

Illamurta

20<sup>th</sup> Oct 1894.

Dear Professor.

Your letter safely to hand & I regret that I still have to report dolefully on the state of the country as far as rain is concerned. I have been up Glen Helen way for a fortnight and that is about the only portion of our district where feed is plentiful although water is getting scarce. I spoilt about 2 dozen plates through over exposure & did not discover till I got back & received your letter & some prints from Dr Grant that my plates were Ilford Empress.

(rapid) & not "Ordinarys" like the few I got in Melbourne so you can guess the mess I made with exposures of two + three seconds in good lights. I ran across the Blackfellow "Boomerang" with the abnormal shins & got a pretty fair plate but made a fearful muddle when I tried to get his shins only, I swung back the lens a bit & did not tilt the ground glass to correspond & the result was that besides being almost black I got his feet longer than his shins. Many of the plates seemed to be chafed also, although I put them in pairs & back to back wrapping in black paper - should I have put the gelatine sides together?

Since then I have learnt the secret of the rising & falling front to cut off or extend foreground & enclose a print or two of the butras here to show you the latest efforts exposed as you suggested with shutter set for time & released as quired as can be - also "shens" - which I have offered Gillen the Plate of if he wants it for the Dr. Faw. By the way he wrote to tell me he was likely to come out this way soon "Christ" is that snade juice? & of course relies on the use of my camera but although that is six weeks ago I have heard nothing further & will probably miss him. Martin has just sold 400 Store Cattle to Kidman & they have gone to

Ellory's Creek Forge till the road is open, he also sold 180 to Wallis & Harding so that we have had lots of passengers by & callow. Did you leave any spirits of Mine at Sandford's Blood's Creek for vermin? I heard the fate of some there from a man a few days ago & made a note of his words. I was putting an "Ichillera" in spirits & he remarked - "Holy b - y" "Bob Stuart says the b - y" "at Sandford's makes the best" "hot grog he ever tasted" - It must have come off something full flavoured. Glad to hear your invest-  
-ment

in the milking line as unqual-  
-ified a success as your garden.  
I would not suggest the Export  
trade as I fancy there is too  
much swindling in the old  
Country - You have plenty of  
room & why not try a neat  
Kiosk facing Alma Road &  
a good sign-board of yourself  
analysing the fluid & devital-  
-izing the bacteria on the veget-  
-ables - ought to go like anything  
& the returns would be quicker.  
As you worked up a trade, you  
might add Summer Drink's  
Lemon Syrup without lemons  
etc which I like very much.  
The Illamurta Show as you call  
it is rather like a bad Plum  
Duff at present.

Expect to be too busy to eat my Xmas spread anywhere except here or on the wallaby somewhere; things got a start on me last time & I have never caught them up again.

I don't think the yellowish rat you refer to came up about these parts - is it the fawn one that was so plentiful C. W. way? but I will examine throats of any - just now an attenuated lizard is all the ground life to be seen. The lubras had a *Moloch* in a box & I noticed it laid four eggs one day.

I don't think there is any chance of my going to Alice Sp<sup>r</sup> in place of Kelly & in fact I would not care for it but oh my God

how nice I am of this fellow here - Gillen writes floating over Kingston's reception on his return and still regards him as an Anglie being only to be looded at & spoken of with deepest reverence.

My sister tells me she called on Mr Spencer but she was not at home & that she will send my photo shortly. Please thank Mr Spencer for her kind wishes & tell her that I am afraid civilization has seen the last of me - that beastly cold had won't go away & induces a slight pain in my chest which I have written to Gillen about.

Futh is to be married to the much talked of Miss Bell

of the Podnadatta Pub. about 17th Nov. Don't forget to give me your ideas of latest attempts with the camera. Among etc. I got a lot of prints spoiled with rust in a tub the other night - is there any means of keeping rust off a big tub for one night only - You will observe a flared spot on one print caused by a crack in dark slide which I have repaired.

Kindest regards to self & Mr Spencer. Yours very sincerely  
Credetlow

I am also sending you a serrated piece of flint picked up by Coulthart at the base of the Red Beds on Glen Helen - he says the Beds don't know it & say they never made it - my opinion is that it is either a spear head or neck ornament from farther North or West. What do you think & what tools would it be trimmed with?