Ilamurta
9th July 1899.

My dear Professor,

Thanks to the Charlotte Waters mail having been left behind at Odinadatta in mistake we are practically letter
less & paperless this time & this is only a short, scribed to heartily congratulate you on the "Magnum
Opus" which I have carefully read since last writing to you. Criticizing such a work is out of the question as no one could do it
unless he practically traverse'd over the whole ground again & then com-
pared the results. The amount of
information of a hidden character which you have got together is simply stupendo as I only wish you could get up & do the Western tribes as thoroughly as they are particularly interesting but I cannot get that right about not eating the Totem or only sparingly they did it apparently in the early days & my question have led me to believe that they still do. I tried an old Kangaroo man of Undiavvera & he seemed surprised at the idea of not doing so but I will watch closely when I see old fellows together if I can get their wish totems & see how they shape I also note the fact of up the totem name originating from where
Moonta whether I see, Shoaney, who used to be at Alice Springs has just been moved to something over drunk I fancy. Racehorse called last week to inform me that evil influences had been at work & the cause of his libras death. I fancy he wished me to act as the avenging party & I think I convinced him that it was not evil spirits that were responsible for the measles & told him how she should have been cured & how so many white people died from same thing. This may save some other unfortunate on whom suspicion might fall but as his brother & another tribal father also pegged out, I am sceptical especially if the suspected
as a reward for their complacency, I have tried to guard against this by not allowing any of them to consider such a lubra as his sole property in opposition to the other trackers but found out recently that it was what had occurred & that there had been internal dissensions over the matter. Don't want to have to deal afresh but will have to if I don't get matters straight. Present day tribal punishments are mostly both as the young man is the useful as a tobacco purveyor etc to the older ones & it is generally the guy who suffers. I am sorry I missed the papers as I expected to see some Gillen, I must write to him as soon as I see him settled at
Bitterly cold & hard no rain & damp mornings than when you came. anyways weather. I hope the remainder of the morrow will prove more to your &Mrs. \& my kind wishes. 

Yours affectionately,  

[Signature]  

[Date]