

Ulamunta

15th Apr 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 perpetrate the same story about cattle killing which Gillen disclaimed & said he had been mis-reported on, then I got on to the "Arabunna" tribe & was very much interested. I suppose this is the Tribe you were ana-

is 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 man's "Kupa" is "Piraungaru" to certain others. surely though in some cases (I mean in the present day) it must lead to ructions where a Blackfellow gets over fond, not affectionately perhaps, of one of his Piraungaru who is someone else's "Kupa" 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

apparently indifferent. The book does not want reading, it should be studied which takes time. I see the illustrations are excellent, when I looked at them first by a smoky glassed lamp without cutting the leaves, I thought them bad & triffling & boomerang throwing like Gillen & the Anschutz at Lager-heads. Greasles have thinned out the Beavers round about considerable Mission Station about 18 since the middle of February, Tempe two Eldunda one & about enough at Century & Idracowra to make it up to 30 for my district & I presume we rejoice thereat on different grounds. I have our mutual friend Arabi chained up outside at Lach, he cunningly saved his bacon when he found he was cornered, we could not get a

shot while we were galloping in the scrub at foot of the range as both hands were occupied in steering our horses & I reckoned he had once more escaped but we headed him off the gorge & he dare not tackle the range which would have exposed him too much so he walked back to us. when we first saw him he was carrying half a wallaby, cooked, in his hand & the hind legs of a calf on his head - the calf probably in case that occasional hunger seized him. I expect I will have to take him in to Alice Sp. as soon as on all gets & then on down, I will try & get rid of him at Charlotte Waters or Oodnadatta if I can manage it. Barlow is not back yet from the last gang and I don't know when he will be as he did not work

last night returning from Goad & were
profuse in their protestations of how
they were going to sit down & I suppose
they will till the Cattle come back from
Glen Helen directly. (There are only about
500 on Tempe this last 12 months).

I did not get as far as "Magie" in
your book but is it not astonishing
how firmly the idea ^{belief} of what some
blackfellow can do, is engrafted in
them all. a certain lutra died a bit
to the North here recently (probably of
measles) but they had an idea that
she had been speared in the head by
Mission Blacks, "perhaps might him
bin wald too close ~~to~~ long corroborree"
no sign of a wound anywhere but
the Blacks had closed that up & she
was alright for a week after leaving
the Mission & then took ill & died. I
tried to see if she had even been near

I have been down to Erldunda, 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 Erldunda Martin came & reported that he had been attacked by one of the blacks that had come back from Jaol in January at a little sp^o called W Shady & had to shoot him in self defence. so I had to see if Stehlow 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 photo-graphing 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

the Corroboree place but she had not
Old Harry whom you will remember,
is fully believed to possess all these
magical powers & to be able to
make the dead live & is to give me
ocular demonstration of it (our boys
are thoroughly convinced of his ability which
one would not credit after the time they
have been with the whites & it shows
that tradition does hard) by letting me
kill a 'Possum' & if it recovers after
my treatment & he I will give him
a bag of flour. I want to see how
the old dog will shuffle out of it.
They cannot understand the measles
yet but I expect will discover it to
be the word of someone before long. They
know whites get it & perhaps that will
confuse them for a time but I'll bet
their inventive faculties to be equal
to the occasion.

I get scraps from Byrne occasionally
and hope to see him in a few days,
he is like me, pretty tired of it but
wants of dollars & dreads of the future
keeps him anchored.

I suppose you are settled down
to routine work now and almost
miss the magnum op. but receiving
congratulations on it's success will
occupy you a bit - Jellen, I hear
wears a nose-bone now & never spec-
ulates in any shares without first
rubbing his belly with his sacred
chirenia - I hope I get in, in time
to see him.

Yours very sincerely

C. Ernest Howle

Please remember me very kindly to
Mr. Spencer whom I trust is in good
health, & yourself likewise. C.E.H.