

Illamurta

9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1897.

Dear Professor.

Your letter overtook me at Benbury on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month as I was wearily wending my way home & I must compliment you on your clairvoyance or powers of deduction. you gauged my whereabouts to an affy gaff. but you are wrong in supposing that I was cursing the individuals who lured me from this Oasis. honestly, I was only conscious of a dull disappointed feeling at not having been able to do more for you & that there had not been rain, I wanted to tell you this properly before I left CW. but when I do really feel things

I am always chary of expressing them & go in for a careless style which might lead one to think I was calling to all kindly feelings. Well, was it not hot the day I left you? I got to the fodder with my meat rotten, in good time, shaved at daylight & on to Crown Point & pitched scandal chiefly, with Mrs Ross till after midnight when I observed poor Miss Rofs about on the snow & returned to our anty spot. Jane, at the Bend was pretty quiet & gave me a lot of damaged hen eggs to carry me along but the hottest day I have felt this year was the 31<sup>st</sup>. I went a little past Warman's Camp for dinner & pulled up at 11.30 am. & tried to make another start at 3.15 but the camels would not face the sand till nearly sundown. it



was simply red hot. I heard many accounts of a wonderful bartering ~~place~~ <sup>place</sup> they had for me at Kenbury but it turned out to be an ordinary "Hehiljua". At Idraacowa I sent out some lubras to look for lizards & they turned up at Sundown with

two jam tins full of scorpions only, many of which got loose as I camped nearer the buildings that night. As regards Tempe & George Gill's Range things are very very bad, cattle about on the die & I believe they were going to shift them to Glen Helen. But on my return home I found letters from Coulthard saying that the Blacks (who never do wrong) were killing wholesale out at Reedy Hole & not even taking the meat also that they had killed

some old black fellow for giving me some information. I could not quite make out whether there were 70 Blacks at King's Creek or 70 cattle dead as I could not understand the blacks waiting to be counted. It is the hot weather & drought for-cing the natives in to these waters I fancy. I sent Kean & the boys out at once & would have liked to have gone myself as a lot like that should have some curio but I had to send him as he had not been away for three months. I got a few wommeras as I came home & told Kean & Kean to look out for your rat-tails & chignons etc. You recollect that spear I told you of - well the niggers want me to lend it to them as it belongs to the Parinthis dance & they wish to



show it to the blacks + lutras once more. the spear forms the nucleus + is dressed with feathers + a lot of Parinthee wooden churina, I think after the style of your big "Kurtungie". The Finke + Mission Blacks want to hold a big Ungoorra + are mustering "down" for it. I fancy that "Emu" is the object + they intend asking Mr. Parke to let them hold it at Henbury. If I were not going down I would let them hold it at Ilpilla + see the lot. they want me to see the Parinthee business so I will probably let them have the spear when I come back. Grandy Jack + Bad Crossing Jack are talking of what they are going to do with hat by + bye re those strips + I told all the blacks that I was the de-  
-linquent + would cut their combs

if they went much further - B.C. Jack's  
 long locks would be valuable for  
 trade purposes. I saw a lubra this  
 time + asked what she had done  
 with her hair which I knew she  
 was keeping for the making of a  
 certain young man called "Jacka-  
 -warra" + she told me that it was  
 "too much long time" so her father  
 sold it to the Crown Point Blacks  
 for a pipe + blanket. At all the  
 big Ungooras they have a lot or group  
 of those ceremonies + dances + go  
 through that smoking process only  
 from what I hear on the Finke, they  
 give the lubras an extra fumigation  
 I do not know the terms you have  
 for the various ceremonies + I sup-  
 -pose you know the foregoing but  
 I am just writing it in case you  
 thought that those shows were



only held on very rare occasions.

That is the impression you gave me when you said that the one at Alice would probably be the last held. I enquired particularly as to who were the showmen & believe it is the Blacks or rather old men who have charge of the bulk of the churina which represent the object in view - viz. Rat Rat & Co. Jack for the Rat. Rat's father & other old men for the one they talk of now. I will try & see as much as possible of their capers & give you results from personal observation - which I can guarantee - damn hearsay -

Dr. Eymann turned up here the day before yesterday from the Mission Station & has been spending his time about there &

from Fende Forge to Ellery's Creek examining the Country - he is no slouch at gathering information & his present idea is to have a look at Tempe then to Alice, Paddy's Hole, Northern Territory & then try & go through Northern Queensland & back to his native land. he seems to be going in lightly for everything Fauna Floral Geology & Anthropology & hases plenty of notes, he says he may publish an account of his observations when he goes home but that will not be for at least a year - he has not been working in any way with Strehlow & in fact Strehlow appears to have been just as rabbit holey with him as with everyone else for he tells



me he only spoke with him  
five or six times altogether, he is  
not making collections as he has  
no means of forwarding things  
but has a few little odds + ends,  
churina etc. I asked if he noticed  
any difference between the Barrow  
Creek Natives + the Finke ones  
+ he said that the difference is  
strongly marked - the Barrow  
Creek Natives are darker skinned  
+ haired + that they are not  
nearly so Jewish in type as  
those about the Mission, where  
the hair at the tips is in many  
cases quite light - I believe he  
took samples of a good many,  
would you like some of the light  
specimens. I often wonder whether  
the water of the Finke has a bleaching  
effect. By the way, he saw our

young Camel about 20 miles above Running Waters on the Tanka 8 days ago + I have sent two lubras on to see if it is still there, I could not send the only boy I have left here but if I can hear of it still being there I will go myself. Mr Warburton was disappointed that we did not go round his way - he heard the Three Decker Spencer + the Ironclad Cowle were to be cruising in his vicinity.

I have at last got that well earned promotion I told you of + can now write 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of 3<sup>d</sup> Class to my name, his carries with it a whole 6<sup>p</sup> diem extra so on receipt of this I wish you would buy a long sleeve of the beverage I recommended for you + French. Porter jaff. (Lemonade + Stout)



I hope you told him how hopeless the season here is entomologically & oologically. I did not see an egg coming back & am wondering if the drought will delay the blast Coelator. This year. I have got bottled, an 'ichilliyne', small snate, Scorp<sup>?</sup>, Amphibolurus maculatus, Cimelia leuveni, Varanus Crenatus Phasco<sup>?</sup> trae<sup>?</sup>. & in a tin I have a Perag<sup>?</sup> Lagotis with two young ones about size of Rats. Hope to get st<sup>x</sup> - hung better soon. I found the garden almost a Desert much to my dis-appointment, nary a melon or tomato & expect none unless we get a good shower. don't forget to send me the Anthropology & the Recipes for Lemon Syrup without Lemons as one cannot say what the Federation Convention will say re my leave. Father wank

me to go over & look at West Aus<sup>?</sup> with him but I am off that. Kindest regards & all good wishes to you & hoping to see you soon & that Bailey climbs no red onulgabo with the team en route to O.D.

Yours very sincerely  
Cresswell  
C. in

Havent heard from the Pontiff to date. won't close this till last minute.

11<sup>th</sup> Field has just sent me a wire "leave can't be recommended till Statistics are collected. Don't know what Statistics are meant but I exp- -pect I will get another wire or particulars next mail. We were struck out by those Peragale last night. They simply filled the tin & gas oozed out to Hell. What is the reason of this or is it just heat manufacturing a deadly gas. Sorry you were not here to enjoy it.