

Illamurta
18th Feb 1895.

Dear Professor.

If you had only been in this Country for the last month your desire of seeing a rain here would have been gratified. I should say we had quite a foot here in the last six weeks + mail was ten days late. Daer was in at Alice Sp & + I was an orphan + kept busy dodging rain spots all night (it never ceased)

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for four days + nights) &
once when I essayed to find
some dry garments I found
myself smothered with
that wretched ant known
to us as Pis-ant. This
little beast evidently wiser
in his generation than
ourselves foretold a damp
time & shifted with his
lares + penates eggs etc
into every fold of my
clean clothes. I have not
secured any marsupials
this mail but I think have
got the Alpha + Omega of
those sugar ants complete
& am sending same to you

bottles marked Var. are a small, dark one which
the Ayers Reed kind sticks about the water &
others are the "Ittootoonee" a larger sized one which
I got large & small winged we used to dig up in the
ones in each kind & also garden all the dry time
larvae, & notice that the but can't find these now.
females of the "Ittootoonee" I could not separate them
are also red - these I dug but I noticed that one lot of
up personally so can't bullfrogs appeared to develop
vouch came out of the legs at a very much earlier
holes of the respective kinds, & smaller size than others
if this doesn't wipe out I am also sending amongst
Camponotus let me know the ants one or two of the
& I'll shoulder a shovel vermin who have infested
once more. I am also send. us since the rain. I did
-ing two small jars of various hope to have had a real
sized bullfrogs & frogs. There good time amongst the
are two kinds I feel sure Marsupial but the rain

one I will secure some for
you - by the way, did you
get any specimens of a
very small frog ~~of~~ (I have
mistaken my vocation)
he is a little bigger than
above + generally appears
in hundreds out of the
big sandy creeks just before
a rain. I did not notice
them this year but may
have mentioned them to you
when we were together.

I was surprised when
I got your wire a couple of
days ago + could not see
what it referred to at first.
you said very little about

E.A. except that he had
taken all the credit of
Louth's cat's ability & that
he had done all the zoological
work. I read your letter
to Daer & some of the Lempe
people when they came in from
the Races transcribing some
parts so there is absolutely
no fear of anything further
occurring from here. Per-
-sonally speaking I am
sorry that the hitch has oc-
-curred & wonder if "that
old savage" did on purpose
or what one can't imagine
such a thing otherwise.
Shirley has been very

good to me since he went
down & we write occasion-
-ally, he has never asked
me for anything so far
beyond "ethnological" aids,
lights which I cannot give
him with ill-consequence
assurance & finality &
won't until I am certain
in my mind that I am
at the bottom of it & when
this may be you, who ap-
-peared to side up the
supers intellect speedily
& his capacity for replying
Yes to every thing makes
guess. There will be absolutely
no difficulty about a Euro's

kept the boys constantly going keeping the horses & Camels together - Daer being away with the others. I was awfully sorry you were not here as there were other ants especially the Bull dog which I would very much have liked to dig up & see into but he came out in too strong a force for a single man to attack & I beat a retreat. I noticed a fish or two in the Creek the other day but could not catch him - I will secure one in a day or two & if they look different to the Red Banks

Turned up with half a
Billy full + after drafting
out some eggs I put the
rest under the table still
in a mass in the Billy +
this morning got 5 young
+ now there are three or
four more cheep - cheeping
so I will have to destroy the
lot to be humane.

Very many thanks
for the Tobacco from both of
us + also for the Photos I
also received two pipes from
Kearland + as I write I
puff at the joint product
with much contentment
I have not yet had time to

have a good look at them
The mail turned up per
Blackboy from Doctor's Stone's
yesterday + we don't know
when it's going back so Daer
thinks I had better start at
daylight tomorrow + go to
that track to meet Alice + go
down mail in case the
regular mailman goes back
aka Owen + go from Mission
this means pretty well 50
miles tomorrow so I am a
bit pushed I quite expected
that when it did come we
would have nearly a week as
usual. I know you are
not interested in the Racing

news but I must tell you
that Daer won four of the
principal races with our
horses - no money - that hairy
eared bruck shbird fillet
had got most of the way but
refused to park - Stoke you
will have a decent time in
Sydney + find that rising
Polopit in a clean cell
I promised him a couple of
the little "Knoloch horridus" +
have had several but have
feared them going bad before
arrival as he wanted them
alive - would they live secure
to the bottom of a box? I know
they are hardy

(3)

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head or skin or both & I will see to this when I get back - our boys generally get one or two a week here.

I am sending Keartland a lot of eggs. This mail which I hope will reach him in safety before he starts out on his next Expedition at one time the Blacks used to plague me with the little chestnut eared finch eggs but now its quail I have blown over 50 & thrown away tinfuls but they will stick to it, they are all over the place & all sizes - yesterday my egg man

(4)

You frequently write kind of triades on the marriage state with which I agree - marriage in itself is alright but the inevitable consequences as Kipling puts it are the very Devil - I am not likely to try it at all events for years, I have formed good resolutions & when I next visit the Cities am going slow - I am awfully glad you got to know Pat Byrne thoroughly going down - don't you think he bears out my statement that he was the only ~~to~~ man on the line who really was informed on

most subjects & a good
fellow besides. Barcoo
which I told you about
is very prevalent at present
& we all have had a touch
of it lately. Good night
& good luck

Yours very sincerely
Charles Cowell