Ilamurta
15th April 1899.

My dear Professor,

I got home (to stop) four days ago for the first time since last mail day so you will know that I have not yet been able to read the Book, which wants time to enable one to grasp those systems etc. even admirably put as they are. I got through the introduction in which I see you perpetuate the same story about cattle killing which Gillen disclaims. I said he had been mis-reported. Then I got on to the "Ara-bunna" tribe I was very much interested. I suppose this is the Tribe you were aux-
rious to get to Lake Eyre to enquire further after. The idea of the Totems being divided between the two classes is ingenious & were it not for the sort of promiscuity of the marriage system, ought to be as effective as others in preventing marriages of those too closely related. I note the remarks as to jealousy not being noticeable among them as one Donau's 'Rupa' is 'Piraungaroa' to certain others. Surely though in some cases (I mean in the present day) it must lead to contests where a Blackfellow gets over fond, not affectionate, perhaps, of one of his Piraungaroa who is someone else's 'Rupa' of course. From personal observation of blacks I see that some of them resent very strongly any interference with their women be it by a white man or a black even if of the proper relationship while others are
[Handwritten text not legible]
Last night returning from Goolah, we were 
profuse in their protests of how they were going to sit down. I suppose they will kill the cattle soon and take them back from Glen Helen directly. There are only about 500 on Tempe this last 12 months.

I did not get as far as ‘Magic’ in your book but is it not astonishing how firmly the idea of what some black fellow can do, is engrained in them all. A certain Jutro died a bit to the north here recently (probably of measles) but they had an idea that she had been replaced in the head by Mission Blacks, ‘perhaps might him be well too close the long corroboree’ no sign of a wound anywhere but the Blacks had closed that up and she was alright for a week after leaving the Mission and then took ill and died. I tried to see if she had even been near
I have been down to Eldunda, out to Tempe twice & up to the Mission & back since I last wrote you so you will see that when I say I have been busy it is a fact, the night I returned from Eldunda Martin came & reported that he had been attacked by one of the blacks that had come back from jail in January at a little sprit called Whaddy & had to shoot him in self defence so I had to see if Sheklor would hold an enquiry or not. Martin had taken this blackfellow as his others were either away or down with measles. I do hope this will give us a rest from cattle killing that I can do some photographing etc. I am getting awfully tired of being at their tails so constantly (Blacks) but like the outside life. Three of the George Gill Gang camped here
I got a letter from Mr. Phipps, very recently, and hope to see him in a few days. He is like me, quite kind of the business, and helps him anchored.

I believe you are settled down in a quiet place, and are receiving the satisfaction of it. I hear his health is tolerably well, and his affairs are in any shape without fast charges. I hope I shall see him.

Please remember me very kindly to Mr. H. [illegible].

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]