Illawarra
20th Apr 1902.

Dear Professor

Yours of 8th July reached me last mail also letters from Gillett & Chance, the really first authentic news I had had from you since I saw you at Malick in February. I followed most of your rambles in the sedan till I went to Adelaide though of course I can understand how busy you have been since your return preparing for the lectures which I am pleased to hear were so successful. The money from Gillett was apparently after...
all, devoted to the Aborigines but the price of admission should be higher especially as the interest of the Public was excited with the idea of seeing pictures more or less indeed. You may have noticed numerous telegrams & reports of the starving condition of Blacks in the interior, well, certainly it is an awful season for food and water but I am quite convinced that it is a mistake, this distribution of rations in a regular manner. From what I can see it has the effect of encouraging Natives in centres where game is very scarce and the natural food almost entirely absent. They get a pittance of flour and hang on too lazy to hunt.
- even they get to eat, keeps them really in show condition, I could hardly credit the beef they have on them, while the sheep & goats are so poor here. I have had to kill over 60 lambs last month to keep their mothers alive and if it does not rain soon I will be compelled to fry chops in castor oil or near the fire for I have a little of that left. The garden has been excellent all the year but there are various caterpillars beginning to show up & something wrong with the onions which I do not like the look of.

Re Churina. I understand how these notes you have do not covered in any way you have but I told you in my
last letter that I had a case waiting here which the Afghans would not take in February. I have nearly got another donk hope to get them both away in November. I have been here alone since the end of April and hope it is likely to be left as lately I have been busy cutting timber with the intention of putting up a place to keep doors in, the storm has given me 140 sheets of iron so I offered to put up the place free of any cost to them and I am about waiting till I can borrow the Henschy donkey to drag in the stuff. If I get this worky up it will be a godsend with rations, papers, clothes and other notices gathered in the
last 9 or 10 years by my children.

In short, the infectious disease have

befallen the ship and its passengers.

The news has been in the papers.

I have been in the hospital all the

time. Alice is a little better now.

The ship is being prepared for

departure. Alice is taking care of

her.
Diamantina, I did begin to think from his silence that you or Siller had him planted there going to use him as a diagram to illustrate tribal markings etc.

25th Mail got here today, Pads says he has just heard poor old Winnecke is dead, the old chap seemed to have gone off a lot when I saw him in Adelaide. I presented a journey undistinct appearance, don't know whether business was bad or if it was illness but he was a totally different man to the Winnecke I had known so long. I enjoyed your description of your journey from Rottoloda very much, the Queensland sort evidently know their duty as regards leggins...
I no doubt have had experiences of other explorers & parliamentary parties, I noted your remarks about Democracy & think you are right, what surprises me is the way people advocate gigantic schemes as if we had infininty millions to work on instead of being in a state of practical insolvency, for instance flooding Lake Eyre! How has the University come out of the financial trouble? I hope the State came to the rescue although someone neglect was 'criminal'. You must pine for the privacy of Hammerdale, but you are close to your work & if Mr. Spencer is satisfied I suppose you will have to be. Are the Unit Residences any way commodious? I hear of various
Churches that are to be got back.
I am standing off for a while.
I have often told you that so many
gentlemen except possibly one
or two sticks - how each produces
either a 50 lb bag or the bag of
a kg of peas, and expect to
them to have a bloated appear-
ance on his departure, by
showing them that I am also keen.
I will get the articles easier di-
rectly if they are worth securing.
No more tonight. This is terribly
scratchy and disjointed but it is
close - messy - inaccessory.
Around the Lampa. Kindish
regards to W Spencer - treating
you are having a bit of a rest.
With all good wishes for yourself
& the girls. Believe me
Yours very sincerely,
C. Clowle