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Mlamurta

13 Dec 1895.

Dear Professors.

Your truly wel-  
-come letter to hand. Thank  
you for sympathy re poor  
old Daer. I was looking for-  
-ward so much to seeing  
him when I got back from  
Eldunda a couple of weeks  
ago but when I got to Henbury  
I heard he was dead. You did  
not see much of him as you  
say, so you can't know what  
a thoroughly good safe, reliable  
mate he was in all things  
which means a lot in our

life here and I miss him  
terribly - The powers that  
rule our Dept. have placed  
me in charge which is pro-  
-motion to the extent of trans-  
-ferring the responsibility of  
the place to me but no increase  
in golden pieces, however it  
is an especial mark of con-  
-fidence. Kean from Alice &  
is to arrive shortly & be stationed  
with me but I am not highly  
impressed with what I know  
of him & long for the old times  
& Daer. Since last writing, I  
have been to Eldunda & out to  
Reedy Hole which looks very  
different now to what it did  
when you & I were there. The  
waters has dried back to the

big hole which the horses  
would not go near on account  
of the Reeds and there was very  
little at Bagot's Creek. at both  
places the reeds were very dense  
& much higher than a man  
on horseback. I had hopes of  
rounding up some blacks when  
I should have spelled a day  
& put the gang marauding  
gathering but smokes are  
delusive affairs & on reaching  
there I found it was the wind  
that had carried the fires  
along the porcupine & the  
gentle darters evidently as  
far off as ever, they had been  
burning those high sandhills  
south of the Range & it should  
have panned out well. By the

bye "Lydekker's Marsupials" is  
 not to hand. The weather has been  
 simply suicidal for weeks &  
 one would fancy a deluge was  
 imminent by the thunder, clouds, &  
 lightning, I was positively ner-  
 -vous some nights with so much  
 steel round me. if there is no  
 rain, the Tempe people will  
 soon have Cattle on South side  
 & if my duties permit I will  
 look after the Rats & while prot-  
 -ecting the interests of Al Martin  
 endeavour to advance science  
 one more peg. I cannot give you  
 much information re "Hootoones"  
 as they used to go back a long  
 way & come bundling out pro-  
 -miscuously. The inflated ones  
 are much more active than  
 Yarumbas - & first shower I will dig

up some more holes, the main difficulty is keeping on the line & when it's lost or getting into difficult country, the blacks guilelessly remark "No more" I think the rain disturbs all their arrangements but honestly I am too busy to go out now & hunt them to a finish. I am sorry Prof. Sait thinks I have neglected him but whenever I have been in promising spots, I have not been able to delay fossil hunting & one feels chary of forwarding plants because if he happened to have got them when with H.E.L., they would be received readily. I also regret that I have been of little use to Dr. Stirling in his

work - the charming chaos in the Menagerie is very interesting & no doubt highly interesting to his Serene Highness Belk, the vagaries of Horn won't disturb him much as he has not been working for the unborn generation.

I really hope to spend Xmas quietly here altho' Gillen, Kelly, the Missionaries & the Cook at Lempe are all desirous of my presence for that occasion. It doesn't do to make oneself too cheap - ahem! & if I had my way I would like to wire for a case of beer & slip down to old Pat Byrne whom I haven't seen for two years. It would be capital if we could manage that little Exp<sup>n</sup> next summer, you

could bring up a village letter  
& I would supply some bare  
rumped niggers & that would  
render one member of the party  
at least, supremely happy -  
one only, has to know F. J. G. & to  
study W. A. Politics very slightly  
to be convinced that there is a  
lot in heredity after all, I wrote  
to him the other day & sent him  
some sticks civilly as I suspect  
a plum pudding from that  
quarter - Where do you intend  
putting in the festive season?  
don't repeat the last year's  
experiment and take the  
wife & children to the sea - perhaps  
though, this is a necessary  
relaxation for all English  
people as they all seem to rush

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off to Ramsgate, Margate or  
some other fashionable seaside  
resort periodically & have their  
places robbed while they are away  
I had one of those intermittent  
shower baths today & feel thor-  
-oughly clean in ~~my~~ body,  
mind & clothing. Sincerely  
hoping you will have a pros-  
-perous Xmas & a prosperous New  
Year free from the worries of  
a beggarly, retrenching, promise  
breaking government (also applies  
to La. only more so)

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

Geese Howle