Dear Professor,

Your letter duly to hand and I have sent word to R.M.B. re the jirdo which has not turned up this way so far although we have at present a regular plague of mice, they are in everything flour, sugar, rice etc. They were at Elderslie about six months ago and later on at Henbury so the main lot appears to be coming from the South, they seem to me just like the domestic mouse, shall I send you a specimen. I went into Alice 87/88
as I intended had a fairly giddy time. Sillen may tell you if he finds time to mention my name that I was a little uproarious but I am giving you the facts. I was simply exhilarated. we never had a battle even, simply fair comment on subjects in general, naturally I gave him my ideas on the present one man S. A. Government & the idiocy of his (Sillenio) brother in particular posing as a man of enlightened ideas and fancying Village Settlements had completely settled the labour question and in consequence he believes now I am morally & politically beyond reform, we mutually plastered each other up and I won his heart completely by talking of
means they can knowing full well how little the really interested natives have to say in the matter, how he reconciles this with his position of Protector of Aborigines & his negrophilic ideas
In general I can't conceive why, in consequence I am beginning to think there is something in possessing a truly Roman Catholic conscience that there may be something in the remission of sins after all. Putting all nonsense aside he was very nice and when one is personally in contact with his bottle of Dawson he exercises a charm over an untamed mind which is hard to realize till you experience it. If the Horn Expedition does no good to the
Scientists of made reputations it will have accomplished one great thing at all events & that is the renaissance or renaissance of Science in the North West (provided it ever existed in the Country). All the people at AG, who know their alphabet now seems to be going in for eggs, rats, bugs, rebels etc. I saw Squires out on an unsuccessful search about Condor's lagoon.

I am sorry I displayed such ignorance re the surroundings of a knowlegeable man of the present day but feel more contented now that I am aware that you do mix with the common clay occasionally and even relish it however in view of Gillen being at present tournig the other colonies I have decided to postpone my visit till the tail of that comet is swallowed in the oblivion of the past. I am sending Mr. French a few eggs which I trust will be the ones he wanted. I notice that even collectors of eggs have their little animies towards one another & I fancy the black cock in the other has something to do with it. French has a most exalted opinion of you and constantly tells me how good you are to him.

Mr. Hoorn is hanging fire properly & it must be very trying to a temperament like yours constantly kept at concert pitch by a class of students feelingly described in your last. I fancy you ought now to be metaphorically rather like a lizard's tail apt to snap
you, the other scientists, while on his part when talking over native totems he said, "You are "one of the few men in the country with sufficient intellect to take an interest in this subject without wanting to rush off to talk of lubras and thrones like the "other bloody fools." I did not forget this as it was such a mouthful without a break. He really has a splendid lot of stones & I will try & get him more but these less civilized negroes are more chary of imparting any knowledge than the aborigines about Mr. Gillen talks of how much they value these stones & of their great antiquity yet he sets these negroes round him to obtain them by any
off rather short. I am off to Tempe in two days & on my return Daer will probably go over to Melbourne for a trip. The garden rhinos are in great form and likewise the goats who have increased some 40 odd in the last week so I am nearly out of my mind mothering kids. I find I am reduced to scraps of paper so I must conclude wishing you a good time & that you may survive the ordeal of Gilten who should be crushed a little since Roseberg's fall.

Remain

Yours very sincerely

Ernest G. Cowle

Please remember me to Gilten if he is around.