

Dr. Van Blund found Navy was not a Doctor in the manner described but having eaten for the storm took flight

My dear Spencer  
22nd Dec 1897

The copy of Nature containing  
Engraving paper has not come to hand  
please let me know the date & put post  
get my bookseller to procure a copy of  
two - did you receive bundle of photos  
last mail if so the medicine man  
photo should have been amongst them  
thoroughly remember marking it on the back  
with pencil & cannot find it amongst  
my prints here - I am doubtful whether  
I can get another picture as the old  
doctor man who did the painting has  
cleared out again - the design on the  
forehead which was badly drawn is  
partly hidden by the eyelids & ears, but  
you have a copy of the design &  
the notes - let me know by return if  
you want another picture or if you require  
negatives of this one - I have sent all the  
negatives you asked for & in addition one of  
a woman carrying pichie, gam stick & child

Poor old ~~Stewart~~ I am very sorry indeed about the death of his boy he was a fine manly little fellow this death will be a cruel blow to his father & mother ~~the first~~ <sup>the first</sup> heard of it was from your letter - he tells me that one of his daughters is in a bad way in some organic disease & they do not expect her to live his long ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> lose a child is, as you say, to reach the bed of sorrow. I feel that about poor little Balfour that all I am glad to say he is quite well again & his frustration has just cleared his throat out by appearing upon the scene with two lovely frogs for the fessa - I have made several ~~collections~~ <sup>collections</sup> of ~~Chironomids~~ <sup>Chironomids</sup> but they are so indolent that I am not sending them the ~~handing~~ <sup>handing</sup> I find many some being here ~~at present~~ <sup>at present</sup> some begin as ~~spirals~~ <sup>spirals</sup> & end in ~~Concentric~~ <sup>Concentric</sup> ~~Coiled~~ <sup>Coiled</sup> ~~shells~~ <sup>shells</sup> others are entirely of the latter form - I have very few of my ~~Chironomids~~ <sup>Chironomids</sup> for ~~staying~~ <sup>staying</sup> ~~sent~~ <sup>sent</sup> ~~over~~ <sup>over</sup> of them down country with other things ~~several~~ <sup>several</sup> months ago. The blacks say it is ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> ~~antique~~ <sup>antique</sup> ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~rather~~ <sup>rather</sup> ~~curious~~ <sup>curious</sup> ~~specimen~~ <sup>specimen</sup>

I am very sorry indeed about the death of his boy he was a fine manly little fellow this death will be a cruel blow to his father & mother the first heard of it was from your letter - he tells me that one of his daughters is in a bad way in some organic disease & they do not expect her to live his long to lose a child is, as you say, to reach the bed of sorrow. I feel that about poor little Balfour that all I am glad to say he is quite well again & his frustration has just cleared his throat out by appearing upon the scene with two lovely frogs for the fessa - I have made several collections of Chironomids but they are so indolent that I am not sending them the handing I find many some being here at present some begin as spirals & end in Concentric Coiled shells others are entirely of the latter form - I have very few of my Chironomids for staying sent over of them down country with other things several months ago. The blacks say it is an antique a rather curious specimen

(2)

taste as to <sup>on what form</sup> how the markings were made - in  
 all you will find a goodly number of places referred  
 to in separate enclosures but not for a long  
 of new information, it is beginning to  
 dawn upon me that we have not much  
 more to learn in this locality if  
 Nathaniel would only be good enough to  
 have in a few months a full & thorough search of  
 fields & meadows & pastures & have you will  
 have made no three times than now  
 some trifling corrections - the introduction is  
 simply splendid I cannot suggest any  
 additions or alterations but you must be  
 perfectly satisfied and perhaps better than I do  
 in the matter of the present done. There is  
 simple justice and there is no fact or point upon  
 which you have not well provided for and  
 you can understand your situation whether you will  
 so toward for a long time but had I been  
 growing bolder I should have said that these people were  
 were at one time more numerous I am  
 of course believe that they have degenerated  
 morally &c - & that their numbers have been  
 decreased - indeed the introduction of Egyptian  
 from our side & the other has proved both in the  
 South I cannot say of what Egyptian will



(3)

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never drunk on a special occasion - the  
blood of any man, quite irrespective of  
lottery considerations, is drunk on occasions  
as before stated - the only occasion when  
may be called "special" upon which  
the lotem is eaten is when for instance  
the Udnungita is brought in to the  
Udnungita. I remember the old King telling  
me that he could not regard it as a  
duty to eat what was the original - the eating  
of the lotem of one's lotem is compulsory  
and it is regarded as a sacred duty  
and neglected would be for instance -  
cause the Udnungita bushes to drop off  
the separate stems of a plant it is the same all  
through all the lotems. I thought that paragraph  
from the New Hebrides Missionary would interest  
you. I am enclosing another letter containing  
some further reference to the stones & to  
the New Hebrides equivalent for you  
Udnungita that it is a duty like that Mr. Fison  
kindly had Missionary in any case he could  
help you in his history of communicating with  
him - I personally did not of course remember  
with characteristic check - thought of writing  
asking him to let me have a couple of the

