

Dear Mr. ...

13<sup>th</sup> Apr 1900.

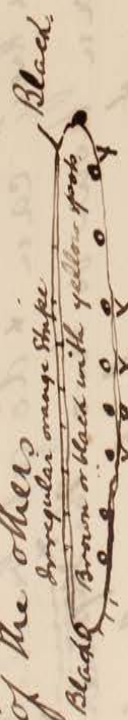
My dear Professor

No letter from

you but I suppose you are still up to your eyes in Exams etc. The Pontiff wrote at length on this occasion & fairly gloats over his Melbourne triumphs, I think I told you that he no longer dates events from any period but that & every remark is prefaced "Before I was or After I was President etc etc etc"

We have actually had rain at last although none of the big

"Uthuringhita" infect Eremophila  
 Paileyi & some of the other Eremop-  
 hilas which it strips completely  
 & one kind of the eremophila the  
 Fink blacks call the Uthuringhita  
 bush on account of the caterpillars  
 living for it. Size something like  
 that of the others.

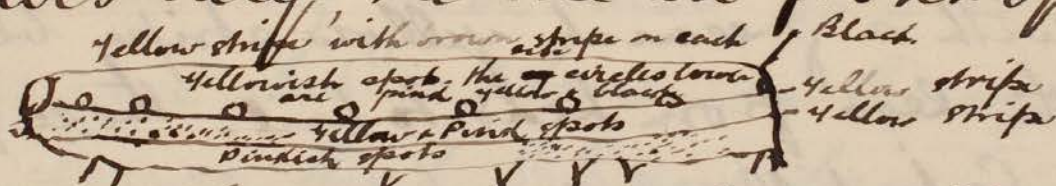


The circles are orange & there is an ill def-  
 inied yellow stripe of spots underneath  
 them but some little yellow spots on brown  
 or greenish black grooves under belly  
 with a greenish yellow stripe between  
 the legs from head to tail. These grooves  
 or Caterpillars much grows very rapidly  
 & I presume the eggs of the two former  
 must be laid in the ground & the  
 last one on the Eremophilas but  
 I cannot make out how they retain  
 their fertility through such long

drought & it is only a good pair  
 which seems to release them.  
 I have churina of first two &  
 also got some pieces of stone  
 representing the bard which those  
 Alcherunga women uses in the  
 old days & also some of the foresting  
 which are represented by little  
 hollow pipes. I was up the  
 Peterman pick before the rain &  
 found the blacks busy - speared  
 five one day. I did not get the  
 ring-leasing gaol birds as I let  
 those we did capture on Rang  
 go - Since that I have been  
 down to Erldunda & saw an  
 interesting Red Spot away to  
 the South about 25 miles two  
 parallel rows of stones for a  
 long distance & one row near

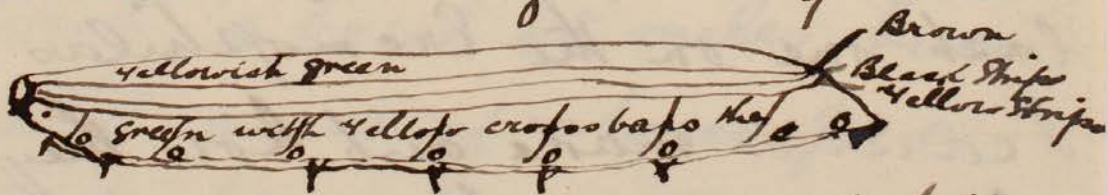
Creeks ran properly, it was  
 soaking & every promise of a  
 splendid season. feed in abun-  
 -dance everywhere & a royal time  
 for blacks for there are simply  
 millions of "Elpieren" & "Uttir-  
 -ringhita" Caterpillars everywhere  
 & they can & do get bushels in  
 an hour or two. The "Elpieren" is  
 on the grass & herbage only, from an  
 inch & a half to 2 1/2 inches long &  
 about as thick as a blue lead pencil

colours vary, the one in front of  
 me



ground colour from green to brownish  
 black. belly cream

"Incharlka" also a ground species



Spots are black with pink centre & the bottom  
 stripe is white. belly & general ground colour green.

