



Alla murta

3rd Sep 1899.

Dear Professor,

It is so long since I heard of or from you that I thought you had forgotten me. I can understand the quantity of work you must be getting through, removing all the articles from National Library to the Museum and must congratulate you on the appointment as Director provided it is not a purely honorary appointment which Governments are so fond of rewarding deserving people with. latterly some of my pre-conceived notions have received a very severe shock & I now think

success should always be followed by
* everything give way to Cash Consid-
-erations. During the last month
I was out round Tempe & Gill Range
the Country out there was looking
lovely & the blacks most of whom has
just returned from Gaol were stopping
on their own country & behaving
well so we were on the friendliest
terms, they took me to one place
& were anxious for me to go to another
but I could not go on & although the
grass was perfect & in full seed,
water, away from the main Range
was not plentiful for the horses. I
got one stick which I will probably
send to Gillen but it is awkward
as it is nearly 2 ft long, I got it as
it is marked in squares  thus,
instead of circles etc as 
usual & all the natives who gave

it so one could tell me, was that it
represents Lubas sitting down
had been stolen from other blacks
very much further West when they
were children. I think their ~~code~~
marriage system could be on one
easily got a start on amongst the
on one civilizes blacks about Podna-
-datha as I think the natives
there are chiefly Kuritcha or closely
allies. all the less civilizes one
that return from jail to fill range
come back from there via Alberga &
completely West of Tinde & Eldenda
which they would not be likely to do
if they had not much in common.
& would prefer the civilizes road.
I have had a long letter from Gillen
who appears to be settling down
& beginning to hide his new

surroundings in spite of occasional
handings after the old unrestraint
of Alice Springs & at Alice Springs
I fancy they rather miss the old
regime. I have not been in since
the new governor arrives there.

We expect Henbury people up
every day to take away some of
the Thompson cattle & Marjith hopes
to get them all away from Tempe
before January which will make
things a lot easier for us. I don't
think the Blacks will follow the
Cattle there. I hope Mr Spencer
yourself & the little ones are well
& with all good wishes.

Remain.

Yours sincerely

C. Ernest Hodge
1897