Ilamurta
13 Dec 1875

Dear Professor,

Your truly wel-come letter to hand. Thank you for sympathy re poor old dear. I was looking for-ward so much to seeing him when I got back from Eldersda 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
big hole which the horses would not go near on account of the rocks and there was very little at Ragots Creek as at both of these points the Kelley family have moved up some distance higher than I had hoped.

I should have had a day of hunting with some members of the family, but the Kelley affairs have taken me to the Porcupine Range. I have been to Caledonia and the problem of the fires has been burned there. Nothing else of note has have been here. We have been back to the horses which I was here. The Kelley's have planned very well. By the time here and I missed him.
bege "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 nerv-
ous some nights with too 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 prote-
cting the interests of A.Martin's endeavour to advance science one more peg. I cannot give you much information re Ootooono 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 guiilelessly remark "No more" I think the rain dist-
urbs all their arrangements but honestly I am too busy to go out now & hunt them to a finish.
I am sorry Poof said friends I have neglected them but when-
ever I have been in prom-
ising spots I have not been able to delay fossil hunting & one feels chary of forwarding plants because it 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 O. Stirling in his
work - the charming chaos in the menagerie is very interesting and no doubt highly interesting to His Serene Highness Bell, the vagaries of Horn won't disturb him much as he has not been working for the unborn generation.

I really hope to spend it was quietly here altho' Gillian Kelly the missionaries & the Cook at Tempe are all desirous of my presence for that occasion. It doesn't do to make oneself too cheap ahem! x if I had my way I would like to wire for a cake of beer x 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 x next summer, you
could bring up a Village letter & I would probably some bare
sumpfed niggers that would
render one member of the party
at least, supremely happy—
one only has to know T. H. to
study U. A. Politics very slightly
to be convinced that there is as
lot in heredity after all. I wrote
to him the other day & sent him
some seeds civilly as I expect
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
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 mind, body,
mind & clothing. Sincerely
hoping you will have a pleasant
Christmas & a prosperous New
Year free from the worries of
beggary, retrenching, prisons
breaking government (also affairs
etc. only more so)
Believe me
Yours very sincerely
Grace Hawle