

Alice Springs
9th Feb 1897

My dear Spencer

You are at the
present moment spending
along between Quorn and
Adelaide and while you
would probably prefer to
be returning here I am
enjoying you the prospect
of soon being in
beautiful little Adelaide
Tomorrow you will doubtless
start for soon reaching
microbe ridden frowsy old
Melbourne, and week later
I picture you after a
night with David & Susan

gowned & capped walking
into your lecturing room with
far away gaze & contemptuous
hood the students cheer
& made colloquial observations
about the Sun chips on
your nose, after bowing
your acknowledgements you
announce that the subject
of your discourse upon
that occasion will be protoplasm.
You began - Protoplasm, now
what is protoplasm? pause
Protoplasm ladies & gentlemen
is no longer any imperfectly
understood force his connection
with one of the marbles of
the Achillean has been clearly
demonstrated on the sacred
grounds of the Engwara & the

ceremonies of his times have
 been reenacted - Protoperson
 lived & flourished in the
 Alchomagan & was widely known
 as a mighty Othrabata of
 the renowned Achilpa of
 Urapitchera, he was afflicted,
 I say, adversely afflicted
 with two organs of generation

Squeals from the ladies
 & reverent but suppressed laughter
 from the men the professor
 awakes, the class is dismissed
 the prof invites some Callo
 to relate a peculiar incident
 while he says the matters
 a ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
 the Achilpa ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ the Othrabata
 most of all ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Protoperson

I cannot tell you how
much we missed you,
personally. I felt like a
fish out of water &
could not settle down to
work at any long neglected
official duties! For some
days after you left, if I
had not been more than a
dozen different sorts of a
Cold iron as I could have
summed down I had a week
with you amongst the higgers
at CW I could have gone
on perhaps of inspection
but it did not occur to
me until it was too late
I am sorry you did not
discover glacial drift but in
my ignorance of geology

I thought the Shiel'd boater
 at Crown Point was sufficient
 to establish Bepmes theory & all
 that the discovery of drift
 at M^r Anderson would simply
 mean additional evidence: Thanks
 for sketch and notes on Indecia,
 I am inclined to think the
 wild dogs who drove in the
 Okiva are another lot & not
 identical with the Awmichea
 men, there is no reason
 why there should not be
 more than one intelligence of
 Kangaroo being driven in
 is not at all likely that the
 Niggers at the Engward would
 instead of Cowles opinion
 to the contrary not what I mean
 By the way did you make

enquiries & did you find the
hill of Newbury from which
the Niggers obtain that black
stuff? I will do my best
to get further information about
Medicines & if I think it
advisable will run out
through from the account and
information you were able
to gather I don't think I could
add much. I will follow up
lines of enquiry suggested by
you in letter - Since you
left here I have done no
Anthropology beyond going over
some of our Engawa words
with the old man the only
scrap of information I have
been able to gather is that
when suffering rheumatic pains

in the legs ^(only) remove the
 fleshy part of the leg & essentially
 the seal of pain & the flow
 of blood from the numerous
 small wounds is said to
 give relief - you may think
 this worthless & boring - our
 old nursery is still intact
 & has become a happy hunting
 ground for snakes I don't think
 it has been visited by a
 Nigger of either sex since you
 left Labrador & I remember that
 you had a nice berth my
 wife & I often stroll down
 there of an evening the place
 has a fascination for me &
 I cannot help wishing that we
 could see our Engwura Eye over

over again though I confess
it was an anxious time for
me there was always a danger
of the thing bursting up &
I dreaded anything of the
sort happening much more
for your sake than for
my own - One of your first
evenings in Melbourne will
of course be devoted to
the veteran Ashington & his pos-
sessed friend, how I do wish
I could be with you I hope
you will find time to write
me a full account of the
meeting & what the old fellows
think of our work I shall
be very anxious to get your
next letter, the wife & I often
discuss my dream & when the

(3)

(26)

last mail arrived without a word
from Dallersall the
I have given
the sacred firm Engwena
another chance to provide
the necessary five thousand
and another forty dollar pound
goes to Dallersall this mail if
there be a providence who
presides over the luck of
individuals let us hope that
he has anthropological
sympathies I haven't touched
a shore. Since you left
in fact I haven't sworn off
that vice altogether, the calls
are stiffening me, and
unless there is a move
in the market (upward)
very shortly I shall be done

Wrote - I have promised the
Wife that I will not touch
another share of any description
without her sanction & she
threatens to write you if
I break my word! I was
glad to get your wire
saying your things at Ad were
all right for her you I
was somewhat sceptical it
seemed so too much to expect
that everything would be saved
hope you will get everything
safely to Melbourne. I have
boxed up two large cases
of the class & all sorts of
weapons & sent them down
to my Brother who will
look after them until we
go down Country - Cowley

wrote glowingly of his trip
 with you. He has evidently
 done him a lot of good
 but he feels a bit sick
 at the idea of returning
 to Ellamwata, he bitterly
 regrets the collapse on
 the night of his arrival
 here & I don't think such
 a thing is likely to occur
 again, he says nothing
 about our work except that
 it is generally understood
 that I have given most of my
 information to McWester
 & he expresses a hope
 that I will "be strong &
 above all hopelessly jealous &
 acknowledge that in the work!"
 Like you he thinks a word

of god praise he would make me
unbearably arrogant. His trip
to Lower Falls I am afraid
be put off owing to his having
to collect for Statistics. What
in this we hear about you at
Smelling Round Crown Point in
a pair of beaver molts I
heard that you were so much
engaged in at miving your
beaver clad legs that you could
not be persuaded to take any
interest in anything else. I
thought you above personal vanity
Coulter tells me that I was
often the topic of conversation
that you all strive to do
me justice (without mercy) &
he reckoned that he would
not be absent of the Cut

