

Illamurta

31st Aug 1900.

My dear Professor.

Under separate cover I have posted you a bundle of notes on Churria, whether you will read them or not is another question. I tried to avoid the native redundancy as much as possible but altered nothing else. You know how they go into details & irrevelancies crop up, the why & the wherefore of which, one cannot well get to the bottom of all. I can say

so that these notes are the
 result of many long hours of
 questioning in an end at-
 mosphere & ought at least
 to enable you to label the
 Chumna into their right
 forms -

Yesterday I got a group of
 7 Shoko; generally a single
 & relating to the *Chumna*
 form - *Chumna*
Chumna for certain. They
 are the Chumna of a brother
 & sister, & the gamsticks they
 each carries are numbered
 = 4 - an abnormally shaped
 of *Chumna*, & the
 regard meek & have other
 being of *Chumna*, the
 who they used to know away
 = 3 more.

the last three belonged to the male spirit & I believe there are three similar churingos belonging to his sister which I want to complete. The seller was the reincarnated man now old & blind & he's here & he promises to sell me two good white stones which represent the ^{man}navels of these same two "Alcheringas". I am anxious to see what they are like. These stones are all about 2 1/2 or 3 feet. some of those in the notes are longer & it is difficult to get boxes long enough for them. These might yarns have many points in common with some of our biblical tales don't you think?

Since last writing to you, I have been down Eildubda way & came back by Coolide Sp. then East of M'Connor & by the Kernot Range home, we saw two or three scattered lots of blacks & got two that we wanted, you know the lot I was after down that way last April that I told you were making a young man of a youthful cattle killer. The latter is still at large with his brother & another connection & not yet allowed to go in the vicinity of the lubras, they keep them apart much longer in the West I fancy & it was amusing to note how careful they were to warn each other

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by smokes before approaching
I well that they might meet
at 4 camps about a quarter
of a mile off. I did a war
dance at one camp but got
no loot except an odd girde
or two of human hair, one
of the domestic cat some wild
(much esteemed) & a couple
of pitchis, there were any
quantity of the latter & I could
have fully stocked you if I
could have carried them home
but I could only give the
prisoners one each to look
after, I also got four or five
of their curved adzes but all
had iron tips which I am
getting replaced with flints.
I hope your "petition" is a success

the funds should be forthcoming if the Anthropological lights are in earnest.

Thanks for information re the "Dodder". Maiden of Sydney said some of the species ~~was~~ were injurious to plants but not known as hurtful to stock, it was sent to me from the Mission Station where it was plentiful just after the rain & they reported it as killing about 60 sheep & some horses, I never saw it here nor actually growing. I think I wrote you last mail about the *Caradja Acacia* or rattle at Josses' Range, which I won't forget. I see nice *Eremophilas* occasionally but I am hanged if I can see them

seeding and flowering at the
 same time & the foliage of most
 of them is too much alike for me
 to discriminate. I have been
 busy as usual & get little or no
 time for reading even the papers
 somehow, but I have glimpses
 at those N.S. Wales outrages by
 the "Governors", can't understand
 them being at large so long in
 such settled Districts & can
 only put it down to too
 many people being on the
 trail & humbugging up traps.
 I do not fancy our best C.A.
 trackers would get on well in
 such parts for there would be
 much to confuse them, although
 in the Bush where it is simply
 matter, they are wonderful.

I cannot stand the semi-
 civilized black. blacks can only
 be ruled properly by fear & this
 wholesome respect is blunted,
 as in the case of knowing gentle-
 men like those under review,
 they can be properly bas - it is not
 kindness that controls the
 outer barbarian, so much as
 thoughts of what the white man
 really can perform should he
 decide to be severe that makes
 the ignorant native much more
 amenable to discipline & com-
 mon sense, familiarity &
 civilization teaches him to des-
 -pise the white man's ideas
 of punishment after trial &
 capture instead of "revenge"
 sudden & effective at the point

of a spear or rifle. The new man is improving a little but is terribly dull, knowing my angelic temper, you can picture him as rather a trial on the last trip, no interest in anything or his surroundings except at meal times & by the end of the trip, he almost knew his own quart pot from mine & what part it & his swag belonged to - the pot was a mere detail but he is a syrup man & once I had sugar in my tea, I did not care for another quarter of a pound being dumped in to it. I used to tell him to go to Hell out of the road pretty frequently for no matter how often a thing was done in front

of him, he did not seem to grasp an idea of it, sort of man I can't realize the density of & moved always as if half asleep. I think he would develop into a man too lazy even to keep his pipe alight unaided, if he got a show but he is going to develop some energy or have a sorry time. I think I told you of the colds prevalent amongst the Blacks, they cannot shake them off & I have been off colour for a couple of weeks myself - not exactly like infantile whooping cough but when one of the paroxysms comes on you have a strangled feeling, salivate a lot & each inhalation of breath sounds like a foghorn

or whistle & you are diarrhoeas
& exhausted for a few minutes
afterwards - don't run away with
the idea that I am ill for I
needn't. I am getting alright
but from my own experiences
I can now understand why
the boys seemed so half
witted to me on the trip before
last.

I hope Mrs. Spencer & the
daughter were blooming when
they returned & that she will
induce no objections to your
projected trip in common fair
play. Please remember me
kindly to her. Kelly's address
is Two Wells

South Australia
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Alec McLeod was out from
Owen Sp. & to inspect Temple
Downs for his man Bros. but
I did not see him going back
nor hear if there is likelihood
of a trade, failing that, I may
go in for half of it myself
with another man who would
load after it. I expect Mark
in a day or two to go in to A.G.
with the Blacks, we have not
been in since the Pontiff left
& personally I don't anticipate
a particularly enjoyable time
for I fancy his successor is a
bit amorphous & vacillating.

With best wishes
Believe me

Yours very sincerely
Chr. West. Cowley
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