

Moonla

4<sup>th</sup> Dec 1902

My dear Spencer

I have been thinking much of you during the week & not without a spice of envy though your outing & would have more attraction for me if there were a few Nuygon Camps hidden away amidst the ferns. I hope you have had good weather, a few days ago it was infernally hot & dark here & such weather in the scrub would be simply stifling.

What have you done with Mrs Spencer & the girls? Warren tells me that they are going to some watering place for a couple of months. Surely you are not going to spend the time & see

alone in Melbourne?

Beltinga has just had a 3  
week fall of rain. Lucie also  
has had a good fall &  
the drought has every appearance  
of breaking up. I must go to my  
delight for I have had visions  
of a prolonged drought  
such as the old Niggers  
describe as having occurred  
years before the advent of the  
Abolition man in Cape Town  
when a little droughty winter  
impresario gap was the only  
water left anywhere in the  
Alicante Springs locality. Nigger  
Hadden must be better water so  
I am or two of it - but I  
am inclined to think that he  
inferior is subject to so at long

intervals - to droughts must occur  
than any exposure in the memory  
of white men. If I were at  
liberty to do just as I please  
I should far strongly tempt  
me to slip by next week picking  
up Paranda & the Sabdad in work.  
One here says get together 10  
head of good Heddies & travelling  
and rapidly follow up your old  
tracks & then wrap round water  
on which we must not fully  
inform us. For the Niggers must  
share & then reported they would  
it to learn that there was no  
wagon loaded with good things  
in the year. I was rather disgusted  
to learn that Zeitz has a  
McArthur Coffin with the bones they  
must have hidden it carefully long



in the basement for I had never  
seen it nor had you. If  
we certainly made a mistake  
in not remaining at the Mc  
Arthur Station but at the time  
& under the circumstances we  
were bound to push on. Our  
most serious mistake was in  
not going on to the Rogan  
but for the Tels to Holmes  
we should have done so, there  
would have been no difficulty  
in selling the rogan at a  
fair price to Campbell. Had  
we not been short of funds  
we could have scraped together  
an outfit at Berroloven at  
the beginning of December &  
I felt that this was the proper  
thing to do but in view

of the fact that owing to  
 your Father's death you might  
 have to find the Cash  
 out of your income I should  
 not urge such a course.

If ever Tallonall plans out  
 a respectable diary will go  
 there & to the Daily Allegators  
 The two latter are perhaps the  
 most important as we already  
 know something of the Paper  
 people. Hold Holden that we  
 looked forward to doing more  
 work some day & he suggested  
 quite seriously, that I should  
 write to Carnegie and him a  
 copy of our work & ask him  
 to provide funds for future work  
 He believes that Carnegie would be  
 only too glad to have an



I spontaneously decided since it  
was possible to address my paper  
The last letter does not say  
whether you have succeeded in

getting Prof. Allen elected to  
the Council. I understand when  
Mr. Prebensen at the Res

meeting that you were opposed  
to having the Prof. Staff represented  
upon the Council & the Share a  
day of recollection of an argument  
you had with Lawrence at  
Baltimore in the papers. It

appears to me to be the proper  
thing but instead of 1 there  
should at least be three professors  
on the Council. One man  
however able can do little.

I am delighted with the  
verdict in the Fox & Pommeroy

case, a man for such a paper will  
be treated upon the subject of the  
publication & compiled the paper will  
take to heart the Council. The

fact that as many of the  
Council are from another  
The Age attacks and the

University Staff should be treated  
about in the Highways, a  
whenever it has so far as  
I know never appeared in print  
at the party of course from nothing  
about the relationship they have  
you have it made public?

One of the Address papers, a  
week or two ago, stated that the  
present Editor of the Age is about  
to retire. Perhaps he is too  
young for the task. I would show  
may the devil fly away with it

My Concert was a great success  
My Concert Song was heard three  
times. The Kiddies thoroughly enjoyed  
themselves we scraped in about  
£9 for the School funds. I  
have been asked to repeat the  
entertainment in aid of the Local  
Committee funds for the Industrial  
School for the Blind - The Mallmoor  
lecture was a great success a  
good but not full house country  
people never attend lectures. The  
Institute Committee entertained us  
at supper afterwards some speeches  
were made to the health of  
Spencer Queen was honored  
in bumpers. Next Tuesday I  
lecture at Mounta Moies in  
aid of their Institute & some  
time early in the year I can



to lecture in Adelaide in aid  
of the Industrial School for the  
Blind. If the thing is properly  
managed a goodly sum sh<sup>d</sup>  
be raised. The Adelaide people  
are busy booming the Transcontinental  
Railway and Newland has  
issued a booklet through the Govt  
Printing Office quoting everything  
that has ever been said in favor  
of the Territory & they have even  
quoted "Extracts from Spencer's  
Expedition" though where on earth  
they got them from or what  
they are I do not know. Parsons  
told me that you had spoken  
very favorably of the Interior  
Country & he referred to a copy  
of the Review of Reviews which I  
have not been able to lay my

hands on. I am not sure that  
I don't agree with your proposal  
railway route but if you go  
through the tableland country I  
don't quite see how you are  
going to get to Darwin. I  
would draw a great deal but  
I would not venture to suggest  
such a route into the tableland  
perhaps just now. I discussed  
the matter here with Holden  
who thinks they are making a  
mistake in not leaving the  
Commonwealth but over the country  
he has no objections about it &  
fully realize that it is indeed  
a State question. In my opinion  
very little of it is good for  
local purposes & as far as the  
cultivation of tropical products

where they have similar soil they harvest  
the same product where they have the  
same product they harvest the same product.  
Probably some good English specialists  
experts not outside families  
to build the Railway & build up  
the same than instead than or  
to the gullies British people. In  
all probability families of persons  
will go home shortly to give the  
thing a start. Holdens brother  
is to be connected fully with  
Not a word in your letter  
about Mrs Lambert. How there is  
she I did not see her Dad  
at Ballarat but heard that he was  
back with. I think you are inclined  
to exaggerate Kinglows interference with  
Commercial people, it is a notorious  
fact that the Customs administration



everywhere in Australia has been in the past very  
low & that consequently great frauds have been  
perpetrated and even where there has been no fraudulent  
intent Merchants have grown careless about  
complying with the regulations Kingston knows  
all this & is striving to put things on  
a sound footing to start with. If the truth were  
known he is impeded in his actions by  
the ~~other~~ permanent heads of the Department  
Poor old Chap I feel so sorry for him He  
is quite a pathetic figure. I wish you would  
see him some day I am sure he would  
like to see you. I greatly regret missing him  
in Melbourne. Lucy was operated on for a growth  
at the base of her nose & also had her tonsils  
clipped it was the growth, according to Hamilton, that  
caused cross eyes. She is certainly improved  
in health & her eyes are better but there is  
still room for considerable improvement & I am not  
without anxiety about her. Spencer, a splendid  
hardy little chap, is just beginning to talk I  
wish you could see him the little beggar lives almost  
exclusively on rice biscuits. Must now close & get out  
for some fresh air. Our kind regards to Mrs  
Spencer & love to the girls. I remain

Yours  
J. J.