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Blamarta

18th Sep 1898.

Dear Professor.

Very glad to get your letter a couple of days ago just after my return from a long spin round Tempe Downs. I had the new man with me and went zigzagging about without any luck for about ten days & as a last hope of seeing blacks, I went to Laurie's Creek, West of your beloved Gill Range & got seven, four of which are now outside and I intend taking them in to Alice Springs on Monday for trial but I am afraid we may be delayed there for the noble dispensary.

of justice is I believe down
the road with his wife. This gang
I was rather pleased to find did
not attempt to clear out beyond
a temporary aberration on the
part of three of the younger mem-
bers although they had a most
excellent chance of getting away
because they saw us some distance
off - I scarcely felt happy & com-
fortable the night we got them
because I had a feeling that they
had to an extent been deceived but
I hope I made matters clear generally
that I had not broken my word.
You see last Xmas we had one of
this gang & cautioned him pretty
severely, then I took him away
with us on a walking expedition
& I think he felt certain he was
going to be shot but instead of

that I gave him some flour & tobacco
 & sent him to his country & told
 him to tell his friends that if
 they ran away when we appeared
 they would be shot ~~and~~ that
 they were to stop, after we provided
 all them they would be our mates
 till they were wrong again & get
 their tobacco whenever we saw
 them - twice members of this
 party got away since this occur-
 red but 'Burnbride' was not
 with them, on this occasion he was
 & I believe kept them steady. I made
 the boys explain that if they had
 stopped on the previous occasions
 I would have given them a riding
 & finished growling but that now
 that we had been forced to take out
 warrants or 'Papers' telling all
 about Policemen to shoot them,

I would have to take them to Dr
 Miller & probably gave - presented
 'Burnbride' with a blanket, shirt
 & tucker - after seeing Martin at
 Lempe Downs, I decided to let three
 more go as an experiment, one
 was an old man & the other two
 young men of that unprecise
 age when boys in P. Australia
 would finish their education as
 thorough accountants, they were
 not on the warrants, although we
 had two cases against them. They
 went away with some flour & in-
 -cashed with various messages
 & instructions as to how to act on
 our appearance in future, I am
 not over confident of success but
 I would like to get these blacks
 into the present condition of those
 at the Glen Helen Station. The four

we have here, Pectalla, "Purnda"
"Chuperoo" + Rest "Toolinya" have
had a long innings since 1896
but have kept out of the road since
the drought broke up + I cannot
feel so bitter towards them as I
do to the more civilized ones such
as Arabi + Co^{ys} who are still in
the ranges between here + Shag
Hole. Racehorse was here a day
or two ago with some ermine eggs
as a midwinter offering. It is getting
pretty difficult to locate the
blacks on Tempe now for the
reason that nearly all the Cattle
have been shifted to Glen Helen +
so few remain that the wily abor-
iginal finds it pays better to stick
to legitimate game on the Ranges.
I have been a bit prolix on this
subject I fear but you have some

idea of the surrounding circumstances
+ I think you are scarcely always
fair to me, I mean I think you
believe I am harsh when in reality
nothing would please me better
than to be able to go about + them
come up to me at once instead
of clearing + they would do this
were they not perfectly aware that
I know what they have been doing
the few days previously. I do
not care for the new orlan at all
as a mate + your idea is most
erroneous that I desire to live
alone for I would always employ
a cook - I can't always be with
another man patrolling + one slip
or mistake on his part might
undo the fruits of a good deal of
my endeavours to instil confidence
in fair play amongst these

Native whom so few people understand or get a grip over. I wish I could

bring to hear of French's smash again, one has to be careful about enquiries you know P. M. B. is a little "difficile" & if he gets worried with enquiries from the authorities may get snappy & you also know Doubly's his charity many little parcels over the Statute weight of one pound reach L. W. & here.

I was very much amused at his list of articles for that trip notably Sweetbaine's Firekin Stone, & pre-

sume each member carries his own soapstone knife. How I

am glad to hear of the progress of the Book & know it will be more accurate as possible for such a work especially as you have had the editing & correcting part of it to do, I have

considerably more confidence than in you in this direction than in the Pondiff & when you are away from his magnetic influence more dispassionate & the beam-fulfilled remains in abeyance for the present. I only hope the old fellow will be back when I get into Alice. It is so that we can have a days talk for once in a way, I would not be in such a desperate hurry to get back this time.

Your exemplary conduct for the last two years certainly deserves a fitting recognition from M. B. Keener & I trust that even if you do not manage to get as far as this you may be able to accomplish that last year's trip. The locality is doubtful to me but I fancy the Blacks sketching over towards the Cooper are much

more intelligent than C. A. specimens
but to get them undiluted you would
want to get well back from the Station.
I saw most of the Gladstoniana in
Martin's Illustrated Papers & thought
it bad taste, I mean the different
pictures of the Widow etc in a priv-
-acy but I suppose in historical
events like this the public's craving
for detail must be satisfied.

Pretty busy just now getting
ready to start for Alice & so
you must excuse me, I was very
pleased to get your assurance that
Mr Spencer was well again.

With the best wishes to you all

Believe me

Yours very sincerely
Crestlowe