the Rockholes, our old guide explained that the single Row was the spectators ~~was~~ watching the others dancing & has names for some of the stones - a devil of a mob must have gone into the ground at this spot & reason the hoary old frauds that placed those stones there must have perspired freely while they were thus salting the ground for their credulous descendants. I got two beautiful Snake stones from Mareena. they show the striation, naturally representing the marks on the Snake. I have sent for some Flour & Sugar & can make a rise in churina directly. On my return from Eldunda I went into the Feude & got 'Jaso'

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who used to be my egghunter &  
a boy for killing a calf & at  
present he is chained up and  
I expect we will take him to  
Mission for trial in a day or two,  
this confounded wretch I let  
off at Ima for same offence &  
he keeps coming here & getting  
Rations & physic for his child's  
eyes which in reality they  
throw away & only want to  
find out whether I am at  
home or where I am likely to  
be so that they can go in at the  
calves without their tracks  
being seen. Pado talks of going  
for a trip home to the old Country  
in Sept<sup>r</sup> or October & I think is  
sourcing considerably of late  
like myself from uncongenial

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companionship. The Bogner's went down a fortnight ago and I do not know if they will come back, other local matters quiet. I wish you would send back the letter from R.H. Matthews which I sent for your opinion, I have another long one this time in which he asks questions enough to run into a small volume but I must tell him I have not got any time. As a matter of fact I have not yet read the papers of the mail before this and don't see much chance of doing so for a bit, you see when one is home there is cooking etc to attend to besides other little jobs. Under separate cover I am sending you my four little beloved Kollitcha "Cherina" which tasting advantage of them &

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I told you of before. I could not find out what the little stone in the paper meant for it does not belong to the other cherinas but was in a niger's bundle carefully wrapped up. Jillen might have got the ones I send you but I always am sceptical of his collections descriptions nowadays and I reckon your institutions were slow that they did not supply someone like myself with a ton or so of flour to purchase these sort of things while they were plentiful & before ever Tom, Dick & Harry got hold of them. I have to go carefully to preserve their confidence & prevent people who know they will waste these things with an advantage of them &

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I can do it. His address is

A. Kelly,

9<sup>th</sup> Police Station

Two Wells

S. A.

It is a pity you are not up here just at present & me with a little time on hand so that we could go & view the plants which the Blacks want to show me, I don't trouble to go as I told you & more especially because I am afraid of other people getting the trackers who might be with me at the time to take them to the repositories when I might be away somewhere.

There is a yarn about a party of 5 whites & an Afghan who started 8 or 9 months ago from West Aust<sup>a</sup> being attacked by

Blacks in Robinson Rangio & a  
man & many Camels being killed.  
All I hear was that the party had  
turned up at Podnadatta & were  
going to report to the Police there &  
that the Afghan had gone off his head  
& tries to shoot the leader of the  
Expedition & been shot dead by  
one of the others. if there is any  
truth in the yarn, I suppose  
details will have been in the  
papers. but I hope I don't have  
to go after the Blacks. I would  
not see how the night offenders  
can be identified, knowing how  
they would probably put the blame  
onto innocent ones; anyway I  
think the occurrence took place  
on Western Australian grounds.  
I can equip myself here for a thra

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weds or a month's trip a bright but  
beyond that with present appliances  
I could not do much good & would  
require more transport like our  
Army in S. Africa. I hear both  
joined the second S. A. Contingent  
over there. Well I must shut up,  
I recdon I weary you when I  
set scratching long - I hope  
this finds you well & that Mrs  
Spencer will return from England  
in the best of health & spirits.

Yours very sincerely  
C. Erbeest. Cowled

I saw the pictures in both Leader  
& Australasian. I looked quite a  
noble Roman amongst the other  
Scientists & as scanty haired as  
any of them if that is an indi-  
cation of brains. E.



spoiling matters by yapping & telling lubras & others about them, the whole secret lies in not appearing grasping & stifling covetous thoughts when viewing objects later they will be offered to you. Ross is at Bodnadatta & getting on alright & Kelly writes regularly from Adelaide & sends me his bible the "Bulletin" & "Australasian". I wish if you have any prints of pictures you took on the Horn Exp<sup>n</sup> or going down with me, you would send him a few, he has often asked me to try & get him some of the views & been very good to me. I know it is a vicarious sort of way of repaying his kindness by trading on some-one else's but it is the only way