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Alice Springs
10th July 1898

My dear Spencer

It was quite a delicious experience going through the proofs but lots of which arrived by last mail. I am returning the duplicate pages. Mr. McClean's account of Prof. Tyler's opinion is very encouraging & it makes me more than ever eager to conquer fresh fields. I should much like, of course, to be with you on the Birdsville trip although I do not flatter myself that I should be able to do much. You will do just as well without me especially as you will have the assistance of a man who is probably in the confidence of

The local people take tales a
usable form of things. He is a

good old chap that recd. Messerony
(I should much like to know how
I have no doubt but that the

Sukohuma mail to found all over
Amstela & it is a most remarkable
thing that it escaped detection so

long. - At present the old stream has
run out with added strength & I am

more than ever anxious to carry it
out: Eglmann arrived last week looking

as thin as a crane & more than ever
like Emilio Pacheco he has gone on

via the Museum Station to Bogota
to see the Fair. There he is going

to shoot some birds, he intends
publishing something about the

distribution of birds in Colombia. About
he does not possess the birds as

Mr. Skins but makes a drawing
of the head in his note book &
then makes up descriptive notes.
More want of something to do
during the rainy season in
the Territory induced him to take
up the study of bird life in
which he is now much interested.

He has travelled a lot in the
Territory & was for some time
in the locality of the Juan's Mission
Station on the Páyo river. He

does not appear to have troubled
himself much about the Tegueros

but he has travelled around with
his eyes open & has picked up

a lot of better odds & ends of
information. He lacks a good deal
about anthropology & he has strongly

wished me to go to the Paty river
where he thinks I could do
valuable work with the aid of
the missionaries whom he assures
me would be only too glad to
afford me all the assistance
in their power. They have not
made any attempt to gain
information about the native customs
and do not know whether the
black has a class system or
not. Eytanone considers the blacks
of a higher type than those met
with in the Centre. One little
piece of information that was
given to him by one of the
Prants is this; On one occasion
a fine stout sturdy young man
came to the Station & expressed
a wish to become a Christian

The priests told him that it would
 be necessary for him to stay
 at the station & receive
 instructions he then went away
 & a few days later when
 visiting the Camps one of the
 Fathers found that the man
 had been killed and that the
 blacks were then cooking the body
 which they afterwards eat &
 then burying the bones they raised
 a rounded ^{circular} mound of earth over
 the grave & around this erected
 a ^{circular} wall of ant-hills leaving an
 opening at one side; they then
 took their women to the grass
 & cohabited with them on top
of the grass - Not a scrap of
 information beyond this. You
 can imagine how I tangled

rather desire to go upon the spot
to probe this strange custom
to the bottom. The Mucronaria
appear to belong - so says Eghnam -
that the blacks really have the
power of communicating with the
devil. You met probably some one
not Father McFetters (who has had
to leave the territory on account of
ill health) in a paper contributed by
him to the Royal Soc of Ia &
contained in Vol VIII part II of the
Transactions of the Society ~~about~~
~~the~~ belief shown could not be supported
on scientific grounds. He also
stated that he believed the blacks
there practised human sacrifice, and
now offering themselves up for this

purpose for the purpose
propagating ~~and~~ evil spirits -
If it only is correct carry out
the dream. I am thinking of
belong to the Mucronaria
try to get some further information
that do you think? Perhaps you
will suggest the lines of
inquiry.

I am sending you in small box
injella Unggahara a man from
of Wanggalla 5th note. I am
also sending two photos one
in Malanau & the other given
this exposure showing how the
implement is used. On the
day after the photo was taken
change to day the two red
men who fired for it took it

one very ill indeed & both at
once vowed that their illness
resulted from the accidental
dropping of the implement
with the points towards them
when they were about to
pose for the picture: One
old fellow the painter recovered
in a day or two but the
other old chap is only now
beginning to mend after much
mangling by the wogood fraternity
- On the day after the picture
was taken a rock was found
split in two opposite to where
the man posed & the blacks
believe that this resulted upon
the frowning of the bones - Very
few of these blacks had seen
the particular form of arm quilting

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before. how the Stone became split it
is hard to say - a hard quartz
boulder - there is certainly no mark
to show that it has been struck
The incident has flustered the
camp considerably one old hag
poured out a torrent of invective
upon me for encouraging the
outside blacks to bring in their
Awunggaltha implements -

Since I last wrote several of
the Niggers have become affected
with boils which they attribute
to the magic influence of the
Chelchingalla (Molongaroth)
corroboree. The Corroboree designs
upon the bodies of the performers
in that corroboree represent boils -
When I had influenza & sore throat
they were much concerned &

