

Alice Springs

June

1898

My dear Spencer

The mail arrived two days late for which may the branches fly away with Wells who is carrying out his part of the contract in any thing but a satisfactory manner.

I hope Mr Spencer will be quite honest again before this reaches you I am in the full enjoyment of sore throat influenza & a general state of depressing stiffness which results vividly to my mind the only occasion - never to be forgotten, upon which our Baron & Mueller poor old Ernest Gela "The Intrepid"

- for whom I fancy you had  
a sort of contempt - but who  
was nevertheless a fine generous  
valiant man & a fearless & intrepid  
explorer once took me to see  
the Baron whom we found  
smothered in flannel & connecting  
an oiler in a way that would not  
bottle in a state of advanced  
decay. You delighted to hear that  
you had been reading Puffin's last  
book & now get - since the others &  
you will have something of Ireland  
and her latter day quarrels. You  
must have misinterpreted as about Puffin  
As an Irish Patriot who has some  
good sense for the "Reds" I  
honour him & of course admire him  
but in showing the world that the  
great Liberator had fasted away his

Certainly think that to say the least of  
it, he shows a sort of last valour  
of feeling - I found in the days of  
the young Ireland movement was a  
look like him but still a look as to his  
some noble service for his Country &  
hope for whom Puffin thinks certainly and  
also. Colleagues of the U. S. party would  
not have sprung to him <sup>particulars</sup> ~~particulars~~  
. I think that instead of saying how the  
old man faults - James <sup>probably</sup> ~~probably~~ <sup>has</sup> been more  
kind to Denis deacy - I would, <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~ have more  
charitable & in better taste if the words  
of denunciation had been left to the  
humble British Critic of whom you are  
always my ready reader. I fear I need  
my Irishman who has the courtesy &  
generosity to be my neighbour. Sincerely  
admit that things were becoming a little  
warmer, this is not a tobacco

The part of the English, some effort  
is being made to understand &  
give effect to Irish aspirations  
the old policy of Counting Irishmen  
out of the Irish is being silently  
abandoned & for all this we  
have to thank one man - Gladstone  
peace be to his ashes he will  
for ever live in the hearts of  
the Irish race. John Redmond &  
his acrid followers to the contrary  
notwithstanding - There is not a Daffy's  
boon but from various sources I  
gather that he has not a better  
appreciation of his American  
colleagues and I remember rightly  
the Oregon reviewers accused him of  
displaying spite against dead  
contemporaries. In the early days  
when he was a power in the

Colonial political world his  
religious & aggressive nationalism  
made him a target for all  
sorts of unfair & sometimes  
cruelly unscrupulous criticisms  
& I think this soured him  
for as a young man, judging  
from what I have read, he was  
of a free & generous nature. I  
was indeed surprised to learn from  
your letter that Prof. are debarred  
from sitting on Parlt. I always  
thought Prof. Jackson was attached  
to the Melb University when he  
entered Parlt in Victoria. I'm  
not sure that I know what ultra  
vires means but I'm quite sure that  
any law which prevents the most  
highly cultured & intellectual class  
in a community from taking part

the framing of the constitution is at once  
approved to the principles of true  
democracy & a serious dependence  
to the State in maintaining that policy  
in face to the ~~transmission~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~constitution~~  
& I think of attention was once drawn  
to the matter & I would not be  
tolerated for a day - I think you I  
don't know that Prof's ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~known~~  
able, are necessarily good politicians  
but as representing a large intelligence  
force they of all men should not  
have their principles curtailed. I am  
delighted to think that Whiffy has  
to remedy the Governor ~~perhaps~~  
I shall be able to do something in  
Am. decision some day who can tell  
would you equum - I don't have your  
Andlar vice arrived printing out  
the error in Memoranda taken it in

Am. you me is a lot of a ~~framing~~  
but I think ~~and~~ ~~in~~ ~~get~~ ~~the~~ ~~idea~~ ~~of~~ ~~me~~  
necessary attention tomorrow, but  
the order ~~the~~ ~~order~~ ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~with~~ ~~is~~  
Andlar and ~~the~~ ~~order~~ ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~with~~ ~~is~~  
and ~~the~~ ~~order~~ ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~with~~ ~~is~~  
& order ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~with~~ ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~  
a grant duly signed ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~order~~  
satisfactory I was pleased to hear that  
in the least improved to hear that  
McMullen had accepted ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~order~~  
allocations. all along I felt quite  
happy upon that score. perhaps because  
I've been worried than you. It's going  
to be a great bond; the very ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~order~~  
of Messrs. Paine & Taylor being such  
an interest in it points to its  
being something more than an ordinary  
bond on National ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~order~~ ~~is~~  
I appreciate the ~~is~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~order~~ ~~is~~

