

189
News sent to
hand of death
our old Engman
an old Engman
the 9th death within
a month 7/7

(43)

Miss Springs
8th Jan 1899

My dear Spencer

I hope & happy & prosperous New year
to you old fellow wherever you are.
I shall consign this to the tender
mercies of Frenels & I dare say he will
know where to find you. I am appointed
to Mounta & shall probably leave here about
the end of March but so far nothing
definitely settled. Provided the honors that
be offer no objection I shall start
on the Northern trip in two or three
weeks & take a leisurely sea route to
do it. The Mounta appointment will be
north about £400 a year (1/2 per quarter
fuel & light thrown in - and a probable rise
in salary to follow shortly. I don't say I
am in loss with the prospect of settling in
that sort of Conson facts & rigid methodism
but having the appointment & services the uncertainty
and I may be able to get rid of one of the
large Suburban offices later on. I am hoping
to have a few nice paintings from England

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by post mail. I have missed your letters more than I thought possible they had become part of my life here - No work with the north to report. Macleod has played the very devil with our fingers the old King's family has cleared into the bush & soon they will not return for a year. The climate of this place near the Observatory is now becoming very hot the fact that a couple of the ladies who had decided not to sit there daily - a friend of mine who has lately established a station 180 miles North East of here in new country brought me in five Churinga this week of some pattern as those made by the Narramunga tribe. (Stone) with was offered to the small end I sent out 10 lb of tobacco for distribution I put amongst the old men those with "O'Orinabala in your Abulter" compliments & this offering is the result fact they began upon the nature & after many days etc - My friend tells me some of these return has accustomed for blankets.

A Miss B Cecil eps of Miss C Campbell
Flinders Buildings Flinders St Melbourne

(2)

wrote last week asking if I will willing
 to contribute a series of short articles about
 the blacks to a Womens journal which is
 about to be published. She asks me to
 name myself but in the meantime offer
 a general per article & states that it is their
 wish "to teach Australians a little more about the
 Country they live in & how people of whom they
 know far too little". She is endeavouring to
 get some information in Perth W.A from whence
 she has letter is dated. I replied saying that
 I was unable to comply with her request at
 present but might be able to do something to
 assist them after publication of our works.
 What do you think? I dont think any literary
 efforts would improve the pages of the projected
 journal so you had better hide the matter in
 your hand. The letter is interesting in that it shows
 there is a genuine interest in matters Aborigin:
 an interest that I would much like to do
 something to encourage. By the way the Sla
 Govt has agreed to spend a sum of money
 on the Aborigines to assist the R Soc in
 publishing a comprehensive work on the Aborigines
 race I have reason to believe that I had
 some little share in persuading the Govt to

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As this and are looking forward to
 further developments with considerable interest
 they upon have been very quiet for the
 last three or four weeks. Since my return here
 I had been reading heavily - trying seriously to
 improve my mind though of course you'll laugh -
 & sometimes at night with only a flickering
 candle light - three weeks ago I found that
 after reading for a few minutes the eyes
 became watery & uncomfortable as if strained -
 for a fortnight I have not read a line & shall
 not do so until I get - I expect - from Town.
 I have always had remarkably good eyes &
 have never had bad eyes of any sort and I
 am therefore a little anxious now - I have sold my
 camera & photographic plate, for a temporary delivery
 in to be given in a month. Your lens I will either
 deliver personally or send by post. The ^{Thompson} shutter is
 quite worn out & not worth sending back. I hope
 you will find time to fire up these letters
 I did like you that the Adair's letters was partly
 reprinted in one of the Irish papers - If I
 can possibly afford it I must run over to
 Dublin to hear an account of your home doings
 had I not sufficient to show the
 I hope all proceeding in favour of your
 7/24