

Illamunta
30th Sep 1900

Dear Professor.

Yours to hand and I am very glad that the Petition was satisfactory in getting your leave and only hope the monetary part is satisfactorily settled. it is one thing for Scientific people to sign their names & another to put their hands in their pockets. but probably they imagine that the "kudos" should amply repay you for the trifling outlay that a year's work in the Back Blocks where locomotion & everything else is so cheap entails upon you. - Jillen wrote

me pretty fully on the subject & I have
 replied in kind & suggesting Ely frog
 selling as a means of raising the
 wind. I was in at Alice Sp^{ce} a fortnight
 ago & found the place very different
 to the old times & the Telegraph Station
 much drier except for the surreptit-
 -ious bottles in various of the quad-
 -rangular rooms. The Police Camp
 ménage was ghastly & I was very
 glad to get home again even although
 I found all hands as bad as ever
 with colds & have suffered a relapse
 myself. no sense of taste or smell
 whatsoever & just a feeling as if I
 had been belted all over. Gabriel sent
 me some stuff for the boys but says
 the epidemic will not go away till
 the hot weather comes & that one can
 do little or nothing. I sent Ockenden
 down with the Blacks & may not

be writing to you next mail as
I will in all probability be down
the road over the Elections to escort
my vote & sergeants from the Bous
At Charlotte Waters. I note your remarks
re Seeds & am glad they are coming
on alright, I can't yet get good conditions
'Cyano'. I have my eye on a shrub
in Spilla Passoed, the seeds were not
ripe when I was here a few weeks
days ago nor did I catch it in bloom
this year but I always intended getting
the name of it from someone for
Spilla Passoed is the only place I
have seen it - hundreds of blue balls
like pinecones & very striking -
will center down & see it if a
horse comes in today, in time.

I think we burnt that big
porcupine bush in the Palmer forest

or Blacko dig for it is no more.
I note the sarcastic fringe of your
remarks on the subject of the Canara
at that & other spots but you must
recollect that I pride myself on keep-
ing appointments with Blacko
White or Brinsley & arrived up
to time & you will admit that he
was not such time affords to
be spent anywhere - you people
arranged the affairs without knowing
distances & had I been consulted I
would have allowed margins - how-
ever if I am still here & you can
get a good round, we will try &
do better next time. Should Bower
birds in Spirits have the abdomen
lanced & entrails extracted or not!
I can get them & put them in one
of the mignon cases. French has

always been asking for them but I could not send him any by mail. They are always plentiful here about Ilmas & a curse in the garden on the Tomatoes, but they get shattered a lot with the gun if a big one & are rather too cunning for the little one. I have seen no *Polyphellio Alexandrei* since 1896 & I do not think they are in the country anywhere at present. They are rather an enigma but may appear at any time again. I got a long enough box at last & packed up for you goods as per enclosed list. I must try & get a second box filled somehow to balance it so that these independent carriers will take it away for me. I pick up a boomerang whenever I see one but pitchis are awkward they take up so much room & weigh

nothing - hope you got my long bundle of notes. Got several *Churina* on my way back from Alci ^{Sp} as two old buedo met me on the road - they swore they had not manufactured them so all as two had hair strings on them & evidently had been used, perhaps they were telling me the truth but they are newish, they are to bring me more by & bye & I will get details. I cannot get old *Churina-puppi* from Mareena Bluff so as to get the particulars of my two cherished Snake Stones. which are about 14 & 18 inches respectively.

Martin is trying to get rid of Tempe, he has moved all the cattle off & the place is under offer to Kidman with the plant & houses at about £800 I think - I was a fool not to snap it when

I had a chance & now it has slipped
me. you see I had a notion of giving
up the Bush & settling ⁱⁿ but that is
knewled on the head and now I only
want to stay in the Bush. Makin
is a real good fellow but he will
never make a do out there for he
always requires assistance & is
what one looking on, is forced to
need on a pottering messer, he
never seems to tackle a job & go
through with it straight out.

Please thank Mrs Spencer for kind
enquiries, I hear Chappie & her
sister go to Miss Chambers school.
Mrs Domesticus is very thick just
now again, their latest game is
to root up every melon, pumpkin
& cucumber seeds you put in & I
don't know how to block them

tried phosphorus paste last night
but did not go down to the garden
till after breakfast, seeds gone again
but crows has taken all the bread so
I could not say if the mice has
also a feed. Yours two dead crows
this afternoon at all events.

Good luck & good wishes to you
both.

Yours sincerely
Ernest Cowle