal deficiency in
Native lore does not surprise me
as I thought from the first that he
relied on his professional brothers
at N.S. for all information. Still
if Sellen has supplied the notes
some interesting chapters could, I think,
be written which, with the accompanying
photos, would add to the value of
the book.

The fins caught a fine moki yesterday.
His fur was a bright golden color on
the back and merged gradually into
a rich orange over the less exposed
parts. It literally shone when he was
first brought in but immersion in
the spirit appears to have dimmed
it sadly. This is the only find made
lately altho' the fins have been looking
continually

continually for *Amperites* and the female
of *P. byrniei* - The latter seems to be
as difficult to obtain as the male
Amperita, and I am inclined to think
that the natives are right in saying
that the sexes of these two species
live apart at times. During the
winter I must try and find out something
more about the habits of *Plesiocybe*.
Both *P. crichanda* and *P. byrniei* are
seasonal and live in holes which they
line with grass, but *Semiothopsis*,
according to the natives, generally
occupies holes made by other beasts
or takes advantage of natural ones.

I have heard nothing of *Silloniakia*
so cannot say how your letter has
affected him. But if you have

addressed the Treasury of Grattan I am
quite understand the Home Pair being
shocked into silence. Any other form
of attack might arouse his ire, but
Grattan is secured. He will fight you
about Councils. In fact he generally
Produce Council in an argument
and his opponent finds that it is
necessary to prove Daniel an incompetent
scoundrel or admit himself wrong
about - say free education!

I am afraid you do not properly
appreciate the worthy *Quinsford*.
He believes in Progressive Taxation &
the building of an Ireland Railway
on the Land Grant System. As
Progressive Taxation means the social
introduction of the Single Tax, the
Railway

railway will be paid for with land
which the Government will eventually
tax to its rental value, so that
the railway will cost the colony nothing!
From a South Australian point of
view this seems thoroughly sound. Of
course the English Lyndcote, that
builds the railway, and people
incapable of broad and Statesmanlike
views may regard the matter differently.
It must have cost Munro a big effort
to sacrifice those bits about the obnoxious
members and as he will find a vent
for his feelings somewhere I fully
expect to hear of an unfortunate
bird fancier coming to an untimely
end - I would like to see him
and Cowle together in an office
for a week - especially if they
had been regarded on ~~to~~ &

salt beef for a fortnight. Previously
 I can quite imagine how dreary
 the never-ending round of lectures
 and demonstrations must be, but
 I think on the whole you need not
 envy me ^{my} bugs and philosophizing
 at O.W. If anything is calculated
 to drive a man mad I should say
 a lengthened residence anywhere between
 Crown Point & Odnadatta would
 do it, and if you want to kill him
 outright fix him about five
 years at Strangways Springs!

The rabbits are beginning to make
 themselves felt. They have reached
 Menbury on the Finks, and
 at Koppaditchida, fourteen
 miles east of here, they are
 very

very thick. I am sorry for the poor
requited animals and will mercifully
shoot as many of them as possible
before the next drought sets in.

No sign of rain yet, but when
it comes I hope to have some
success in the Mole line, and
if I have a female with young
you may feel tolerably that the
young are fairly well developed.

Yours for sincerely

P. M. Dixon

Professor
W. Baldwin Spencer

19th
Lubricated brought in female
of P. M. Dixon, but it shows no
trace of a pouch at present -

at least not to my mind. Expect
more fun in tomorrow -
Receives spirits from Minnie's. You
had not love and them as that
over a fallen on land.

M.B.

The few found the female rat among
some iron poles stacked near station.

One of the males I sent you had a
tunnel under the same lot of poles, but
as I led them shifted two or three
hundred yards, recently, and reburied
the female was probably in the hollow part
of the poles.

Just got a specimen of what
I take to be *Anectononyx laniger*
By some means or other the got
into a wood covered box containing
M. torridus, and could not
get out. Mail and leave for

a couple of hours so something
else may turn up before its
departure.

P. M. B.