

(21)

Alice Springs  
1st May 1890

My dear Spencer

From sheer force of habit I cannot allow a mail to go away without dropping you a line. The new mail service is exasperating, so far none of our friends have hit upon the right day for posting. I find that instead of receiving monthly replies we only get them six weekly as before. This is owing to the train service being unaltered - our mails going from this end arrive at Oodnadatta on Wednesday & have to wait there until the train leaving on the

following Tuesday so that Helen  
take my dogs going from here  
to Adelaide - I am enclosing a  
Register leader which will I  
think interest you or at any rate  
it will serve to show that  
the Adelaide Press is beginning  
to take some interest in the  
Niggers. Cook reports another Larrikin  
man shot while beating arms &  
trying to spear a hatter. I don't  
believe this shooting business at all &  
am feeling very much surprised  
about it - I don't know you & I are  
the Gatepost & that a great deal of  
the trouble with the Larrikin is  
due to their being excluded from  
some of the best camping &  
hunting grounds in the district  
No doubt for instance in some of

in the Manna when no probably  
one of the main camping grounds  
where I am sure to have been  
associated with men of traditions  
, At all our Scrymgeour stations  
along the tin trap & also have  
been tried to follow trouble from the  
North & I attribute the policy to  
the fact that we have never  
interfered with their camping grounds -  
With your knowledge of their traditions  
you will understand how much a certain  
piece of country - perhaps the very piece  
from which he is excluded - means to the  
Nigger. It is hopeless to try to  
hammer this into the heads of  
Pastoralists who show they look upon  
a piece of country as property the  
best position for the exclusion are of their  
stock & the Nigger to the barren  
lands which are often destitute also

of game tradition -

Martin has been staying with us  
for a few days. He left for Tempe this  
morning - he talks of throwing up the  
Tempe blocks & removing his stock to  
San Helen where most of his cattle  
have been grazing during the drought  
he & I look on in friendly terms  
on board, but I am afraid there is  
not much love lost between them.

We are having delightful weather &  
I hope you could see the Country  
It is looking splendid again &  
we are beginning to forget the awful  
drought & the months & months of misery  
million & half. Our best regards to  
you all

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Yours ever sincerely

J. J.