Creek before he would be
 placed on the dissecting
 table & quivering under
 the knives of you &
 Pado. I am afraid your
 visits to the interior & your
 intimate association with the
 natives have had a demoralizing
 effect. I am simply spoiling
 for an argument & often wonder
 how you & some other
 C. You could hold different
 political subjects, he would not
 lack of Anthropology did you
 manage to raise an argument
 at all? or did you simply content
 yourself with all round destructive
 criticism. I notice your democratic
 leader Turner has taken a long time
 I thought him I about that sort

(25) (4)

of anything though I know
most Victorians have after
that Tawdry Exhibition. The best
busted City of the boomers
knights some of these days
any forams of Victoria with
scientific instincts will make
you Sir Baldwin, boy what
alcheming a what an awful
thought, if this ever happens
Byrne Cowle & I will meet
for a solid war place
you upon the dissecting table
it is becoming the fashion
for literary & scientific men
to accept titles, but if Brassey
takes an interest in anthropology
it may be done within a year
year, against holy alcheming
I don't think I could resist

(15) (14)

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it. I shall be glad to see an
 English Criticism on Vol II if
 you have spare copies send
 them to me. I can return
 them if necessary. I have not
 seen the Age Criticism on
 the work - let me know if the
 Negatives travelled down safely.
 I am sending you a few
 photos this mail, but nothing
 especially good. About a
 fortnight ago I discovered that
 four of the Eskimo Blind George,
 Young Sambo, Tom (the Kings Son)
 & Tom Eric had made a
 raid on Gunters goats. This
 happened on race day (when
 I made the discovery the
 offenders were all away. I
 once stopped down rats in

as Kelly did not move on
the matter I called up the
old men & told them that
until the offenders were brot
in to me there would be
no supplies of racy. re
gularly they came in &
without lying them up I
sent them to Kelly for
punishment, no one here
except myself believed that
they would go to the
Camp knowing as they did
that they were to have a
hiding - the fact of their
yielding themselves up for
a hiding staggered Kelly & has
given him an exaggerated
opinion of my power over
the darlies on Full Bay.

Square took noticed the idea
 of the boys going to the camp
 of their own free will. You can
 imagine how I have been
 Chortling to myself while preserving
 an outward appearance of
 unconcern - hold up your
 fingers! The weather continues
 heretofore dry feed is growing scarce
 our stock are beginning to look
 very thinny I am going to relay
 the iron troughing tomorrow & erect
 a whip for water drawing, there
 is no indication of rain and
 I am beginning to think that
 we are in for a drought
 The Niggers mourned your
 departure & are constantly making
 inquiries about you. your stay
 here must ever be to them a

red letter period in the history
of the have never again met
haces to so plentiful or
flows so liberally dealt and
the old thing wants to know
why you cannot come and
live here when I go South
& I tell him that the ancient
Uchiripa could not spare you
I paid Mullis your account &
am enclosing receipt also statement
showing how you stand with
me hope it won't make you
feel faint! When you write
to England remember we are most
kindly to your wife & send
my love to the little ones
You will soon have them
with you again, don't forget
to send that photo for

the wife. Let me know how you
 found old Wemede & how he
 got on with the great storm.
 I was sorry to learn from the
 papers that the latter is in
 ill health for I believe he is
 after all, a real good fellow
 wrapped up in a disagreeable
 crust - Don't intend writing
 to Sterling until he returns
 I am that a nice bit sore
 about the symbolic business
 Peasey is still as enthusiastic
 as ever over the gold mines
 & spends the whole of his
 salary on them his spare
 time is spent in planning
 off cracked rocks - Woodcock
 said will be a few days
 & seems a very nice young fellow

he is a student of Prof
Runic about whom he talks
enthusiastically - Kelly tells me the
Bulletin has ~~an~~ of Jan'y 9th has
a paragraph stating that you & I
are at ~~the~~ ^{the} Springs engaged upon
"a magnificent work on the Central
Australian States" the paragraph is
concluded in appreciative terms. Kelly
says they predict that the value
of the book, some years hence,
will be enormous - I need
say another unkind word of the
Bulletin!! Certainly they must have
a copy for review - Most kind
and appreciative letters from
Gordon's Secy & others to whom
I sent copies of Horn paper
Gordon writes "I need not say

(2)

(How collecting two to slowly
fuling - Now old man I
must scratch a few lines
to my own people - hope
you feel benefited by your
stay with us - It was a
delight to my wife & I
to have you here & we shall
always look back upon the
two months you spent here
as amongst the brightest &
most enjoyable we have spent
at A.G. I do wish the visit
could be repeated - with your
Yours always faithfully

A.S.

That I am sure this will form
 a most valuable contribution to
 scientific knowledge and will carry
 your name down long after those
 of politicians are forgotten
 and still I do wonder after a
 political career of Gordon shows it
 I quite expect that when you
 get fairly settled I have time
 to review our work that I
 shall be inundated with a
 million or two questions
 if you won't me keep off
 that infernal table of
 relationship the rights of it
 in its law enclosure here, often
 give me a cold shiver
 My kind regards to French
 Iron Horrell tell French I'll
 send him some eggs shortly