Dear Professor. Whatever befalls you in this land of heat & blasphe-
meny you will surely welcome it as a change & relief after your
solid drudgery of the past year; you will find Gillen "on Aborigines"
in his den very restful & soporific and can soonest to your hearts desire
once he gets well into the subject.

Touching Gill Range. I was out there a good deal last month, chiefly
on top of it & was thoroughly dis-
gusted with the appearance of the
whole place, there appears to have
been no rain there at all since
you & I were there before & certainly not for the last 12 or 18 months. Reddy Hole & the Kathleen which used to be fairly pretty little spots are as bare as a board, all the fern & reeds eaten or trampled to pieces by the cattle, I don't think you would even recognize Reddy Hole. Riggers being driven in from the Sandhills were slaughtering a bit. Martin & I tracked them for three days in foot & got to the old hags of the party & later in same day we saw the rest of the party carrying beef up the Range, we suspected them to run into us nicely but after a long delay we found they were cooking it under that big Cliff just west of Penny 86° when we tried to get down to where they were, they must have heard us or two outposts who
Among the bees were posted 300 yard off on the Porcupine Hills to watch against interruption may have seen us — anyway the lot had dis-
appeared hurriedly when we dropped over the last ledge leaving two
whole cows cooking in the fires, you will know this spot when you see it was right at the Cacadas or know how awkward a spot it was
to reach from our top. I saw one rat pop out of a little cave we camped in one night we would have liked to secure him but it was dark we
dare not light a fire for fear of being seen or smell. In the book you
are writing in collaboration with P.K. I hope you will take cognizance of
the aborigines appetite when he has food in the bush. I calculate that
the average of every man, woman, + child is 20 to 30 lbs of beef p day.
This is no exaggeration goodness only knows what the bucks actually eat
because of course the children can't eat their allowance of the average.
You see every time they wake up through the night they gorge + if it makes them
sick they can start again the next
moment on an empty stomach.
At the same time they can do a
starve with anyone. Of information
on the subject is of any use to you
I shall be happy to give it to you
when we meet. I was greatly grieved
to hear of the Commissioner's death
he was a genuine personal friend
to me. I do not know anything of
his successor + now also Gillen's
brother has gone, he wrote me a few
lines just after it occurred + the
poor old chap was terribly upset.
I shall expect to hear from you definitely shortly after you get to Alice & as to the date I am to be at Alice &. Kelly will send out a boy with your letter. I don't want to be hanging round Alice longer than I can possibly avoid. On meeting with you, I will place myself under your orders & we will go where it suits you best. Kelly tells me that Comm. Peterswald was very anxious that your trip should be a success & that he would wire me when you left Adelaide. My sister Mrs Symon is very anxious that I should go down & go to West Aus. but I feel that I am better off here. In any case I will have to go to Adelaide early in the year & see the Father who the girls tell me is not looking extra well. What I mostly dread
is the army of nephews & nieces & cousins far & near that I will see & have to be amiable to. Very many thanks indeed for the "Narrative" I have only glimpsed at it & will give you my candid criticism on it when I have gone through it properly. From what I saw of it I don't fancy it is exactly a true tale of what occurred, too flattering in parts & lacks lucidity to a Norwest reader. The illustrations are beautiful & I think Red Bank forge & Glen Helen forge two of the best. I think you had better bring a pair of thick India rubber cased tennis shoes with you (not with stitched soles) as you will find them excellent for walking on the Rocks with in slippery places, the stitched sole ones cut too quickly.
Our gold prospects were healthy at last hear but you will have heard later developments from Pads. I don't think there is anything else to write about today as I will close trusting that we will soon meet & have a pleasant trip. Let me know as soon as you can from Alice & as to when I am to be there with best wishes.

Believe me

Yours Sincerely

Ernest Cokele