

Moorea

26th Oct 1900

My dear Spencer

With regard to Howland do as you think best but his mission will increase expenses even if Mr Lyne pays his salary. He would be invaluable as a collector & would perhaps relieve you of a considerable amount of drudgery but I am not sure that a man like Ablett - if we could get him - would not be of more real use. You will see from the enclosure that, already, we are virtually committed to an expenditure of well over £1000 this only takes us to Powell's Creek - which means the trip to Cannonsval. I think Lyne should be asked straight out how far

far he is prepared to go: at
any rate don't defer the matter too
long the sooner we know our
exact position the better. I am
helping about it a little. I
The estimate of £200 for
horses - if we have two - may be
considerably reduced to one or two
other times also but it is
safer to have our estimate on
liberal lines. If the season continues
dry we shall have to pay
when steeper prices for good fat
horses but I am hoping
such a long drought we shall be
favored with a good season. The
bill note that I have put in
for a small buggy I really think
we should have a light wooden buggy
for ourselves the cost will not be great
& it will add much to our personal
comfort we shall be able to make

something on it at the end of our
journey. I am trusting I can today
advise what it would cost to fit
his bedstead with a saddlebag board
& will communicate with you when
I get his reply.

I was delighted to hear of Miss
Lambert's appointment & it was with
her a treat. Yet I brought a copy
of her interesting letter from Helen who
is greatly interested in our trip. The
poor fellow tells me that he has
just had his Mother - he sent along
quite a heap of British Foreign
stamps for the boys. You can let
Frank to run up a set ^{or two} of
the stamps in return for which see
and him some bottles I hope he
has quite recovered: I wish more
characteristically congratulating us on
the hearty manner in which we had
inspired our friends at home to meet

up the petition our "speculations
of innocence regarding it is
intensely amusing" !! . A friend &
Co trustee of yours Rev J. A. Reid is
giving us a course of highly interesting
lectures on Shakespeare He is an
enthusiastic admirer of yours & I much
enjoyed one evening with him. He is
to spend Tuesday evening at our home
By the way he stated Gell's new
purchase for the art gallery & spoke
of some of the pictures as "abominable
doubts" This he did publicly in his
first lecture - I told him that I shot
his exclamation - he was quite unalarmed
for - was rather severe on Gell &
out of place in a Shakespearean
lecture & that you has a rather good
opinion of the pictures & he said
that he could not claim to be an

Well Collier & that he spoke from
 the point of view of what
 appealed to the multitude or
 rather interested the general
 public. You saw the pictures again
 after I left. I shall be glad if
 you will let me know what
 you think of them as an addition
 to our collection. Has Gil made
 a good choice. Everyone here
 backs up Reid & I am fighting
 for Gil Tooth & nail.

My kind regards to Mrs Spencer
 & the kiddies. I mean the

Mrs
 FJG