

Ulamuta

9th July 1899.

My dear Professor.

Thanks to the Charlotte Waters mail having been left behind at Odnadatta in mistake we are practically letterless & paperless this time & this is only a short screed to heartily congratulate you on the "Magnum Opus" which I have carefully read since last writing to you. criticising such a work is out of the question & no one could do it unless he practically traversed over the whole ground again & then compared the results. the amount of

information of a hidden character which you have got together is simply stupendous & I only wish you could get up & do the Western Tribes as thoroughly - the myths relating to "Inapertwa" are especially interesting but I cannot get that right about not eating the Totem or only sparingly - they did it apparently in Alcheringa times & my questions have led me to believe that they still do - I tried an old Kangaroo man of "Undiarra" & 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 right Totems & see how they shape, I also note the fact of the Totem name originating from where

the mother "conceives" the child, do they not in some cases take also for claim the totem of their actual birthplace in addition?

P. 584. I see I am quoted as the authority for saying the "Ameras" might be used as a "musical instrument" this is the first I have heard of it. I know I took several in to G. and perhaps Nakomay have told him of it but as there are only boys here now I cannot enquire at present. I intend going over the whole book again shortly and am more convinced than ever that the conditions of tribe as regards severity of punishment for tribal offences is very lax nowadays. Barlow is at present away after those

boys. I heard they were about Owen's way and sent him in. I heard he got there nearly ago, that he had got them & some others killing a bear near Owen Sp. but nothing further & do not know if he has taken them down or not. can't understand his not sending me some word unless he has & that boy wanted a word. You see the lubras that have been here, they have got pretty well on & want to exercise sole rights of proprietorship without any title whatever. the parties interested of course do not object although they are offending against all tribal ^{canons} because they are Police boys & they look to them to screen their offences

Moonta whether I see, Chancey,
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 lubras
death. I fancy he wished me to
act as the avenging party but
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 Mother & another tribal
father also pegged out, I am sep-
-tial 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 & 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 such as the young man is too useful as a tobacco purveyor etc to the older ones & it is generally the gain who suffers. I am sorry I missed the papers as I expected to see some fillen, I must write to him as soon as I see him settled at

party possesses an desirable
to replace either of the missing
ones - Coulthard still at Glendalough
getting the remainder of the Catholics
together & temper quiet, is it the
lull preceding another outbreak?
I trust not - With kindest wishes
to Mrs Spencer & yourself.

Yours sincerely
Charles Colville
W.C.

Bitterly cold up here, no rain
& fancy temperature lower some
mornings than when you were
up.