

10  
Maurice

5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1895

Dear Professor

Your very interesting letter describing the visit of the Ameer of Alge Sp<sup>o</sup> to Melbourne safely arrived and I can quite picture him making an Ass of himself on each & all of the occasions you wrote about. When I meet him I will get his version and when I let you know how he transfigures things you will turn green with envy that your powers of imagination are so feeble compared to his. He will even turn those green blouses into profit and there is but little chance

of our gins seeing them, as he can  
scarcely coerce Daer or myself into  
buying at his own prices no matter  
how those poor devils at Alice  
Sp<sup>r</sup> stationed under him have to  
ante up with the poor satisfaction  
of seeing their women clothed in  
Gillen's mistakes - I'll bet he didn't  
declare duty on them at all events.  
I got a few very poor stones the  
other day & a nice lot of wooden  
ones which I have written Bohem  
about - Posing as an upright  
youth before both Black & White  
is annoying at times - for instance  
I promised not to let any other  
Blacks know that I had been  
shown this Plant & in consequence  
could only carry away the sticks  
I could jam into a pair of Pack  
Bags & had to leave upwards of

80 hieroglyphical sticks remaining from about 2ft to 5ft in length behind. One of these was very interesting & I believe it told of how in the early ages Chambers' Pillar took a long journey away to the East & then came back & settled where it now sits. I might have rigged these sticks where we rigged the Camera but I would never have got through the Black unscen which meant hell for my guide. I am only afraid they will find out their toes before I go there again and if so they will shift everything. Times are very busy just now as you say with the damnes, horse thieves etc & I have only been home for three days between mails. I had a trip up by Mission St & Alcega Hill

Ellerup Creek & the north side of Range which I ran along to the big Glen Helen Gorge, then on to Glen Helen and across to the Palmer via Jones' Range. I saw some strange sights in the stockline on the north side of McDonnell and it was surprising how many foals seemed to have lost their mothers - if ever there was a forsaken piece of Country it is this part when one gets off the Pad, I had to leave two horses clean done through the stones at Shay Hole & go back & replace lost shoes before I could get them done & home. Almost immediately afterwards, I heard that several of these people were about the Finke & about a horse bearing another man's brand under the

Station one W.G. being taken  
£77

out of the yard at Mr Burrell,  
shot & burnt while the Droovers  
were breakfasting in the Creek half  
a mile away - of course I started  
to investigate & met the Alice & P<sup>o</sup>  
Police near Francis Well with the  
suspected offender in charge so  
returned home to attend to mail.  
Daer is still away but when he  
does return and things are fairly  
quiet I will make a special trip  
out from King's Creek after Sminthopsis  
but you know I am not exactly  
a free agent here and will have to  
let things settle properly.

Last night Bertie, the lubra  
brought me a rat, as she had been  
in the Sun with it all the afternoon  
I disembowelled him & ~~skinned~~ <sup>skinned</sup> him.

in spirits - today I have all hands searching for his wife as I think he is a Phascologale something - he does not seem to be *cristicauda* or *Dasyurus* - tail too short & no crest and much resembles a short ferret in body. Ears large & flat. If they are not successful I will pack him up tonight in the only jar I have & trust he will reach you in a fit state to examine. I was afraid to dry salt him as the sun might have made him a bit close. I would very much like to see Pat Byrnes get them to explain to me the difference between *Sminthopsis*, *Phascologale*, *Haplotis*, *Dasyurus* etc. & as my learning is turning dog on me properly, he was touched with weather which is 'hallee' Dew-claw! & also what means 'crassates' scaly!

Garden flourishing & I planted the melons for French sent me them got broken but I hope this mail's supply will be more lucky. I think the smashes had place before they got to the Coach at Horse-shoe Bend - I only wish I could get you more animals, so far Kearland's line seems to have been the only one I have been really successful in. I don't intend closing this till I see if the boys have any luck tonight but am not very sanguine. No luck - I suppose you Swan is only an ugly duck, sorry I can't make him less bulky but I thought he was touched with weather. Kindest regards

C. Bowle