llamaarta  
8th Jan 1898.

Dear Professor,  
It is just a year today since we left the Alice together & much as I would like you up here again I reckon you are damned lucky to be out of the country or at least the Western portion of it this year. I fancy all the ground vermin must be dead, one never sees the track of any species of rat & even snakes are missing. The higher mammals such as sheep, cattle, horses are rapidly
following suit. I hear eleven horses are dead out of the missionary teams at Horse Shoe Bend. Things are serious here at the Mission, Henbury, and Tempe although Martin wrote that he had a third of an inch in December. I had a long trip about on top of the Gill Range in November and secured you a few more bones, hair, skin, and the blacks had very little except these stone adzes which I could not carry. The ubiquitous butcher knife was there but no stone ones. I feel convinced that it is almost a thing of the past for many miles West and at least as far
South as Ayers Rock. As soon as I got back I set sail for Alice Springs but as I had to go on to Paddy’s hole I had but little time with thefellows, not even time to quarrel as he devoted most of the conversation we did have to a dissertation on Kingston’s many good qualities. He (the Pontiff) looked very well but complained as usual of overwork. I interrogated him as to the duplex system & he told me he had it all at his fingers ends but was not so confident when I asked him why Lord went up Griffiths & Johnston while he & Keenan were already on the ground. I told you I had a job getting back & after the mail left I took a walking tour through from here to the Mission via Palm Creek to start the Blacks back to their own hands. I should say it was not more than about 32 miles but I found the Bed of the Finke pretty heavy from Palm Creek up carrying a waterbag & some twister in my fly round my shoulders. I quite agree with your remarks as to his knowledge of blacks & I think he would make a most excellent Protector down below. He & the Missionaries I do not regard as a blessing to either Native or Caucasian population in the
Country & I leave it to your own unbiased judgment to say whether the aged & infirm have really done any better from the presence of either party. I had a lively interview at the Mission when I got there but Bogner & I are first rate friends against trouble I think comes from Brehlow I objected strongly to being held out as a threat to the uncivilized blacks while the Christian ones were being allowed to do as they listed - you should see the state of affairs there & without being prejudiced honestly they only hear of the things that are done by the Katries who do not happen to be persona grata.
with the scholars - the others they rig out & shields in every way & when anything does occur they pretend not to know who has done it. fancy psalm singing all day & then dancing all night with the others in the creek. I have not heard from Byrne for some time & cannot understand why he does not write to Torndell or you, by the way can you instil into the mind of this respected gentleman that Pado & I live only a trifle over 200 miles apart that it is much easier to communicate with him from Adelaide generally than from here. writing for a Bowen bird he says "if you can't get time to skin, send one down in spirits" "I think Byrne has plenty" as if
to Borrany who wrote a long letter a week ago in which he expressed his view that the French and American papers were much better than the British. He said that he had been much impressed by the new French paper, and that he thought it was a great improvement over the old one. He also mentioned that he had read some of the American papers, and that he found them very interesting. He said that he thought the American papers were much better than the British, and that he thought they were much more reliable than the British.

I am very glad to hear from you, and I am sure that you will be glad to hear from me. I hope that you will write to me soon, and that you will tell me how you are getting along.

Your truly,

[Signature]

P.S. If you have time, I will write to you again soon.
for so that he could print & tone some himself, haven't heard or seen results. I had to lay my Camera up, could not spare heart & flesh to carry it this last trip or two & did not care to risk having to leave it & the packbag hung up indefinitely in a mulgal while we walked home. Mr. Grant sends me a lot of prints that he takes with details on the back, but of course he scarcely understands the sort of place we live in, postal disabilities etc & that we have not a druggist within 5 or 600 miles to get Rodinal hydrochloride etc from. I have an exposure meter & have also made a note of your hints.
Had a very quiet Xmas this year but not so bad if the horse feed worry was away. The boys got a lot of ducks from the Teide & I really spread myself in the manufacture of the pudding. I do not mind there was another mob of natives in the North so well satisfied with themselves & their lot for the time being as ours. DMC's pudding to come & one from my sister sampled today. The Post mistress at Dover told the sister she could send up to 11lbs. & 1.5 C. E. C. 15 to EHF.

Bend. Parcel paid Wells 3/- Sargeant 3/- 6/- Wells has rose price to 6/- p/lb. Honestly he has done the same. Happy New Year. York only.

This is from Charlotte Waters.
Keen is just back from Ebbisham and tells me Hyde is going to push some battle at Bohemia (you know he is always fighting over that). The children are coming over to us this week. A decent letter from Hyde. His publication of the book of the Century will enable them to carry on. Please keep him a little at your leisure to carry on. Please write a line and ask for the book of the Century. Please tell him you are very well. Please write a letter to everyone over there and let them know you are very well. Please write to everyone over there and let them know you are very well.