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Glorily sawed me that my
allure was due to a boil in
the throat brought on by attending
the Chuechang illa. I fancy influence
will be brought to bear to pass
this costume on as quickly as
possible it belongs to the Marganada
& mostly ^{the} Naboradin has been the
victim of boils - The red hair also
with Tambo shee presents a good
horrible bedraggled appearance says
Chitcheungella no good too much
talkive he Tambo has headed
off their beads; the red man's going
about his son is very real, yet
much out of humbly bushman into
snow by all the gods in and out
of the Calendars that a suggestion
incompatible of any laughing feeling

except that of relief the one feeling
that she appears to be to be removed
I was glad to hear that Rook had
stopped his absurd forms he
appears to be a sensible sort
of fellow to deal with; it must
have cost him a pang to stop
a word of his own coming such
as Pacdomahonyon. Sterling writes
in very low spirits; poor old
Chap; so far gone, he says, has
done nothing to satisfy his
grief; he has lost all interest
in work & only looks upon
it as a means of passing
the time & gaining oblivion. I feel
very sorry for him much I
could get him up here for a month
to come him up a bit - he is

looking forward to seeing the
book which he feels sure will
be a great success. The Mr
Barclay I mentioned in a previous
letter as being an English traveller
much interested in the beaks here
has to the Alligator rooms in
the A.D. he brought letters of
introduction to Stirling from Lord
Kintore. Stirling says he is full
of enthusiasm but without any
accurate knowledge on the subject
of huggers - and a good fellow
I am disappointed about the
FRS not coming along now so that
it ought to be planted on the
title page of the Magazine if
perhaps it will be in time
for the second edition I shall be
more than delighted if the

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book helps to give you the
distinctions, it ought to help. I
am curious to know what Mr
Spencer will think of the
proposed Birdwell trip I mentioned
to my wife this morning that
I had serious thoughts of asking
the Govt- to allow me to go
North for a year after next
summer & political relations have
been strained ever since. I could
not tell you you on the other
route even if I were anxious to
do so. Then at Oadadatta I
should be able to definitely settle
the Wapuna marriage business
& if the conclusion could not then
be put in perhaps it could be
placed in the appendix? I have
never felt quite happy about it

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myself although all the weight
of evidence pointed to the statement
of my original informant being
correct. I never do feel coarsely
about any thing that you are not
satisfied about. The Lutchka business
I hope to settle before long
I shall devote a next case to
the Kytliche Narramunga at Berrow
& Pomant facts that to arrange
for initiatory Ceremonies at
both places, to do any really
good work I should require
a couple of months at each place,
wanting information, as you know,
is the shortest of them
requiring infinite patience &
a deflector organ of smell!
Scott has been making isobutyl
inquiry about the doubtful relationship

from Lapelapu but he has not been
able to discover more than the one
form. The Narramunga forms of
-Mugic should be worth working up.
I heard the other day that the
Kytliche group at the Spelling Club
has a round Stone (similar to that
of the Paagi) which they take
out of ^{the} place in the bush at
Cortlaw reasons to cause the Stone
to lay eggs - The Nuggas from whom
I got the informant could not get
any further particulars but I shall
look into the matter when I
go north. I forgot to mention
that I want you to place the
injila (ing-godara) amongst my things
if I can lay hands on another
you shall have it. I am daily
expecting a deposition of Spira

man will look from the Annas
reservoir country & hope to get
some good things especially
in magic implements. I have
promised to go & see these people
in their own country later and
and must do so somewhere before
I leave the country. It is just
possible that I shall be called
to Town officially from Ordnance
if so I shall try to run over
to see you although I shall
not be able to spend more than
two days in Melbourne. I don't
want to go to Town if I can
possibly help it because of the
expense which in the present
state of the Exchequer I can
ill afford. A boom in the
share market would make three

or four weeks holiday not only
desirable but enjoyable.

Perhaps Lewis expects in a few
days the is returning Stone works
having sunk all his little capital
in the local reefs. He and other
men are now putting through 50
tons of stone from a new find
at Shin from which they expect
good results but I am afraid
they are doomed to disappointment
it will take more than an ounce
to cover expenses. None of these
reefs will pay unless worked on
a large scale. It seems a pity
to think that Besley has 50 thousand
away his holiday when he could
have had an enjoyable time & earn
something for his money down below.

The loss shown of our properties
after doing L^o for ^{with} the few
pounds remaining to the Credit
of the Syndicate we are going to
invest in Tallentsalls except - a
part of our claims - You can't
imagine how well I am of evening
& how fully & heartily I realize
that I have been an ass! Mind
the Wife is safely in town I
shall return to the summit of
Mt Gelson & there devote a day
to languages a la Coote - apropos
of Coote a new man is in
vogue for ^{him} I do not know
~~him~~ but I am told that
he is a pugnacious Carridine &
people also know the two men
predicted lately some at Illamurda
in the near future -

! This admission may be taken as a sign of Peace -

Frich's landing certainly gets worse I
received a letter from him ^{that} mail
& the only three words I can decipher
are "Spencer & Verbum sap." He probably
wants to know birds so I shall reply
that they have migrated to Aggers
nest. You do not say anything
about your trip to the ranges
I hope it did you good, you
certainly work as splendid food
you were ^{very} generous to the mere
birds - (Salisbury's hot-tentacles & - a kind
of view) Yes I think ^{with} there arrived ^{to} ^{much}
less freedom if the word Britain
were used instead of England but
change to say you are the only
Englishman that I know of to show
such a thought has ever occurred.
There is in you the makings of a
good home maker for you have the

Courage to be fair although at
times you are exasperatingly
unreasonable (from my point of view,
perhaps after all your views are
right) I should like here now to
launch out on the Home Rule
question & England's insular intolerance
towards Ireland but I'll spare you
although it almost appears from
your letter that you were artfully
inviting attack. Perhaps you were
in which case you will be disappointed

Now I must close please
re-remember me to Mr Spence &
give my love to the boys who must
have grown a lot since I saw them

I thank

Yours

F J

My wife sends kind
regards & all good
wishes