

Ulamunta

24<sup>th</sup> June 1898.

Dear Professor,

I do hope & trust that the almighty Pontiff found time to put my message in one of his letters to you, otherwise you must be thinking me most ungrateful for not answering yours. Well to go back to the start - shortly after sending you my last hurried line to you, I wended my way to Tempe & in a very few hours cut tracks of some poor creatures after cattle, followed these for four days to point of M'Levi Range when as we were only about six hours behind

them judging by their fires, I took  
to them on foot but soon discovered  
that they had just taken a scout  
round & come back to where they  
had started from to get a good view  
of the country & see if they were still  
being pursued & of course saw  
our footmarks & bolted, after a few  
days fruitless fooling trying to track  
them on those hard Peterman flats  
I struck for the Starra & Wild Eagle  
Plain which was the only other  
place where there were cattle &  
of course soon had their tracks  
again, I sent the horses to Tempe  
& early next morning sniped  
his lot (3) on the top of Mt Shady  
took them to Tempe & left them &  
returned to Wild Eagle & Horse Plains  
as we had seen tracks of another  
mob after battle. next night

morning early we saw where  
 they had been after battle which  
 was fortunately for us on that occ-  
 -asion got away after being spared  
 & as I learnt later they were on  
 one of the high points that morning  
 & saw us tracking them when they  
 went to see where more battles  
 were. I again abandoned their  
 horses (you can imagine what a  
 handicap they are in those narrow  
 plains where the points of the  
 Ranges command such an extent  
 of country) & followed them for two  
 days in the centre of the Range between  
 the two plains then across hills &  
 Eagle to Rth side & along it East.  
 I reckon they must have been getting  
 pretty hollow by that time for  
 they shot out on plain & game  
 beat up a very tough to neck

& killed it & I was pretty sure  
 of them for I was at camp I found  
 they had only gone an hour or two  
 & felt confident that loaded with  
 beef inside & out they would not  
 go far but as usual while trying  
 to keep their tracks down the side  
 of a range we were seen & when  
 we reached the camp only found  
 the meat & after a long chase  
 in the hills we only managed to  
 get one out of the four & near  
 Boon's Hole Plain - this left us  
 with about 20 miles to Lakehead  
 to Tempe & I can assure you  
 that on these cold nights there  
 is not much pleasure in  
 camping black fellows of a horse  
 without blankets & just a little  
 fire on each side. I find that  
 the fire either took you or that

you wake up with unfailing regularity each hour when it dies out & sometimes you cannot even light the fire for fear of being seen. You say, I always see the worst side of the blacks & I hardly think you judge fairly. These four were station blacks & all well treated & generally getting odd jobs about the place with no excuse at all to go out to Wild Eagle & only did so because Martin & Coulhard were at Glean Helen & they did not expect me to be out again so soon & relied on their tracks being obliterated before anyone saw them. The force of example of the "whites killing" does not apply at Lempe because thank God so far that place has been immune in that respect

from the absence of travellers. I took the niggers to Alice Sp<sup>d</sup> where they were sentenced to six months + sent Kean down with them, did not see much of Jillen as I was only there for by eight hours + raced home here + on down the road to attend at Horsehoe Bend as Dep<sup>t</sup> Ret<sup>d</sup> Officer over the Federal business - had to wait there two days + as the place has been recently ennobled with a licence to sell Wine + spirits etc things were very mixed, then on to B. W + back home via Erldunda.

Mrs Sargant has gone to town + has a deed of separation with her husband, he to allow her 15/- p week as long as she remains chaste + unless people have a very depraved taste in cities

I should say he would have to pay alimony for many years. Pats was bright & cheerful, & I wish I had seen him for a long time & I said "Pence is winning back's up" & tells me you have "not written for ages" to which he replied "well, to tell you the truth, old man here is absolutely nothing to write about & although he very kindly writes to me, I needn't I would only be him, I don't know whether this was the whole truth, but at any rate he seldom writes to us, up here now & perhaps in your case is a bit ashamed to after his neglect, I hoped to see the Ross' who were due from town, but they were all detained with influenza at Podnadatta. *averages per*

many thanks for the pamphlet on initiation ceremonies which was very interesting especially as regards the *Taiakha-mura* or *Robert's* *Prider* *in-law*, it was not that assembled moment of those concerted, old women be, *Rat-Rat*, *Grandy* & *Bad* & *working* *back* to *prolong* the flour producing epoch. I shall events the present system is very much more rapid, certain & beneficial to the young man & even of the things he has to do. The white man for that I suppose you & your collaborator would have had descriptions it is too near actual facts & hardly romantic enough. Putting all nonsense aside though, old man I think the amount of work you have done is simply stupendous.

