

Alta Springs
March 19th 1899

My dear Spencer
800 miles in the saddle & files
nearly all the time so you can imagine
what sort of a trip we had - In fact
I did splendidly the Nigger had been expecting
me for months & had ample time to
collect things half a dozen Stone Tomatoes
I have number of Kahunza Stone knives in
lots including one especially made for the
French operator, a dead fat blood curdling
looking instrument. Several magic things some are
including human skulls and by the way I
packed everything up yesterday & sent it down
by Camels - My successor an Adulair man
named Bradshaw is to leave town on the 31st
and comes through by mail. I expect to get
away about the end of April & hope to
be in town early in May. Bradshaw has
a wife & four kids & plans bringing them up
together with a woman a few months later
on. I shall take them & four weeks leave
before going into harness - Can't afford to take
a long time - don't intend rather - the

The 2 hours I was of course delighted to get
 the book it is splendidly got up I am
 glad you had the Charinga design put on
 the cover - The illustrations are hardly as good
 as I expected but perhaps I am no judge.
 I am enclosing the Register criticism which
 is decidedly good though the reference to
 Sterling is somewhat amusing. Gordon Hon Jt
 writes "I am very proud to possess such a
 book as a present from the Authors. You might
 have all my political & economical studies -
 whatever I may be in exchange for my
 name on the title page of so valuable &
 permanent a contribution to literature of
 the best kind. Certainly your years of study
 & comparative erudition has yielded splendid
 fruit which in the future must bring you a
 solid reward - if not in coin in reputation.
 But I hope in both. The federation of the
 colonies will place in your department under
 Federal control & give you a wider sphere.
 In this enlarged arena I hope to see J J G
 come to the front. Your book will be the best
 guarantee of capacity" - Very nice coming
 from such a brilliant man - I am sure its

Sincere. I don't altogether know what he means
 by the concluding line - I have received several
 very congratulatory letters but so far none
 from Kingston who is so busy that I am
 afraid he will not be able to find time
 to read the of book - Gordon assures me
 that Federation is very near. On the way to
 Tennant's farm I visited Kwarandi good fields
 which are being worked by a provincial English
 Syndicate in which I was a few shares that
 may yet provide the means of way to
 go on with our work. At Kwarandi I dropped
 across a man of the Shingabo tribe which
 adjoins the Warramunga northern boundary & seems
 to reach to about Shaly waters. I got the class
 names & tried send them along post mail.
 Basil Thompson's criticisms made my blood
 tingle & my stature perceptibly increase. I'll write
 all the criticisms quickly so don't miss any
 the age which you sent me is reproduced word
 for word in the London Correspondence letter to
 the Adelaide Advertiser which also contains a
 good criticism not yet to hand - When Spicing
 made he had not read the book, he wants one
 to make a collection of native vegetable food
 for the Museum but the season is not good

Good evening. The poor old chap is still
 mourning his son. I was quite relieved
 when I heard that you had decided to stay
 in the Colonia although I think you would
 have had a wider field at home. I still hope
 that in the years to come we shall be able
 to do some more good work together & if
 you had gone home there would not have been
 promise. As soon as the mail comes I
 shall get the old man together & put in
 a week or two trying to get some further
 information about the totom & Chewinga. Part
 of Henbury went up with me for a trip &
 I put anthropology into him by the way &
 since our return how I can't have been away
 from the book - he is now working with the
 table of relationships - By the way he tells me
 that on the Alberga the Niggers bring in large
 green frogs encased in a huge ball of hard clay
 these balls are dug up from under girdles
 used by the Natives & are found on high ground
 away from the Creeks - He has had several of
 them & on breaking open the clay with a tomahawk
 he found the frog encased in a thin transparent
 skin which he opened & the frog as soon as
 released uttered a sound like a child crying

(2)

8.

but when leaving over the hills to release a
 copy of the *Deulaha tetra* - which - Malbyton
 was following - I carried the camera - I photographed
 at one place between Barrow Creek & 15000 ft
 a lot of mignon waiting for me after last &
 year's Secret festival full of rats legends in all
 slopes of decay - some of the rats were ear forms
 but for fear to be anything with & of course
 I had my spirits - I managed to get a better with
 bags for *Prunella* & am sending them to him
 this mail - My wife is of course delighted
 with her babies & they are both doing splendidly -
 The change down South has quite restored her
 health. I am longing to see them all again
 - This is a fool of a letter but I've
 really got to say I have the accumulations of
 this month to repeat to you I hope you found Mrs
 Youan & the girls all well I shall be
 glad to hear of you & your wife
 I am
 Yours
 I

Has the Bulletin had a copy of the
 book I hope so -

If I can possibly manage it I'll
 be across - I'd do a "ghost" visit you for a
 day or two - I don't know what Horrell &
 I'm afraid of the book I'm afraid I'll
 see the line about appointment of Bradshaw