

... the springs ...
29th Decr 1898

My dear Susan

Your longed letter Colombo was
recd. via the mail & it seemed like red
lines to see your families just one week
You are fortunate in having such an
interesting fellow passenger as Sir W. McEwen
on board he must be full of information
about the New Guinea rigors - the poor
unfortunate hotel brethren are hearing
exceedingly bad news & deaths have
the tribe so far 6 deaths have during the
last fortnight many are still working in
the mines including the good old Honourable
The King strange to say is one of the three
men who has escaped but he has lost
his daughter father & his Mother in last old
Chau-chambita. I have been suffering
by the yellow fever during the last three weeks.

It has given them a great fright & until I
explained that it had travelled up from
Daitaid they attributed the outbreak to the
magic influence of two real women mothers
of the two Illouwa men who were killed

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on a new Expedition two years ago.
The old King had a sudden seizure at
Mt Gulbi some months ago - Some hold I
think - but at any rate he was very ill for
some time & upon recovery he gave out that
the Aranches had seized & disembowelled him
& filled his body with the dense affluence & he
is now in much unequal proportionally -
A few hours before Jottis died he gauded a
poison out of her & they all felt confident
she would recover though she was then
dying - I have some bones which he collected
from the front of a patient - a boy who
had just returned from Odeia dalla - she was
supposed to have been "boned up" by some
malicious witch at Macumba - Since
my return I have done as anthropology & as
far as I have not been able to get north
owing to some of local work in connection
with erection of new wires - I have learnt
through that the custom of ^{making} going Churifa
of one's own totem to ^{make} of other totems
to assist them in shelling game is still
practised - I saw one a few days
ago - an outlaw boy - that is an outlaw from

the own people owing to his taking an
 epimanna Roman - collect a man named
 Plettis who remains for a clearly encashed
 arrested the boy who subsequently struck
 him with hand cuffs & trying to
 make it was that dead - I am more Pompe
 cattle shelters has been and on top of
 Angela goal and remains has been issued
 for about a dozen years - Cattle sticking with
 - I am convinced - never case there until they
 remove the present policy - try a house call
 the Niggers together give them a clean sheet
 & start afresh - Cattle pick pick this 7
 course but time will show that I am
 right. Two or three weeks ago Waddy our
 departmental Secretary & next in authority
 to Todd noted my privately arguing me
 to apply for Moore which is likely to
 become vacant at most immediately. This is a
 much more important station than McParker
 the place is a large mining town
 and although the labor will be heavy
 now at Mt. 13 & the position better it is
 a deep gold mine & the Dept. & State
 the idea of going there. I have however applied
 for the position and am expecting

Reply daily. Maddy pointed out that it
 would be better for me - to last longer
 than wait for someone to die + I took
 this as a hint that the old I'm at
 North Adelaide would not be shifted. So
 long as we could hang on - So much
 for my prospects - I shall be able to study
 the Cornish miners in all his notes
 in England - It is good of you to send
 the children Christmas books before leaving
 + your thoughtfulness in this respect has
 won the admiration of my wife who with
 the children is now at Mr. Gamble's - They
 are having a delightfully cool summer
 here + she feels very thankful for its gifts
 + comfort to health + I am watching through
 my six foot long trough it is a wonderful
 work for one man that our common state
 he must be. I am looking forward to
 hear from you what manner of man he
 is + how you get on generally
 Of course I don't expect you to travel
 fully until you are settled at home
 again - From the tone of your last three
 letters I don't think you will taste this

English appointment if it is offered to
 you. I can't honestly say that I look
 forward to your leaving the Colonies with
 any degree of pleasure for I do hope
 to have a ^{look in at you} occasionally
 if you remain here - I have only
 remained in Adelaide a day or two
 before going on for Germany but I fancy
 he got letters at Oodandatta recalling him
 to the Fatherland. I am sorry you did
 not meet him he was a most interesting
 & really modest & unassuming man
 "Modest & unassuming" reminds me that the
 Register has been giving us a column
 or a half cheap advert - in an article
 headed ^{"marriage amongst} Savages - contained in one of the
 papers read this morn they deal with my
 lecture & say many kind things. It looks
 as if few thus extract "probably the best
 authority in Australia on this very interesting phase
 of aboriginal life is F. H. of Alton Esq & Co"
 I don't think you could stand more of it
 but at any rate it is qualifying to
 show that lecture is still remembered -
 They give the class & marriage system & touch
 upon other matters in connection with marriage

Extracts from the lecture have been
copied into papers throughout the
Colonies & I have had several letters
asking for information about the
date of publication of the work

It is a very disagreeable day
and I am simply stewing in my
own juice so will stop - I mean the
old man - let me have a full true
& particular account of your trip which
I sincerely hope has been very good.

I am feeling this time of the year

Utterly hopeless trying to do

any thing with these parchment skins if

I could get more than in the

present disturbed & condition

of the country

but at any rate it is a

very bad time for the

country

at present