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The University of Melbourne.

May 10 1897

My dear Balfour

I have just written to Dr Hylor about some anthropological work of my own & Mr F. J. Gillen whose work you may have seen in the Horn Exped. to Cent. Aust. - of which his contribution published in his own name together with many notes given to Stirling - formed the first. When the Exped. was over he asked me to go on working with him & accordingly I did with the result that we have now got a goodly lot of information & have I fancy worked out one Aust. tribe

family completely - got the social  
organization - various notes with  
regard to five others. We have  
also got a very large valuable series  
of photos. and now come the  
difficulties of publishing. I have

written to W. Taylor asking him if he  
could help in by looking through the  
ms. sending a letter if he thinks

it good enough which might be  
sent with the ms. to a publisher.

It has struck me however that  
possibly he may not be in good  
enough health to be able to do so. It

is not difficult to make any  
arrangement with a publisher at this  
distance - if Taylor can't help us I

am venturing to ask if you could  
be good enough to. I have told  
Taylor that on hearing from him I  
will send the ms. - type written to  
him. If he be ill would you  
kind send me a line & can  
you help me in the matter.

I think it is worth publishing as  
much of it is brand new & carries  
us further into the habits & customs of  
the Aust. natives than we have got  
before.

A few days ago Mr. Partridge  
of the Brit. Mus. whom I think you  
know, was out here. He was present

during the reading of a short account of  
part of our work before the R.S. of Victoria  
and would be able to tell you something  
about it.

We don't want to make money  
out of it in fact there is no chance of  
that. But we don't want to be landed  
in deep debt - which means my self as

my partner can't do anything.

I hope your own work goes on well & that you are in better health.

Oxford is, to me, a most depressing place to live in despite its great attractions. We get so accustomed

to bright sunshine out here that we can scarcely do without it. I have

recently had three months amongst the blacks working with them morning, noon & night & find the drudgery of elementary zoological lectures somewhat trying by way of a change. Can you tell me

where on south the Cent. Aust. native got his concentric circle ornamentation from. It pervades almost all his

sacred objects just as the zig-zag line does that of West. Aust. natives. Don't you

think that a voyage to Aust. would do you a lot of good; if so I should be only too glad to see you & put you up for as long as you like to stay & you might combine it with a little ethnological work.

How you are well believe me

Yours sincerely

W. Baldwin Spencer.

Please give my kind regards to Thomson when you see him. I owe him a letter which shall come some time.