

31 +
 Illamurta

7th Aug 1898.

glad Pado wrote
 again - he missed
 me this time

My dear Professor.

You are a
 true Briton to write when you had
 no letter from me & when you were
 in trouble over Mr^s Spencer's illness
 which I am heartily glad you tell me
 is over. I understood from your last
 that it was something very mild,
 you told me it was about half a
 measles but it must have grown much
 worse. I think I wrote you nearly
 everything that was going in my
 last & would not have attempted any-
 thing this mail had I not wished
 to call your attention to the idiotic
 things papers will publish on

Ethnology + am referring to an article by W.H. Hardy in Observer of 23rd July - this man is blacksmith or something at the Artunga Cyanide Plant + you will see the depth he has gone if you trouble to look at the article - I suppose he poses as an authority now + this is the sort of damned rubbish that people read + believe - he can scarcely be ignorant that you + Gillen have really gone into the subject + are publishing a book on the ~~subject~~ for Gillen was out there in the beginning of the year + no doubt blasted on his trumpet. or he is not the man you + I know - If this Hardy is the man I think he is, I fancy he got most of his information from the young lubras which he mentions several times -

3.

I saw Dr. Eytmann again at the Mission last month & he really is a close & inquisitive observer. Taking lower blades adding hair to their own to lengthen it, he told me that he had really seen them doing it somewhere above Tennant's Creek although he was convinced that it did not take place down here & also that the stuff used as cement was beewax of a kind - he intends visiting Arltunga & then riding down the road to about Bergott, selling his horses & getting back to Germany - he, of course cannot take specimens home but he draws capitally & has a great number of sketches - those of various birds & heads & feathers being excellent & very recognizable even uncoloured. I was sorry I could not see a little

4.

more of him but I had to go on a wild goose chase round Glen Helen searching for Arabi & three others who were supposed to be about Arareena Bluff but whose tracks I did not find till I had run down the Calder to within a dozen miles of Tempe & found where they ate a calf - I left the horses at Tempe, and put in four days on foot on those hills bound - ing horse & Wild Eagle Plains & saw six of their camps step by step. returned to Tempe for horses & more food & followed them on to another bullock, in & and out of hills & finally left them going towards Mission on those hills dividing Wild Eagle Plain & Mission Plain. I must get this lot by hook or crook & am off again

in three or four days but anticipate trouble for besides Arabi, there is another ex Barrow breast tracker & the others are semi-civilized.

All the others against whom I have warrants are temporarily scared back & if I could snap this lot might remain in back country & in that case with the exception of two or three who really do know better, I would get the warrants withdrawn. I do wish they would steady off again & that you were coming up this year. I feel certain this tribe has some divisions because of the rows lately over one or two having wrong labras & I cannot get time to sit down amongst them & really worry at it.

There is a new man here in place of Kean but I can tell you

but little of him so far, he is not impressive although full of ideas & suggestions which he is not slow at airing & I will probably be able to dilate on him in my next. according to his own account he has been a terribly wild young man in his time & premenjously successful with fair women etc. I would like you to meet this type if they only would not be subdued by your presence.

The Ross' got up to Crown Point after a rough time at Codnadata influenza etc & I hear now that Mr Ross is very bad with rheumatism. Martin shifting nearly all their stock to Glen Helen.

strange to say in spite of many rains, there has been no water near the station for more than

twelve months - At Oreyechitna
 P.E. in Marlena where I got water
 last year in the drought I could
 not fill waterbags, another lot of
 P.E. at the head of the Halder were
 quite dry although usually at
 this time of the year they run
 freely & made a big waterhole
 but as regards this part of the country
 I should say from appearances
 that there had been none of the
 rains there this year & for quite
 two years previous.

I was pleased the publishers
 gave you all the pictures you
 asked for & hope the next three
 months will pass rapidly & land
 you in the long vacation & a
 well deserved rest. I am not
 writing to French this time
 as there is nothing in his line

to chronicle - howl eggs should
 be about but my huntsman is
 not extra expert at present owing
 to an old spear wound in the
 thigh breaking out all round.
 kindest regards & good wishes
 to you & yours.

Yours very sincerely
 Herbert
 (The rest of the page contains very faint, illegible handwriting)