Illaunerta
10th June 1899

My dear Professor,

Yours of 17th Apr. which I see you posted at Carlton on 10th May reached me tonight. The mail was four days later as it will go back on its usual day. I have only a little over 24 hours to answer something over forty letters some of which must go by the board. I had already read the Bulletin Critique got it at the Bend on my way back after writing to you from Charlotte Waters. I did not like his remarks on the style at all for
I knew you were writing purely for the Scientific World & not the Bulletin readers who rather run to swaddle by Harry Stockdale & others in "Aboriginalities" &c &c but I would much have liked to have seen the writer whom Gillen tells me was a very able man tackle it on facts. He ought to know as much on that subject as the authorities you quote at all events for even you will admit that all Australian Aborigines customs are not similar although perhaps they may have much in common take the instance of the Boomerang returning to the thrower, which you mention. I have no doubt that most scientific people are firmly convinced that all abor...
igories have the power but as you say they do not do so in this country at all. As a boy, in Victoria, I saw them bring it back frequently in 1876, on the Murray. At Mildura in 1880 I also some of the Cooper's breed Black. I was very expert, I will certainly enquire into the evolution of it from the straight stick but on the Cooper they used both. Another thing is what became of all the stone axes that they had on the trade in years gone by. I can't get hold of them although I know they used them not so long ago. I know they used to get them somewhere near that Warman's Camp where you and I photographed that cuba. The part that handles n one is the growth of the new cult of Spencer and Gillenism. I go to say on the Natives as a human being. I do not talk of their traditions or rites, because I firmly believe you went deeper into them and more correctly than anyone ever will again. But do you honestly think you and Gillen saw any Natives as ordinary beings—wherever either of you met them, were they not always on their good behaviour (outside tribal rites et cetera) with the perfect confidence that they would be rewarded with tobacco or flour etc? Did you see from personal observation if they were venusious, cruel or immoral? You seem to have a sympathy with second-rank of the Arabi type. I look on them as heroes for leading the others astray. Such
Blacks I cannot have any sympathy for but when it is a case of an uncivilized one would always be lenient because perhaps he might not understand the white man's ways. Any one reading about Arunta Blacks might easily be led to believe that they only wanted wings & haloes (vide 4th. Ench. Report & lectures to Dartmuth Blacks when being sentenced) but he knows perfectly well that it is on account of so many people about those more settled stations I fear that was properly instilled into them that kept them from cattle killing. it is not 20 years ago since they were worse than ever these Dartmuths have been & they were not cured by gaol. You must
bear in mind that there was no Protector about Alice & most people in the Country had some good reason to keep the Natives subdued. I am not advocating shooting for a moment in the so called good old style but they should be made to respect the law of the land that has been taken from them & it would be better for them as for whites killing their emus & kangaroos etc. Alice & is the only place where this is done, one might say and the carcass is nearly always given to the Blacks but if it has been skinned in most cases the Blacks won't trouble to cook the carcasses because thanks to the advent of the White man they are not hungry.
he could have her & live with her
but as the one he wanted had gone
down below the Snyder, he said leave
her, he knew the rules of the Camp
that I allowed no one to sleep with
lubras here black or white as I knew
from dearly bought experience
that a young blackfellow with a
luba is utterly useless for our
work & yet I found he was sneaking
& camping with one here which
he had told me was a wrong one
for him. I hunted her off the place
the banged him round and a
little later he said he wanted
to go too. I thought be wanted to
go at once & caught hold of him
& said alright I'll let you go but
I'll straighten you up first
but this was because he knew
Thoroughly well that I had impressed on them all that I would let them go at any time if they told me but that if I had punished any of them they would have to wait till I got someone to replace them. He told me he would wait till I got another boy and explained thoroughly to him quietly and dispassionately why he had been punished. That I had looked on him to set the others an example and he said I had always told him straight that he knew I would have told him to take this extra altogether if he had told me that her relations now would overlook the coarse rudeness (not extra close). I thought he was
[Handwritten text]
up to the Station & got these girls to come down to the Creek quick & told them I was camped there & wanted them. The gen. Jack was after, he had followed out from Alice SP & to the Mission when she came out with Mrs. Myers (who was confined that night) & the party then made into the Ranges & over A.4 way. You see these semi-civilized boys talk together, ours have been in there too much this last twelve months and seen the slackness of discipline at other places & that if a boy got a job at the Police or Telegraph he could keep any gin he had managed to get. you see it is a gain to the tribe in one way and
refusals don't occur as they used to. The old men cannot straighten up these boys as they used to and it is only out back where you see the young fellows keeping to their correct camps till their wives are handed to them. It is bitterly cold today and won't have to write tomorrow. I feel half inclined to throw this in the fire but on one or two occasions you have been pleased to say that our blacks are properly treated and that is why I have told you so much tonight. I know that if I have been strict at times with the boys that I look after them in sickness and feed them on a scale and style different to any where else, expect them to cope
to me, as when anything is wrong, I
feel most deeply here. Here I should have done
what you did. I would have known what you
wrote to L. I would have known, I think, what
the other would have done. I would have known,
and you would have continued to that you had,
and the other would have continued to what
you did. If you allowed every time to
be corrected or had to speak, I would have
continued to the finish that word about the
hem. This is probably the last time I will worry you on the
question of black as having any need
of help or advice. If I would have done
the same as I should have done, I
would have written you to
continue to what you did.
If I had written to you to
continue to what you did,
I would have continued to
what you did.
The Cattle have been up there, now they are all being brought back to Tempe but I must go up & take them some good conduct reward soon. I tried hard to get a photo of an aged couple here the other day but I am afraid I failed - they were agreeable in every way but very unsteady on their pids & I could not get them to stand in one position while I pulled out the dark slide, any way I'll develop them after mail goes. Have you seen C. yet? I am anxious to get at the papers & see what he has been up to. I got one slip where he has been giving his opinion on the Mineral Wealth of Cent. Australia & the Railway etc.
Please thank Mr. Spence for her kind enquiries & tell her I am well. & believe yourself that I get well from rheumatism occasionally. With kindest regards to you both.

Believe me,

Yours very affect.

Henry Howle