

Alfred Sprague  
13th Nov 1898

My dear Spencer

Here at Highland I sit here after a very hot day  
thermometer registering 100 in the shade

you are probably enjoying a delightful  
cool sea breeze honestly I envy you. It  
is a few degrees of a day here not a breath  
of wind: too hot to do anything but sip

tobacco & perspiringly exclaimed "My Christ  
all same Engmore fire today" I am

doubtful whether a letter by this mail  
will catch you in London so I shall

only give you a line or two - the  
apology since my return - Northern

has indefinitely postponed owing to  
press of work in connection with election

of a new vice, and think I shall go north  
at the end of January. I am

grateful to Roger for his action with  
respect to Tylor's recommendation & my  
opinion of Tylor has sunk to zero by

the way I see that he has been questioning  
Rougemon's whom I may find below

into your hands. I hope you will also have

From my own self I am fully aware of all  
that he has done for us - Kingston & Gordon, &  
particularly the latter will be pleased to receive  
complimentary copies of the book & I am glad  
you thought of them. You never seem to forget  
anything - Eylmann has been with me for a few  
days. he has gone south & will call upon you  
in Melbourne about February. he intends to devote  
some time to the examination of Southern Country  
& particularly the Springs. I noticed that he  
did not see his spare time here to Datis Horn  
volumes from which he made copious notes. He  
has formed an exceedingly high opinion of our  
gold mica fields & predicts a great future  
for both industries in this Country. Don't  
run away with the idea that you have offended  
Bryce nothing of the sort, he always speaks  
in terms of the highest admiration even affectionately  
of you & I am sure now, that his not writing  
is merely laziness and in keeping with his  
well known dislike for letter writing.



I havnt had a line from Louie since  
 I returned nor have I heard of him  
 except that things at Iltamarca are  
 not very pleasant & the new man is  
 anxious for removal & I have been  
 busy during the last few days packing  
 up my collection it will cost me  
 a small fortune to cut down - heaven  
 only knows what I can do with it if  
 I go to Mr Barber & I am hoping  
 that you will turn up against a millionaire  
 with sufficient filthy lucre to buy the  
 lot. I have added a number of stone  
 chewinga from the Elpira country since  
 my return & The Niggers are initiating  
 one of my unfortunate boys & a couple  
 of queer old wretches are hounding  
 at the warden Oknerebata Atnetla alitcheita  
 patches So I must shoulder the  
 camera & be off. Sincerely hope you  
 are having a good time - My wife  
 I am happy to say is much improved  
 in health - They are now staying at  
 Mr Gambres

Dear the  
 Yrs ever

J. J.