

1
Mlamurta

12.3.96.

Dear Professor.

I have to thank you very much for the Part II of the H.C.L. I have not gone through it yet & only looked at the pictures which the Blacks call "indoota" & or very good & they ought to be competent critics, they recognised the Rats & lizards very quickly but the diagrams of skulls & feet seemed to puzzle them very much.

What an immense amount of work you must have had getting this in order & from the Prospectus I have before me from Dr Stirling

I see there are three more parts to be yet issued & pity you if you have to edit all of them as well. Who is writing the narrative of the Expedition for part one which should be highly interesting if it goes into details of the Camp very closely? I saw where Horn had read a paper in England on the Expedition which was favourably criticized & noticed where he touched on Dr. Stirling.

Are you really serious about visiting Cent^l-Aus^s again next. Imas? He would want to arrange a little plan beforehand & get the Commⁿ to tell me to assist you any way I could & all would be smooth as we could use the Camels etc. I could easily arrange to be at Charlotte Waters next Imas

43

if you could not get further than
that but my idea would be for
us to go to Eldunda from Sdra-
-coma and out to Coolada. I
from there then on up the
Palmer either straight to our
Camp to replenish or along
Jill's Range, the extra distance
coming in here would only be
twenty miles. Why I suggest
Coolada is because they are
small mounds in Long Salt
arms amongst Sandhills & small
tablelands & the forms of trees &
C^o inhabiting both should be there
together. I made a flying trip out
that way last month just to see
the Country as I had never been on
that part and liked it very much
& hope to be able to make a trip
from close to Triquetts Creek down

54

by Mt Ebenezer or Mt Tomnor to
Eldunda this winter. About
9 miles from Eldunda on a
dry canegrass & saltbush swamp
I came across scores of those
twig mound Rat nests (you told
me in your June letter, that
though formerly common, you
did not know where they now
were) I let the boys have an hours
sport burning out some of them
& chasing the inhabitants which
are regarded as a delicacy.
There were four or five in each
mound we tackled & I secured
an adult male & female which
I carefully salted but they got rather
strong & I had to air them which
let the dead men beetles get at
them a bit. I have just wrapped
them up in calico & addressed

specimen or two before us would
teach me more than a lifetime
of ydarker. & enable me to notice
the different kinds of mus readily.
I had bad luck with a splendid lot
of eggs as the mice got into them
while I was at Eldunda & took the
lot nearly (200) wadding & all & my
collectors not shaping well, earned
a hiding but I have been enabled
to send a few good kinds to French
this mail and have got niggers
searching for the beloved Black
Cockatoo Egg. Strange to say this
Season seems quite different to
1895 oologically - some birds
which were very plentiful last
year are not about at all &
vice versa - last year one saw
Epthian Tricolor everywhere &
this season I have not taken one

9
of their eggs but those of the Blue
wren were very common.
Our cats seem either utterly
deaf of mice or to be strict veg-
-etarians. There are four & every
one of them eats largely of any
cooked vegetable such as cabbage
carrot, beet etc. is this natural?

I haven't heard from Palmer
for ages, I think he must have
been busy making small goods &
Sausages for the Christmas
& studying how to run those
opportunities out of the business.

If affairs work as arranged
I will go to Alice St. before next
mail day & no doubt have the
pleasure of interviewing Jillem
I want to see him particularly
about nigger questions & put
him on a right level as reg.

8
-are some other items - he runs
away with an idea now that
no one but himself has any
right to possess nigger skins
etc. at all utterly forgetful
that he is not going in for the
subject for the benefit of the
Blacks themselves but entirely
for self glorification. I was up at the
Mission Station about a fortnight
ago & found the missionaries very
kind & hospitable, I didn't see the
one I object to, Shelton, he had not
arrived many weeks with a new
wife & appeared so much occupied
to be visible but the head man
& his wife & I got on capitally &
altogether this man Bognel (Rev?)
seems much more sensible &
less narrow minded than any
of those we have seen there before.

5
Haplothis Conditor -

14

them Boyan to make certain that they are precisely the same form as you spoke of, they did not strike me as being so ferocious as Mitchellii. and I can get you good dry salted specimens any time if you want them.

Re Phascologale Cristicauda. I see in Plate I. Fig I. a life size drawing didn't I send you a lean one. about three times this size.

I found one of the Cats chewing a McDonnellensis the other day so they are also about here.

I intend trying to go down & see Pado in May, I would have gone now only Kean has had to go to St Augusta again over those horse cases & won't be back till end of April. An hour or two with you or Pado with a

I returned home along the Mission Range via Pine Point & Shag Hole & noticed one of those twig nests at near Pine Point. The Palmer ran from Bowson's Hole to just below the Tempe Road crossing & the Finke & Ellery's creek might get to Henbury or just past. none of the other creeks ran although there was nearly 5 inches in January & over two in about 48 hours last month. the first lot made splendid feed but the hot weather burnt up all of it in a few days & if the second lot of rain had not have come it would have been disastrous. I can notice the effect of this very plainly in the garden here where the ends of the Pumpkin & melon vines, all tender young growth

about it being true. One of my
 trackers told me at Coolatta Sp^o that
 he saw a rabbit while after the
 horses & showed me the tracks of one
 on one of the Salt arms running
 from the Sp^o. I have heard of odd ones
 on the Tinde but fancy if Rabbits
 are really plentiful out there they
 must be coming from the South in a
 line considerably West of the Tinde -
 What do you think about it? No one
 asked the Blacks about it but they
 reported it at Tempe & again some
 of the Whites at the Mission spoke
 about it & this coupled to what
 I heard & saw at Coolatta make me
 think it is really true. although
 none have appeared inside the
 actual boundary we work on.

C.E.

are burnt off as if frobbitten.

I am glad that Mr Spencer's illness is a thing of the past - my sister writing from Melbourne tells me that the heat there has been extraordinary the same as in the other Colonies.

Well as regards War - see there is still plenty of talk & poor old Salisbury seems to be having to climb down over Armenia through the currich action of Germany Russia & the Jellenich Brich. He will no doubt prove that it is only the purest motives that have led them to help to harass England. anyhow I hope his brother doesn't get re-elected for he appears even more pompous & assertive than the one we know & like, although we frequently

desect him in an unmaliciously affectionate manner.

Don't forget to keep me posted as to your movements for the next 6 mos and also as to the exact time you would be likely to have at your disposal & with the most sincere good wishes

Believe me

Yours affectly

Charles Howle

By the way the Blaets at Tempe report Rabbit out by King's Creek & Lawrie's Creek, also West of Coolada & the Mission Blaets report them out from Haets's Bluff. As many of these diggers including Anabel & others have been prisoners & witnesses in Port Augusta & have eaten & seen lots of Rabbit there should be no doubt