



STRAND PALACE HOTEL,

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LONDON, W.C.2

24. 6. 27.

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THE STRAND HOTEL LIMITED,

PROPRIETORS OF

STRAND PALACE HOTEL.

REGENT PALACE HOTEL.

My dear D. Macart,

Many thanks for your letter. I am very sorry to say that the Exeter dinner is not possible. I have a long standing engagement made in Australia to be in Antwerp to meet a steamer which has most generously broken down en route from that benighted part of the world & so I shall be out of England & shall be thankful if I can get to the Lincoln Quincentenary. Anyway I hope to see you in Oxford soon when I shall be staying with Balfour.

At present my time is fully occupied with proof correcting. I sent Macmillan home a new book entitled "The Archaic - a study of a Stone Age People" & thought it better to come & see it through the press as sending out proofs to returning them from Australia is a lengthy process & not so satisfactory as when one can come into personal

contact with the printer.

It contains a fairly complete account of a typical Australian - or at least Central Aust. - tribe which I think be useful to students. It contains also a good deal of new material.

Many thanks for the lecture. I am delighted with your polite remarks about Eliot Smith - you dealt with him rather too gently.

Of all 'bounders' he is the most bumpkins. There is of course much that is fruitful in the 'diffusion' idea but he & Perry are simply dressed with it & seem to have become incapable of dispassionate judgment.

I compare, somewhat with bated breath, that Rivier's "Melanesian" is to me most unsatisfactory. I learn me helpfully bewildered.

He was doubtless an excellent psychologist but I cannot regard him as a great ethnologist.

Kindest regards. I will hope to see you soon.

Yours very sincerely
W. B. Alderson Spencer.