

Belair

26. 5. 20.

Dear Professor.

I was so pleased to have your long, interesting letter of 5th, just as I planned to write + tell you so I went down to it for six days with a bad attack of painis, have managed to avoid bed at undue seasons for about a week now, + tobacco once more begins to taste less like profland or some other brash. I read in the 'Bulletin' that you were returning to England after your 33 years out here, then in the 'A'ian that you had bought a property out Sassafras or Healesville way + intended living there. I have been trying to think how long it is since you called here for a few minutes en route to Mr^o Gillen's + thence to St.irling's, I know I expected to see you again on one of your trips to England, as it was reported you were coming to South Aus^o for some days en route. I think you are mistaken about James 1895, you spent James 1896 at Alice 86^o, I went

in there a few days later & called you to the
Charlotte in the early part of 1897. we had
a belated Xmas dinner off a very fine
homeshic turkey at Old Crown Point on
18th January as per extracts from my diary
enclosed. your letter brought old memories
& regrets flooding over me once more. I had
a very bad attack of pain during February,
Miss Hughes ascribed it chiefly to worry.
The fact was that Thorold's aunt wrote
to me about some information Fitz
(who used to manage "Undiscover'd") had
given him concerning Bob Coulthard
& I finding traces of Gibson (lost to
files in 1876) out West of Temple Downs,
it was not accurate & like so many
of Fitz's stories, it needed cutting in half
& censoring. I got turning up old diaries,
& looking round I came across a ration
bag I had. I had hoarded a lot of letters
since when I was leaving Mamurta

17 or 18 years ago, & when I fully
 expected I would be returning
 there fit & well again in a few
 months. They were principally letters
 from yourself & Ellen, with a
 few from Winnie, Sarah & others
 & they just put me down - after all
 the Bush was my home - I loved
 it in spite of its hardships &
 exactions in many respects. I was
 always happy enough there and
 after a little spell in civilizati-
 on I was glad to get back to it.
 I have received many kindnesses
 since my enforced absence among
 the more civilized of the human
 race, but I have also observed
 the petty jealousies, hypocrisy &
 general artificiality, that it is
 composed of in many instances, to
 a degree that has been a revelation
 to my simple belief. as for religion,
 one can only live in a narrow
 little community such as this, &
 with the constant quarreling among
 the "professing" christians - church
 pillars, to be convinced that

when there was none of it, the men
were no worse as men or fellow beings,
& that the beliefs of the Aborigines which
there is so much anxiety to Missionize
out of the remainder of them, had their
good points & might well be left in
peace - of course you & I naturally
regarded certain actions of the Natives
from entirely opposite stand points, but
although my methods might be consider-
-ed harsh, I tried to be absolutely just
in my dealings, to take no unfair
advantage & to give him the benefit
of the doubt if there was a possible one,
& I endeavoured to convince him that
my word was to be absolutely trusted,
no matter how inconvenient to myself
it might be sometimes, and I do flatter
myself that I succeeded to a consid-
-erable extent, for they would show
me places or things quite satisfied
that they were inviolate, except on
their own terms, I never exploited them

3 for my personal benefit. The Administration at the top end, both in the matter of the Navies & generally, does not appear to have been an unqualified success, & the breath of suspicion hangs over those recently in authority there & their satellites, when we behind the scenes in C.A. or just respectful of our opportunities I wonder. You are right in saying I would probably know few of the inhabitants of the old hunting grounds if I revisited them now, fully 150 I met more or less intimately have died, many others left the North & settled elsewhere. I still correspond with those that are left whom I was partly with & whenever they come to Town they invariably come to see me. Coulthart told Tempe Down & lives mostly in Adelaide, he often runs up to port in the day, Mr. Gillen was here lately also St. John or Jacky Field who is now postmaster at Glenelg & enjoying much better health & was here on Sunday - Martin

isak of dropped out, he is at present &
Chief Clerk of the Murray Lands com-
-mission west at Blanchetown. Have
not seen Mr Ross for ages, they live
down on the plain between here & the
City, Ross was over Wells etc in
the Centre but gave it up, he has just
been up to the Stuart's Range Coal fields
but did not stay long & do any thing
profitable, Ruby Ross (the little girl
in the print you sent me) has children
now bigger than she was in 1897 & young
Alec who did well at the ~~Green~~
Wolfram fields, has just discovered that there
is better "get rich quick" schemes than
going into business with Tom Smarties.
Kelly's wife died some three years ago,
he is superannuated now & lives
with his daughter in one of the suburbs
below us, & comes along now & then.
As for my actual self, I bob along
somehow thanks to Miss Hughes
who has been with me 13 years &

