My dear Spencer.

I am afraid we cannot come to terms upon this much vexed question of "toterwcin": however, as we have both tried to explain existing facts, and offered opinions diametrically opposed to another, there is no reason why we should not discuss other matters. To tell you the truth, it is indeed a pleasure for me up here, away from civilization - so far as the scientific element is concerned - to have a five minute talk by letter.

I am very grateful to you at any rate for your criticism re "climacyn" etc, and you are quite justified, so far as I am
concerned, in taking up their position which you do. However, as there will evidently now be a lot written by careful observers in the future upon these varying systems of classification, it would be admirable to form a small committee of the whole, e.g. yourself, Howett, Fison, etc. and draw up a standard of some sort, so that these various groups can be conveniently tabulated, and carefully named if you like, so that there will be no doubt as to which groups (primary, secondary, etc.) are being referred to. Of course, I would fall in with the views of a majority of any such privateoterie: at present, even I have a lot of MSS. ready, and will be only too pleased to hold anything back provided there is any chance of our getting uniformity in our work.

In other matters also, there is a lot of ambiguity — e.g., the "throwing-stick," "yam-stick," &c. "Throwing-stick" at present is apparently applied to such things as — a spear-thrower, commonly a "nulla-nulla." Two kinds of toys: "Yam-stick" may also mean a stick for digging yams. a fighting- pole. And so on with many others. Surely, if you scientific minds drew up some regulation for the adoption prevention of
Such misnomers it would do a world of good.

As for Carroll and his Anthropological Journal, I saw the first copy—unlike Pearl Soap I have never used it since!

Strange to say, for the last four years I have been collecting from N.W. Central, Central Queensland, and the Gulf Country, and now from the far north. My private collection with about 600 different objects (50 of them skeletons & skulls) I have also arranged on the Pitt-Rivers type—though of course in a small house such as mine things hence cannot be shown to such advantage as in a Museum.

Now of course that I am
have a lot of M.S.S. ready, and will be only too pleased to hold anything back provided that in any chance of our work, in other matters also, there is a chance for us to form a small collection of everything, e.g., the "throwing-stick," "yam-stick," etc., apparently applied to such things as "mulita-nalla." The latter may also mean a kind of toys.

Surely if you should tie some regulations for the adoption of a majority—after such private discussion—would do as I think it wise to do, of course I would fall in with the views—of your committee.
a Government Official, anything of special interest will go to my Department down in Brisbane.

I believe the Brisbane Museum is extra strong in New Guinea things, though the authorities there are very much cramped for space.

I returned last week from a trip to Thursday Island and Normanston. At the former place I met Haddon and some of his party. I told them how delighted I was to hear of their expedition, as they might find traces of many ethnological connecting links between New Guinea and Malaya on the one hand, and Cape York, with North Queensland, on
the other.

With regard to my anthropometric measurements (each accompanied by photo of front and profile) I unfortunately do not possess a Brock's somatometer, or what ever name is applied to the instrument, so will have to get some mathematician ultimately to deduce the facial angle from the other measurements. What a joke—yes, the odour is pretty strong at times, but the statement is new to me that the smell of a nation increases as he gets excited. I will look out for it any rate. There is a reverse side to the picture, however—the blacks at Bouxia used to declare that they could not stand the stench from us whites!

I am looking forward with very great pleasure to seeing your and Sillen's book published, and sincerely trust that you will succeed in getting Macmillan to take the financial responsibility off your hands.

Your remarks re the average European Anthropologist not seeming able to put on one side the ideas of relationship to which he has hitherto been accustomed, are such as I can heartily endorse. It was a great puzzle for me to understand how for a long time how it was that a man could have so many mothers!—indeed this system of
social organization was the hardest thing to grasp.
With regard to "fancy" wife, I mean the wife of the man's own choice in contradiction to the one allotted him by the general camp council—his official wife. You see, he may not personally care for his official wife, though he is obliged to take her. Both in fact all—his wife, wives, must of course belong to the same group—the group to which the females of which I applied the term "sisters-in-law". If a man attempted surreptitious intercourse with any but his "sisters-in-law", it would prove disastrous for him—probably death: with any of his "sisters-in-law" however no notice would be taken, unless
their husbands of course chose to object.
By the by, did I tell you that there is a most complicated system of "taboo" up here, the very same word "taboo" or "jaboo" being used to give expression to it.
Good old Martin - he is a splendid fellow - please pay him my best respects: the fact of his having been appointed Professor of Physiology at Melbourne is quite new to me.
No, I have not read Howitt's paper on the Organisation of Australian tribes, and would be delighted if you could spare me the loan of a copy as you kindly suggest. Mr. Fison was good enough to send me a Clarificatory System etc.; in the course of my last letter to him, I told him that...
we discussed over the "totems" and that if he cared to learn my views I had stated them to you.

Now, with regard to publishing— I cannot do anything now without permission, though I know full well that it would be granted at head quarters as soon as asked for. I have a lot of M.S.S. in hand at the present moment, and am continually sending down reports to my chief, though, in view of fire or flood, I take a copy of everything (even sketches) before it leaves my possession. For instance this week I am sending down "Some of the native Food of the Bloomfield River Aborigines." Next week I shall have a lot of diagrams relative to "cal'cudlo" to send down. I am also just at present completing the drawings for an article on the "Mish of the Queensland dilly-bag." These have taken me a terribly long time to work up, — I have watched and studied the whole process of manufacture of all but two or the dozen or so different varieties. And then committing it to paper — will you are yourself deft with your pencil, and can realize what a grind it means. To tell you the candid truth, I am not really anxious to publish until such time as I have worked through all the Cape York Peninsula, and then make everything "comparable." I think it is far better to do that than to let out a little bit here and there. Up here there is apparently a good deal new seen and perhaps malac element, and all that has to be sifted. At
any rate you can readily understand that I have got my hands full, and that, at the same time, I am simply in love with my work. And what more does a fellow want?

Now look here, don't you ever talk any more about my minding your free criticisms: what ever I take, I can give!! Beside, as I say it is most delightful to have a chat like this — it's just like the way we used to squabble with poor old "Nicky" at Oxford. By the bye, he is Professor at University College London, isn't he?

Of course, I should dearly love to have a personal talk with you, and you can rest assured that if ever I come anywhere near your neighbourhood, you will find I have taken you at your word. Many, many thanks... By the bye, Tylor wrote me such a nice letter — he says he remembers "Tommy's" sketches at Shrimpton's well. Alas!