\* To the interested people will  
be of most absorbing interest &  
value (don't see that it will actually  
benefit the Aruntas much though)  
\* I hope it is properly & beneficially  
recognized. but don't for good ness  
sake tell Ellen I have said so, you  
have fairly spoilt that man & he  
goes about with his bridel out  
& a comb on him like a Langshan  
Rooster & unless he gets a P.B. ship  
at least will be disappointed. I  
told him I could guarantee him  
one subscriber & he snappishly  
"said" "He don't want subscribers"  
"all we want is" Kudis (did  
you teach him this latter words,  
(his silence when I asked him  
appeared to me as if it were so)  
The only hard time for a skirmish  
or two chiefly on the conduct

of aboriginal warfare, he is inclined to be most philanthropic at the foot & other people's expense but his own pocket is another affair. He amused me when I said that he never spent any thing on them. He got most indignant & said "it's a good thing you know it has cost me over \$1000 for photographing Madras in the last few years." He was very much taken with my camera & offered me his & a horse he wanted \$7.10 for an exchange but we did not deal although the native question at present keeps mine idle. I read your critique on Roth's work & also that of the Bulletin of 25<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1897. (in case you missed it.) I thought the idea of Circumcision being a kind of mimicry, pretty



abundant - & the regulation of classes  
 by Ford - Ford very German  
 "The God of the belly" Before I forget  
 I want to ask you a question -  
 there is a rumour current that  
 a lubra at the Mission gave  
 birth to two abortions with tails  
 (dear), presumably this is the  
 result of allowing a dog to  
 have intercourse with her &  
 is supposed to be frequently  
 done by old women - what do  
 you want to know is whether  
 wanting such intercourse of  
 has taken place, could the  
 woman conceive? & indeed

I expect by the time you  
 get this far you will recollect  
 that Pat - who's right but I can't  
 help it, I feel in good spirits  
 thanks to Kean telling me

he would not return if possible  
 & on account of the glorious  
 season - besides the good rains  
 I told you of before, we have  
 had light showers every month  
 & when I came home the other  
 day the garden was a pie-  
 -tube & Cauliflowers etc burst  
 -ing all round. Temper people  
 shipping more cattle to Pen-  
 -sela & many of the Gill blacks  
 have in consequence gone over  
 to Mareena as I suppose they  
 will give us trouble there now  
 instead of visiting their more  
 outlying properties to the South.  
 I expect you heard the Pardes  
 were in the Baints hands for  
 a bit & that the working man  
 is now a little less independent  
 on the 1st & 2nd of Dec in lieu of

30/- + 35/- . I think Parke's af-  
-fairs will straighten shortly.  
I expect you have fathomed our  
mail arrangements by this time  
& learnt that it takes us two  
months now to get a reply  
instead of six weeks & that it  
is supposed to be an advantage  
for us. Wells appears able to  
do just as he likes with Tod.  
& everyone else seems to conspire  
to allow him to make £300 or so  
a year by running a mail  
with less than half the horses  
he really should have - of course  
you saw that yourself. War  
news etc is antique when we  
get it. & when like myself, we  
miss a mail or two & papers we  
get fearfully behind times (I have  
been reading Feb & March papers

since I got back to try & get a grip of things). French says you, he & someone else are just off for a holiday which I hope was an enjoyable one & that he attended to the provender satisfactorily. I am asking him what you people consider an outfit on these occasions. Glad his last eggs arrived safely for the first time & hope to send him a few black Coed-atooos this mail. I am enclosing too in Heartland's lot for your friend Dr. Ryan & telling K to hand them to you. Please remember me very kindly to Mr. Spencer & trusting you are all well & safely over the measles.

Believe me

Yours sincerely

ClL