4 is invaluable in every respect,
 she studies my interests financially
 the just as though they were her
 own - I have not been able to
 walk now for something over
 two years, I get into my chair
 at the foot of my bed with Miss
 Hughes assistance, & sit in it for
 an hour in the morning, then back
 onto the bed, in the afternoon she
 usually wheels me along the road
 for an hour - Occasionally my
 friends the McTapparts come along
 load me into their motor car &
 take me for a run, generally to
 the city where I love to watch the
 kaleidoscopic scene after the morning
 of his show, I used generally to lose
 some of the hire off my hips in
 being embarked or discharged from
 the motor, but they have now got
 one with wider doors, I could go
 out frequently were it not for
 the dread of bowel complications.
 I lost one nephew at the War but
 the others are alright & my special
 friend Fred Downer one of Elders

12
Smith & Co. Directors, who went to the London
Board while the War was on, returned on
Omanas eve, he comes to tea every Friday
night & runs up in between, sort of
saves me from utter stagnation, this
locality is not humorous, it takes its
politics, religion & other matters too solidly
& there is little satisfaction in pulling
the leg. Do not suppose I will see the
Prince too by a crowd, if I descent down
in a car everyone would be standing
up, I can't, I would be like the pupil
of a half-opened lily. Suppose you are
a trifle thick of it in Melbourne at this
moment.

You do not tell me how you felt in
your time now that you do not have
the print of lectures, nor the sign of your
Gatache, nor your patchwork hobby on
it, I hope you soon will & with all
good wishes believe me, never forget
me & my friends & their kindnesses
to this irresponsible, who has no longer
as good a capacity for strong drink as
before. Your affable friend
C. Ernest Cowie,

11th - 12th - 13th - 14th - 15th - 1907

16th Jan photoed Mygale scrub - Porcupine
Crown point, had dinner & a sleep
up at Affhan. Had 4 teams at
Pigeon Well (Mount: Falloch. 1897) & on
to Brown. Saw pads, fields, Mrs. Miss
Ross. Stakes also on Woodcock of the
cyanide plant. 19 miles

17th Self, Professor & pads up to Brown point
Stakes left for Idraconia. Woodcock &
party for Anburpa. Ross home at tea time

18th Ross & field to battle camp & returned
at 4 pm. Self, Professor & pads up to the
Crown for photos etc. Ballenpall turned
up 5 pm. Imas Jorad in the evening
killed a bullock. Teams all left

19th Ross out to battle. Self, Professor & pads
left at 9.40 am. - - -

20th - - -
21st - - -

22nd started out with Byrne & Prof. Spencer in
buggy for Anderson Range but turned back
after going 6 miles. Professor was unwell
very sick, a few drops of rain.
Saw Cowan going aridge way

1897.

Jan 1. Left for Alice Sp^o at 8.15 a.m. with Nat
& party - "Ahyed" avondale Tenant &
Shiki - dinner at Running Waters & camped
at Popythle. Water very salt. 28 miles

4 P.ohie camp for dinner - saw Mr. & Mrs Kelly
& Mr. Chance - after dinner Kelly drove me to
A.S. where I saw Professor, Mr. & Mrs. Miller,
Squires, Jayce, Thedworth, Heablett, Gleason,
Curt - later on Chico & Smith with
whom I fraternized & got very squiffy.
Chance passed at tea time from Bond Sp^o
& Jack Besley came from Township right at 8.15
5 at Telegraph Station all day & sorry -
saw front, my camera pictures front. ---

7 up to Alice Sp^o with Camels after dinner
paid for tent 2/14 - South 3-13-9. met Pop
who also stayed at Alice Sp^o

8. Left at 10.30 a.m., stopped for 10 minutes at
Pohie Camp. Dinner at Gaki & on the
near Rat Holes - Camels calf very troublesome

9. Mitchell Sp^o ---

10 - Red Hill & to Unduara --- Busy
all day. most peculiar spot on Sun at 6. P.M.
Professor photography & also Sun Sp^o