

I am keeping one
P. eximius? in spirits
for you. C.

1
Ilamurta.

17. 4. 96.

Dear Professor.

I was delighted with your long interesting epistle but surprised that even you could not distinguish any Mus on sight and felt a little easier in my mind at not being able to properly spot the one I send you under separate cover. I salted her immediately I got her but she is rather high yet. She is of a bandicooty appearance & you will observe the rudimentary pouch if you soak her in water as I dodged it in opening her up, extreme tip of tail missing. locality

between Henbury + Mr Burrell in
 Porcupine - Arunta name. "Inchillya"
 Lorritcha name - "Winterra" - on the
 authority of blacks I may state
 that it eats principally Witchity
 + grubs, constructs a little nest
 in a crab hole with grass on top.
 chiefly nocturnal - + my boys
 reckon that could get me some
 more some moonlight night
 in Sandhills near here by laying
 out some bones + watching. Shall
 I give them a chance at it or not?
 Re Bregadermas figas - which I
 note you did not receive many
 specimens of at Alice Sp^{ce} - they
 are very plentiful in some
 caves near that ceremonial Stone
 on Henbury, if you want more,
 I skinned a couple but they went
 fairly rotten in the bags + so

the best of my recollection their skin & fur seemed longer & stronger than that of some I skinned at Alice Sp^{rs} years ago. Am sending remains of one with the Rat.

To recur to 'mus conditor' I don't think he is migratory at the spot I told you of. Mr Harburton says they have always been plentiful there.

I have been in to Alice Springs & I think even Gillen will tell you that I conducted myself respectably - thanks to Mr Gillen's kindness, he laid in one bottle of Whisky and when I finished that, I left, we had no time to get fairly discussing things in general so the atmosphere was balmy & genial & I did not get beyond telling him he was to do with Comfort & Prosperity

and asking him if he didn't think he was a piece of coctly & totally unrequired ~~power~~ pilding to the Telegraph Station after he had told me he could not let Field accompany me back, although he admitted that Field had carried on everything perfectly correctly during his long absence in Ad^l & Melbourne. Two or three times he started little ranting orations with outstretched hands & eyes fixed on some imaginary object in the sky but as Field & I immediately started to converse privately together, they fell flat. he has got hold of a wood or two somewhere and worries them properly - the present one is Pessimism & I had to listen to one or two little lectures

on this when I had no get away.
Pado I believe, has at last solved
the real cause of Gillen's nigger
tendencies. his theory is that Gillen
will shortly induce them to
believe in trans-substantiation
& make him their High Priest &
Treasurer. You know I like
Gillen but thunder! isn't
he a tremendous carmine
hypocrite. Now as to that trip
of yours. I expect to see G shortly
again & also Pado & get their
views but I have been working
out the time at your disposal
& can't make it fit in with
George Gill's Range (I hope to
be there next week) much to my
disgust. allowing you to be at
C.R. for Xmas. you could not get
to Reedy Hole much under ten days

at least same returning to C.W. = 20.
 14 days Adel^e to C.W. + back. = 34 which
 would make a very large hole in
 the time you have at disposal
 especially as we have allowed
 absolutely no time for Zoological
 Research. + packing + unpacking
 the Camera. Can't you get a solid
 three months on the excuse of
 illness or something and dis-
 appear for that space of time or do
 you feel that your absence from
 the youth of Melbourne for so long
 a period would throw back a lot
 of your work almost irrecoverably?
 I often feel that way myself
 + say it honestly without egotism
 or any conceit whatsoever, just
 although our lines of life are
 so widely separated. I can quite
 understand how a man could

idea of
 our efforts in a very brief
 period. I will write more fully
 when I have seen Ellen & Pat & at
 all events if you can't get this
 far I will do my utmost to get
 to Charlotte Waters to meet you
 once more.

I have sent your friend French
 a pair of Cockatoo eggs this mail
 & confidently expect to hear of
 them arriving in fragments
 I can not understand how it
 is that with these egg people
 even when a box arrives intact
 & unbroken, it is invariably
 only the valuable eggs that are
 damaged. I often muse over this.

Robin's vagaries seem because
 you all no end of trouble as S & W
 in addition to yourself, hint
 that matters are not going smoothly kinds of new ants in those.

The omission of Minnie's trap
 will be a more serious loss & blame
 than the absence of the Loricata
 Castes from Kirling's work. You
 must be possessed of a more equable
 frame of mind (trained intellect
 Rep. Gillen) than I have, for I am
 sure I would make one dash
 for satisfaction by giving the world
 a few of the facts as they are.

Where does Belt come in? I suggest
 to Minnie that Belt should
 collect the different members
 of the Exp^s opinions on his
 brother-in-law & publish them
 as an Appendix & then he might
 rest content with ~~travelling~~ done
 something stirring at all
 events, by reading the Zoology
 I notice that there were two
 kinds of new ants in those.

sent you but I'm hanged if I can
recollect the difference of C. Cowley &
C. Midas. I thought they were both
alike. I will have to go digging again
soon to compare - struck rock last
attempts. All the Blacks in the
Country + many of us whites are
suffering from a severe attack of
Influenza or bigger Pleuro as it is
more generally called, thank goodness
I am about over mine thanks to
a free use of Rum. I always fancy
this stimulant, if good, soars over
Whiskey, I intend asking Sub. Prot^r
Jillen to recommend that I be sup-
-plied with ten gallons for the
Natives. I don't think I have any-
-thing further to write about this
Mail so I will finish by wishing
you a safe exit from the troubles
of Editorship + all good thoughts
Yours sincerely
C. Mesther