Being so but then with a view to  
impressing me with his ~~former~~ greatness  
you tell me that he has published  
a new 6th edition of Pausanias  
you fail to touch me at all - who  
was Pausanias English? I have heard  
of Daniel Coma Demosthenes Thucydides  
Homer Herodotus Archimedes and  
of your Alfred Deakin but of Pausanias  
not a word - I also know something  
of Alcheringa odnerabata pray  
tell me something new of Pausanias  
surely he was a great man

The proofs you spoke of sending did  
not come by mail so I suppose you  
forgot to post them I will go through  
everything carefully & raise any corrections  
forgetfully. it will be a happiness to  
me to see the printed pages you  
can hardly realize how anxious I

I am to see the whole work  
in book form it is after all  
probably the only scrap of  
useful work I shall ever have  
a hand in. I should much like  
to be with you when the first  
copy arrives from England that  
we might go over it together  
as a Moser would ever has meant the

Federation is probably thrown back  
for quarter of a century for thus  
the Spinster robber Reid is mainly  
responsible if he had said thought  
out that the conditions as affecting  
uses were not good enough he would  
have commanded respect but his  
attitude after the close of the  
Convention was most abjectly hostile  
but he lacked the courage to say so candidly  
in the face of his veiled opposition.

the thing that surprised me most is  
that the majority voted for I  
am proud to think that our  
people showed the federal  
spirit so strongly. The only  
opposition in the colony  
was from the Labor party &  
was of the feeblest all the  
intelligence, the bulk of the  
members, judging by the  
votes for the federations. The  
Advertiser while not personally  
hostile appeared to show cold  
trader upon the movement in  
fact their attitude was  
something like the States they  
made great capital out of  
Cragton's figures & their  
articles showed me a bit but  
a further study convinced me

that it would be criminal  
folly to vote No. 3. Kingston  
& Lyman, Holton & Jones  
spelled it. I was the champion  
of the Conservatives. Several leaders  
here that stood up for the Labor  
party's bid they are always  
more or less - principally more -  
practical but they are a force  
I should be sorry to see out  
of Politics. Higgins. I have  
always understood it as an  
man & they be opposed. Fed up  
I cannot understand, he can  
has no particular use to grand  
which could not be effectively  
sharpened under his  
conditions - Shapiro gave  
Dr. McJannet was found  
around me considerably. The fact



of his being made friend or  
something but it of your humbly  
desire so that he would be deposed  
from speaking his own twisted  
fancies. By the way he  
succeeded in getting into parl<sup>ts</sup> get<sup>?</sup>  
I am still hoping that some  
means will be found so that Young  
can come in. Of course Reid  
suggested Conference of Presbyters &  
abroad an impudent attempt in  
fact to override the Consensus that  
to be thought of for one moment. Barton  
if not a lazy man, appears to me  
to be the one man in the West capable of  
creating enthusiasm on the subject, not  
in his opportunity to earn fame  
& position too for if by means of  
his action West consents to come in  
I think he must be the first Penn  
Minister. The spineless wobbler must  
have discounted his own influence enormously

People will not follow a mad man  
 the mob will often blindly follow  
 a strong headed man of strong  
 convictions but the man without  
 strong convictions rarely commands  
 a following. I should think that  
 Reed has about killed himself  
 politically in W. Va. I am enclosing  
 a note on Chimpita a <sup>to us</sup> new form  
 of poison stick. I am also sending  
 the stick you can keep it with  
 my other things until I go down.  
 You will also receive a tin  
 containing two frogs & a deaf adder  
 from Barrow field & a whole lot of some  
 lizards from here. I am sending  
 old French some bugs from the  
 Marcheson ranges in locality of  
 Tennants field ask him to let me  
 know if anything new & please

I see him that there is not a  
house had to be got for  
the money. I'd write to the  
good old fellow the reading his  
reply would show a much not  
of me that feeling as I do feel  
now I'd rather not run the road.

I am also sending you some  
Chitlingalla Corcoran pictures  
which would be very better if  
the paper had been more  
better quality.