(8)

I have been for some time for the Indian with  
 including some of the things that I have found in the  
 country which is a remarkable performance  
 of a business and a perfect - to be sure that - as  
 I have long to hear that I should find  
 fellows who have been about here that he  
 has quite recovered I would much like to have  
 found out your own the night he spent  
 your own if you follow me I will come  
 to be together for some time or so I think the  
scope of our work may be widened considerably  
 Now about the things my going out there  
 is a matter of some importance in the question  
 are just about to establish a plantation system on  
 this line for the next three months I shall not  
 be able to move off the station - Martin will  
 probably be in for Christmas if he comes  
 he will bring a nigger from whom I hope  
 to get definite information. I don't expect to  
 find anything about the Combs' system  
 what I do see is that the finders of that certain  
 defects in local customs belong to certain families that  
 these families inform us with the knowledge of  
 any locality outside their own boundaries -

Kemp's report is to my lettered friends who  
 most was perating - bordering upon the rapid  
 in fact to almost despair of getting  
 anything from him. To span however writing  
 again this mail - so far they have not been  
 able to locate the man at all unless  
 I repeat sooner or later he will be nailed to  
 the wall - if hard work is put on  
 away from the instrument without setting  
 the matter - I am inclined to think my original  
 informant, who was a very intelligent  
 gave correct information but one can never be  
 sure of a rigger - tobacco is much  
 appreciated by some - 2 year  
 old friend - Old Jimmy from the South  
 who is photographed at the Chumunga platform  
 near our old Wally - that's Alice  
 some time ago - you will speak  
 very quiet old - fellow - some of  
 your friends - Glavin & Rat Rat are here - the  
 great and only fact is expected shortly - I  
 have definitely located the Engura wheels  
 could not have been successfully carried out  
 in such a season as the present unless  
 in cost of about 2000 dollars - I will  
 prepare a report to state the situation

54 Mrs. Fogarty wrote me about it. I hope if you  
 reach you will say you will find some and that  
 on a small bag incidentally placed at the corner of your  
 acquaintance would amaze that infernal reputation  
 business is not allowed it has nearly broken my head. I don't  
 mind telling you that I was ~~not~~ extremely proud  
 of that letter noted. I was afraid to suffer to  
 it but you should discover some of the little  
 note plus very simple but it involved hours of days of  
 persistent questioning before I got down to the bed rock  
 when one reflects that all this work is done in a  
 limited circle of scientific readers it is a little depressing  
 I still think though that in ~~my~~ ~~case~~ ~~and~~ ~~than~~  
 one ~~editor~~ - Byrnes was always of an erratic correspondent  
 and they wonder why that he has been so ~~careless~~  
 with you, he rarely writes to any of his relations  
 and sometimes may write a word or phrase half a dozen  
 letters before he receives a reply = ~~at least~~ ~~in his~~  
 irregularity worry you? I don't think there is any  
 man living who ~~friendships~~ he values so highly as he  
 does yours - he feels that you understand  
 him and Cowley and I am afraid have not benefited  
 much. My kind regards to you and that she has a  
 nearly broken and congenial heart and is not happy



I tried to bring about a reconciliation  
 between his & Martin but I am afraid it  
 will not come to anything. The Rabbit  
 affair is broken off - you said I should  
 be surprised to hear that when the old  
 woman got to Adeline she took to the  
 bottle very kindly, went on for a night  
 down here in fact & Abbelet threw her  
 over in disgust, to use his own  
 words he was "billy-blomed if she ain't  
 the rummest woman I've ever had time  
 to look at. I'm perfectly gassed with  
 her" poor fellow is awfully cut up  
 I have asked him to return here & take  
 his old bitter but he appears intent upon  
 to face the ridicule & it is doubtful whether  
 he will return. I mean to keep an eye on  
 him wherever he goes as if the dream ever  
 became a reality I would like to take him  
 with me - My wife was shocked to hear of  
 the old woman drinking she could scarcely  
 be induced to take liquor here even occasionally  
 She came to us with splendid references during  
 the last four years of her life - I feel therefore  
 that she didn't treat out when day the situation  
 of her mind was as it was desired

