

Alice Springs
30th April 1898

My dear Spencer

The mail leaves here tomorrow for the first time under the new fortnightly contract - Coaches are to leave here and Oodnadatta simultaneously, mail at H⁵ Bend exchange mails to return to their respective starting points. Wells has, I am glad to say, submitted this end of the Contract to a good man so that we have a chance of getting our mails regularly - We shall receive replies to our letters monthly - The funds service which includes

100
I am sure it is to be monthly -
- I am disappointed you must have
been to see that the last
that manuscripts in shape you will
French did not indulge in
an orgie of flayons to
celebrate the decision. I am
all impatience to see the text
concluding chapters I shall be
convinced by the days in the next
month arrives - meanwhile I am
giving the Meggers a much
needed rest with a view to
facilitating them with renewed vigor
in a few months. In reference
to your work I am going to
seriously attempt learning the
languages but before starting to
work I am going to finish

up, may not long forgotten grammar and
"A rational Grammar" by Loos
McC of Melbourne is highly
recommended by the Review of
Reviews I am sending for it
this month when I have thoroughly
gripped its contents I shall
I suppose work without accident to
if I fail, well, then it is no harm
will have been done except that
I shall not have given you reasons
to call me a muddly minded
philician - moreover - which being
used to it, I don't mind the
mind - To learn the language, without
being able to hear it is no intelligible
shape, would not be worth the
trouble - its a fair east view of
of a language into thoroughly master

and I am far from confident
about being successful. If I
make really good progress it
might be an inducement to you
to come up & spend time
in my Bachelor Quarters
during vacation? I think I told
you in my last letter that I
intended taking the wife & boys
down at the end of the winter.
I shall return here & graff during
the summer then if the Lord
will only inspire the Govt to
renew the old Aborigines
Dept & appoint me Protector
(the present head of the Dept
thinks only as Sub Protector the
new boss Adams) I shall be
the happiest man in South Australia.
If only some of our leading men

Politicians or Scientists took an
 interest in the Natives the Dept
 would never have reached its present
 low level - At one time the position
 carried with it a salary of £170
 per annum & the Protector was granted
 considerable powers - As the Natives
 became less troublesome interest in them
 gradually died out & the dept
 dwindled - until now it is merely
 a clerical establishment for recording
 issues of blankets et hoc &c -

What splendid work you
 could do if I held such a
 position - everything would then
 be possible - There is not a corner
 of the Colony that we could
 not do useful work in. I don't
 think I am of an envious nature
 but I do envy O'Kelly & Meston

of Queensland. Quite a part from
the mainly personal aspect of the
affair I think our first thought
to something more than in how
things done, for the Reggers
as they are years ago by it is
becoming increasingly difficult for
the poor devils to get sufficient
food & the dose of flour is
hardly worth considering. I
never get into the House
(with a big H) I will make the
fellow treatment of our native boys
own special. I particularly feel
dreams & dreams. I
You're disgusted to hear that
one of my boys has been allowed
to take a cubra without being
subinerted. This is the beginning
of the decay of the rite

Five years later our work could not
possibly have been done effectively
for once they begin to drop
the old customs & ideas in
- ^{the policy} ^{is} ^{the} ^{proper} ^{promising}
it from our, which is the
I am finding the Chit-ching-also
Concourse prints which I forgot to
send last mail - Compare the
Chatachipa print with the drawing
of Mologga in Roth's book.
by the way the address papers
have not mentioned the book
Probably they were not furnished
with copies. I hoped to sell
will not neglect the Colonial
papers I certainly think the
Beecham should have a copy of
The Editor of this paper understands

Takes a keen interest in the subject -
did you see their review of Prof
Morris' book? Now I must
close. On Sunday night saw
new hand, who has a very fine
well trained Baritone voice is too
good to miss - My best
regards to Frances + to Mrs
Spencer love to the babies

Yours ever
J. J.

P.S. I shall have your letter
before this reaches you. You can
imagine how anxious I am to get it
Please send me to Messrs Howell +
Faxon - the masters