That man donated but that the  
referendum could be easily made  
but what I object to about it is  
that our politics would be without  
finality it should always have  
minorities searching for the referendum  
in season some of season it  
would Paralega Parliamentary action

to not political only in  
of aspects the financial position  
Chalk, in place of the present  
the former Parliament, a class of  
opinion holders without any  
free opinions - in an exceptional  
case should not be a celebration in  
movement just in a field, I think that  
mechanics would be well suited in  
to Parliamentary Government in  
to a temporary exercise. The work  
the history of element without any compulsion  
advantages. I am aware of the  
fuller form of the law that under  
when as law in the Colony, your  
upon some private matter upon that  
Chamber a Conservative body perhaps  
with you the referendum would act  
as a corrector but if the franchise  
were broad as the former would be broad

a more popular basis & the  
sorrowful will of the people, as  
our King O'Malley would say,  
would be given effect to without  
any necessity for the elaborate  
mechanism of the referendum.  
In a short letter dated May 25  
& to which I did not reply you  
proposed that we should arrange  
our correspondence so that each  
letter should be a reply to a  
definite letter that is precisely  
what we are doing now. But  
if you mean that we are only  
to receive letters from each other  
every six weeks then we shall  
have to miss two mails & write  
every six <sup>weeks</sup> only. This is a cold  
blooded sort of arrangement to which  
I shall not be a party so just

(5)

(40)

write when you feel in the  
humour & I do likewise  
but I warn you that  
shall probably have something  
to say once a fortnight. I  
must hold you in a previous  
letter that I did not expect  
you to write so often knowing  
that your spare time is very  
limited.

Both must do some splendid work  
he has unvalued opportunities & he  
will I think find much in our  
work to inspire & guide him  
in his enquiries. I cannot help  
enjoying him & I shall eagerly look  
forward to the result of his  
labors. I am seriously meditating  
a descent upon the Pette Pette  
Tribe - when I go down Comboy - to find

(21)  
out something of that lotus  
explains I hear that the blacks  
in that Country speak English  
lots of them & I feel confident  
that I could in a month release  
up their system in a fortnight  
I shall go for four months least  
so that I can well afford to  
spend a fortnight suggesting <sup>providing</sup>  
the <sup>mountain</sup> to be met to <sup>early</sup>.  
I should much like to meet Both  
provided that he did not shoot  
that I know anything much about  
the blacks. You trust my words  
our book will be a source of  
information to them - Do you trust  
him personally? That sort of a fellow  
is he?  
I am respecting Dr. Eyles's study

and am very curious to know if  
he did any Anthrop work at the  
Recent mission. Was my friend Mr.  
McKellop has been obliged to leave  
there on account of ill health & I  
doubt whether the other Quakers on the  
Mission would be able to furnish  
much information. Dr. McKellop I hear  
thoroughly mastered the language &  
they will probably publish <sup>Lyman's</sup>  
promised - in fact volunteered - to take  
Copies of any drawings he met with  
on his travels & send them to me but  
so far I have not had a line from  
him since he passed the Peninsula  
going North - I think his geological  
work will be good & thorough & I never  
had it surprised to hear that his botany  
is good too - He is handling down the  
trout quite alone he always handles so

and seems perfectly content

You will be sorry to hear that poor  
Haurik of Oodnadatta died a few  
days ago of influenza he was  
about until the last day & died  
somewhat suddenly after a fit of  
coughing he has left his wife & children  
comfortably provided for - Love  
your friend M. Matthews L.S (what our  
world do these letters mean) is contributing  
some myths to the Sydney Anthrop  
Journal which has changed its name  
to "Science of Man & Austral Anthrop  
Journal" I have the mistaken idea  
who is responsible for sending me  
occasional copies. In the February  
issue I noticed this in the answers  
to correspondents "Do M. W. I do cannot  
recommend you to have anything to do  
with the so-called Anthropological

Secton's meeting, none of his Society  
will in any way recognize any  
of its absurd procedures"

Now what does this mean; it  
 looks like a row of some sort  
 & that's what it is, when I  
 dropped across that that is  
 you might know what it meant;  
 It would simply fill me with joy  
 to hear that you are one of those  
 referred to!

My wife draws me to thank you  
 for the "Choir minutes" which came  
 to hand a fortnight ago. You  
 always seem to hit upon the  
 style of books she likes best.

The English syndicate now  
 prospecting in the neighbourhood of  
 Tennants' land has discovered some





I confess I am not satisfied but  
their statement ~~about~~ as to their  
knowledge of two terms in other books  
has shaken me - Scott is thoroughly  
intoxicated & will continue enquiries &  
as I have given him the Hylische terms  
he should find what we want of it  
works. I've said hours were spent  
talking over the matter

---

+ their statement was borne out by a  
Hylische woman who has long resided at  
the Semment & thoroughly understood the  
language

---

Now I must close my mail is all  
behind. My best regards to Mrs Spencer  
& all good wishes for her speedy recovery  
love to the boys - My wife sends kindest  
regds hopes you'll come & look after me when she's  
gone  
I remain  
Yrs ever  
F J