2

Medwell has returned much benefited by his holiday & decorated with a pair of spectacles which just give him quite a professional appearance his account of that ball & Mrs. Conner shopping - that he carrying a large basket & talking in his usual style & no the fashionable shape is very funny - to return to anthropology I have never heard of a man having a particular relationship to an animal other than his own totem you say "I suppose - that they have no idea that they are specially related to their totemic animal or plant" I don't for the life of me understand what you mean because you know as well as I do that they recognize a special relationship with the totem animal or plant, it is because of this relationship that they will not eat meat of the totem they do not appear to think it possible for a man to go back into the animal or plant form & nor could find that they have any idea of the totem animal or plant having both themselves a spirit - as you say it looks as if some such idea had at the root of the notion that by eating much of the totem they would stop the supply - If they eat too freely they would offend the animal - they are full of a kindly sympathy for their totem animal and as they put it they would be

"too sorry" if they eat much - there is a  
 deeply rooted feeling that it is not good to  
 eat much & that some calamity would happen  
 to them if they did & further than this there  
 is the most powerful reason of all, that is  
 the bringing about of diminished happiness.  
 We are not quite on bed rock here & I know  
 but time may help us & I am sure on the  
 whole - Andrew Lang's remarks quoted by you  
 make me shudder to think that perhaps he is  
 referring to a coming work by someone else &  
 I could just about make a rabid condemnation of  
 me if my nose protruded, it is just possible  
 that the Anthropology Society in head may start people  
 working on other centres though no one could  
 do much without scientific guidance, I am sure  
 I could not. If ever that northern trip comes  
 off I think the Churinga developments will be  
 the most interesting, here we are only <sup>well within</sup> the  
 boundaries of Churinga land - to the north, you will  
 or some other workers will find all sorts of  
 labels of the mound. I envy that New Hebrides  
 missionary & would go much to see the stones &  
 have just one rub with the Pleggers there, the  
 missionary route of course indicates the stones of their  
 ancient beliefs & this route effectively shows the

of the Huggens - I am afraid if you or I get amongst them the Reed gentlemen would offer up prayers for our conversion, & flood the religious press with leaders against our pernicious example - I shall never forget a look of mingled horror & doubt which appeared upon the face of Alfred Trickett at the anniversary when I asked him not to say anything against promiscuous intercourse to certain old women with whom I was talking - My wife takes a great interest in the Cause, she draws my attention to the letters & she is quite concerned lest some one should get hold of the same & send them out before our book is published. I hope the trip to Sydney did you good although I am afraid you would not allow yourself much rest. I don't like to hear that you are feeling stale because I know that before you would admit as much you would be nearly ill - I shall drop old French a line & ask him to keep a fatherly eye upon you. That programme of one days work made me feel ill you try to do too much it doesn't matter a scrap about sending the copies of what you have written every mail, until you have leisure to write it out - fortunately most of it is done now. We badly need some the country between here & Goodradigbee is in a dreadful state now as the Charlotte & Blooms Town roads will have to be suspended within a week or two

unless I please in kind. I do at Charlotte Waters  
 all day long & here our sheep are so poor and  
 need to be almost uncuttable. Well we have a diff. 7  
 in getting through next trip as the trader  
 at Bloods Creek will be about day. Myself as  
 I would have liked you to be here I'm glad  
 now that you don't come. The trip would  
 have half killed you. I should have better  
 as to get you back. The that is the kettle  
 Nephew is. Well you must since we have taken  
 to spending the evening out in the garden.  
 At 9 PM I religiously indulge in some smoking  
 & think of our country last summer - the old  
 Engwara ground much to the disgust of some  
 of the red fellows has been degraded or defiled  
 by women & children & various other hands has  
 been laid upon our water much of which has  
 gone into the adjacent camp for some time  
 I am out of methylated spirits having used the  
 the rest by put on in Harrow (I am at the present  
 you had better instruct Jorgarty to send it to you  
 if we get a good season I might be able to  
 fill the big collecting box. Am sending photo  
 prints in registered packet will send Ochuska's and  
 Guldhaed next mail. News came in today that a  
 lot of Alpinia blacks are bringing me in Chewing

And other things in a parcel of Undattha come  
 have today from Mount May also some orang-uttha  
 skins a great quantity of the red shade taken from  
 North of Mt May has come in for the first time  
 a grand old chap of a remarkably new type of  
 face I intend to photograph him in a day or  
 two in the meantime he is a guest of the white  
 Khantala (who entertains his board at the end of the  
 pubic) as becomer a General he is being told marvellous  
 tales about the old Feloupa & Achuppa about  
 Atunta Kūdāka That's you - By the way six months here  
 would remove the old Achuppa asthma & oh what a  
 time well have - please convey my kind regards to good  
 wishes to them both I look forward with pleasure to  
 seeing them again & shall not feel such a pang  
 as I did on the last occasion now I must close  
 up & write what good fellow Resumpt for my  
 kind regards to Mrs Spencer & hers to the  
 Baron I suppose I shall not know them when next  
 I see them - I mean the old man & all good wishes  
 on which the wife joins me & all good wishes  
 I shall be glad to hear from you & your family  
 when you are in the city - I shall be glad to  
 hear from you & your family when you are in the city  
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