

Illamurta

17th Apr 1898.

Dear Professor.

Very glad indeed to get your letter, we were not allowed an extra fortnight like the Alice & people & it was about eight weeks since we had heard anything from the South. Pado, I can no more make out than yourself, I get a line about one mail in three, I fancy he is terrifically tired of the euphoniouly christened "Kinspot" Kernan, whose nose old Jilly pulled scientifically some time back. Ross gone South for a spell & will probably return with wife & governess. You must be

delighted with the finish of the
'Black Work' you have been engaged on
but I think you should have seen
the Black as a real wild beast as
well as in the shape of a Corroboree
Drover. & knowing your common
sense, I feel convinced you would
have thought there was also something
very "habable" about the Aus^{tr} Native
as well as loveable - you often used
to tell me that I only saw the worst
side of the blacks, perhaps I do, but
in your brief experience of them
did you ever come across a sign
of genuine gratitude or feel con-
vinced that any goodness of yours
to them could not be wiped out
in a second by a word or two
from another black. also in your
researches into their distant origin

did you ever come across anything
 represents our "hand you". I speak
 solely just now. Last January we
 found some killing wholesale & one
 got "hurt" seriously in the leg - well
 I thought this would be a lesson
 to the others so did not proceed
 against the one we had caught & who
 had already been in jail but gave
 him & the lubras flour & sugar.
 well when I was out there last
 week I saw these at the Station
 alright but happening to go over
 the Undia Country twice I found
 that when they thought I would not
 return, they had skippered over there
 & were as busy as ever with the
 Cattle - unfortunately I lost their tracks
 in rain. but came on another mob
 who killed three & one was damaged

You also say - You wonder they
 do not kill more - 'damnation'
 what more can they want when
 each mob kills enough to gorge
 on each day & if the beach is
 not fat enough, leaves it un-
 -touched & kills another. This
 was alright & there may have been
 some excuse on account of the
 drought but what can their exp-
 -porters put forward now when
 Tempe has had over 8 inches of
 rain. & feed everywhere & all kinds
 of bush tucker plentiful. So
 Professor I do not like severe
 measures myself unless driven
 to it but I reckon these blades
 want one real drastic lesson
 in the same way that Skiver etc
 should be treated & taught that

if they are to have the protection of our laws they also must conform to the others. Our share of the rain was about 5 inches & fell too steadily to leave much water in creeks but the feed is lovely & vermin in the shape of caterpillars & flies, a regular plague, I got an awful soaking on Laurie's Creek for 2 days & another along the Levi Range some days later. Water fairly ran out of the tops of our boots & as everything in our swags was soaked we had to build a fire & dry ourselves as we could, even my diary & record of natives, in the middle of my blankets was wet, me furious of course at the tracks getting washed out when we were so close on them, when we might have kept dry in a cave

I have not seen any rats yet but I think they should show up + I should not be surprised if "Spathopterus Aleiscandae" returned. most of the the small birds are plentiful but I have not seen a quail yet.

Did you not see "Albani"? It seemed quite strange to get your letter + needless to say refreshing to get one which did not run to a paragraph or two on her merits or demerits. I have tried to please the hearts of the egg people this time but there are a lot under my bed going stink rapidly, when one has only a few hours to do a big mail in - eggs are certainly de trop. I never heard from verb. Sap if he could do anything with the Bower birds I sent or if you got the

Yuligina + nosebones. Haven't seen the Pontiff but expect to before long. I reckoned to get some blasters this last trip + go in but failed as I told you. I must go out to Tempe again at once. Martin will probably shift all the Tempe Cattle to Glen Helen to try + give them a show but I am afraid a few others will follow them + make things hot - just now Martin is up there trying to send a mob of shoves to Town, fair feed there all the season. Parole's people in difficulties + I think Joe Breaeden is up in the Barnd's interests. Mission Station keeping it's even tenor of muddle, one or two years but I can't relate them at present. Garden starting to look very promising - hope yours is the

You should take a spell old man or you will be ill. kindest regards to Mrs Spencer + yourself.

Yours very sincerely
C. Coble