

Illumina

18th March 1899.

My dear Professor.

I am delighted to hear from you again & that you are back safely from the old country. I intended writing a line of welcome to you last time but unexpectedly received word from the Missionaries that my friends had come in there after the guns I left & that they had managed to secure three, so that I had to bustle round & start in earlier than I expected. "Arabi" once more escaped although, the

Mission boys had hold of him. On
 arrival at Alice Sp & we had to
 wait about a week for a second
 justice and when they were
 convicted, I sent Barlow on down
 with them, a nice batch of six,
 making sixteen in less than
 twelve months which surely should
 convince people that this playing
 with Blacks is all rot, you have
 a fair idea (when away from
 Gillen) of what it is like to have
 to capture them and I would
 never despair of moderating your
 views a little but a man who
 will get up on a Public Platform
 + calmly state that a black fellow
 occasionally kills a beast because
 he is "hungry" + that he doesn't
 appreciate the offence because
 the whites kill his ewes + kangaroos,

is beyond all hope & either criminally ignorant of the real state of affairs or wilfully perverting for some purpose or another (I don't think I have written to you since I saw him on his return from town have I?) This last gang have been busy all last year & especially so since November & knew apparently that we could not go out on account of boys being laid up with measles, & had killed three beasts & a calf in three days at Gilbert Pt & then gone back into the Hills towards the hole to manufacture a new lot of spears and it was while this occupied that we came on them. I know the wood they use for the body now because there is practically a plantation for

miles at this particular spot very crooked & rough it is but generally of the same size throughout. I destroyed 27 new spears besides several unfinished ones which was not a bad outfit for only six beasts & one young fellow, was it? I fancy they have no totem connected with cattle & no restrictions & that it doesn't matter a damn whether their fathers or mothers or great uncles kill the beast, it is common property & buldy, hence their desire for it. Gillen was more retiring and modest than I expected, after his Command Interview at Govt House & his successful debut as a lecturer but had altered his views on the Great War

a little, spoke of pecuniary profits now & I succeeded in getting him properly riled several times. Please accept my most sincere thanks for the book which has just come to hand, late mail as usual will prevent my reading it yet but I will review it in my next. I do not think the illustrations are as well got up & finished as I expected, what do you think of them. I must write & congratulate Gillen on "Grimm's Fairy Tales" up to date by S. & G. he takes anything about the book so seriously - anyone who has said anything in its favour is "One of the leading Scientists of the World, old man" all others - Carmine Idiots.

Of course you heard of Beattie's
 fate, about half a mile from the
 H.C. E. Camp where I left you on
 Red Bands Creek, a cold blooded murder
 by one of the semi-civilized natives.
 I was very sorry to miss Gillen at
 the Alice this time & am afraid I won't
 see him now before he goes down, if
 ever, again, once we get so widely
 separated. The Alice itself was just
 awful especially the Police Camp &
 no doubt one does miss Kelly & his
 wife there; no matter what people
 may have said about her, she was
 always kind & hospitable, even
 to extremes. but oh, the difference
 now, untidiness & uncouthness
 brought to a fine art doesn't half
 describe it, the woman is generally
barefooted & talks vulgarly & unces-
 -santly, squints, shrews & oh hang
 it that's enough, I don't suppose

you are likely to be there after Gillen stones which I wanted as a parting
leave unless you come up to work gift to Gillen & arranged with the
out his Lovitchal mob. owners to purchase honestly but

A man called Price Braurice told them to wait till I told them
has been up round here lately & to come down with them as my
picked up some marvellous info- movements were uncertain -
-mation from the blacks, he is a You recollect I had these once &
chum of old Winnechie's, has money gave them back to them. P.M.'s
& is his own master, not a bad modulus is to entice a nigger to
fellow away from strong drinks show him things, (generally some
& the subject of blacks & what they scoundrel) and give him a shirt
till him - he started down by Gill & collar the boodle. I told him
Range & d. Amadens to look for that, they seldom belonged to the
Gibson's remains but turned back shower & that the trouble came
& I suppose is in town now, I afterwards. I hope when this reaches
was a bit annoyed because he you, you will have settled down a
was securing every Sekurica stone bit and not feel the awkwardness
he could get hold of & several places so much - did the business that
took stones that I had not took you home, turn out in your
interfered with, so please you sh. favour & do you know a J. F.
I fancy he collared my sugar and Jarvis-Smith: F.R.S. - he wants Kative

to come down with them as my
movements were uncertain -
You recollect I had these once &
gave them back to them. P.M.'s
modulus is to entice a nigger to
show him things, (generally some
scoundrel) and give him a shirt
& collar the boodle. I told him
that, they seldom belonged to the
shower & that the trouble came
afterwards. I hope when this reaches
you, you will have settled down a
bit and not feel the awkwardness
so much - did the business that
took you home, turn out in your
favour & do you know a J. F.
Jarvis-Smith: F.R.S. - he wants Kative

things for the Knillard Laboratory
 Oxford but I am not in the
 business. My sister, Mrs Lyman,
 her husband, five children + probably
 my father + other sister leave for
 a six months tour of Europe
 Canada America + Japan in Pring
 Regent Suitpold on 2nd of 4th + I
 had serious thoughts of taking down
 those last lot of blacks + joining in.
 I spent a good many hours on
 pros + cons but I reckoned I could
 not expect to get back here if I
 left + starting on new ground
 on an empty exchequer is not in
 my line.

Snakes have been giving me
 fits lately + shaken up my
 nerves considerably, I have had
 no less than four very narrow
 squeaks in the last month -

One night, lying on my blanket
 in front of the wurley, I felt
 something against my leg & took
 no notice as I thought it was one
 of the dog's tails - after a bit I
 raised my head & you can guess
 how I felt when I saw a good
 sized snake coming over my
 thigh & towards my face. I sang
 out to Barlow to get a light & then
 kept perfectly still - he was a long
 time fumbling with matches &
 rubbing his eyes and it seemed
 an eternity to me, luckily ^{snake} had
 come off my breast & gone just
 round my head & away for I don't
 think I could have stood the brute
 on my face & would have moved
 & probably got a nip - two nights
 ago while at tea I noticed the

Got very excited & when I looked
 up a snake was hanging out
 of the bough roof just above my
 head & presumably was going to
 use me as a ladder. Got him about
 an hour later. Please remember
 me to Mr French & tell him I
 regret I cannot make birds lay
 without rain which still avoids
 our camp. With kindest regards
 to Mr Spencer & the children, whom
 I hope you found well & all
 good wishes for yourself.

Yours very affectively

L. Cranket. Cowle

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