

The University of Melbourne.

13. 2. 15.

My dear Balfour

How + where are you. We have not heard anything of you since the day you left but I hope you had a good trip home + managed to do + see something en route.

I have had a very busy time trying to make up arrears of work + for once have spent all the summer (your winter) in Melbourne writing amongst other things a guide to our Australian Ethnological collection.

Don't be alarmed because your box has not come. It has been packed up for long but is simply waiting until I can get Kenyon to fix up your stone collection.

Ever since the Association meeting

To an old or fool man to be so far away from the old country.
Mr Filmer is staying with us + sends you my own
best regards. Mine also. To Mr Balfour.
W. B. Allen Spence.

he has been away from Melbourne.
 He is in charge of a department that
 has to deal with "Army kit areas" - a
 thing you know nothing of in England
 but of great importance out here. On the
 top of the war we are suffering from a
 very severe drought + he has to make
 all arrangements for feeding our war
 settlers over bad times - seeing after supplies
 of food about in same areas + in other
 looking after the removal of starving stock
 to distant places where they can get

food. Australia is a strange place - we are
 either very much up or very much down.
 It's a new country as you know with
 none of the stability of an old land with
 many centuries of history behind it + just
 now we are rather "down". However we
 are doing our best + are by no means
 demoralized + it is quite astonishing how

people are going to funds. At home of
 course the war is close to you but not
 here it is far away + the native Australian
 who has never been out of the country
 cannot naturally realize except vaguely
 what it really means.

We are just endeavoring to get a
 rally of our sportsmen - football - cricket
 + many baseball everyone including even
 golfers - in order to get them to enlist.
 Next week we held a big meeting in
 Melbourne - I have no doubt but that
 the result will be a big enlistment
 of men who will give a good account of
 themselves when our boys are trained +
 they will be more quickly trained than
 the average man.

I wish that I were young enough
 + able to go out to the front but at
 55 with few serviceable teeth + a
 knee that is liable to go at any moment
 this is not possible. All that I
 can do is to subscribe to various funds
 + try to get our University men to enlist.

Feb. 16 Your letter from Oxford came
 today. As you say the postal service

was much disorganised at the beginning
of the war & we did not receive your
letter from Cairns or Thursday Island.

I am very sorry to hear of the
bad time that both yourself & Mr.
Balfour have had but trust that all
is well with you now.

I am adding to your collection a
few things that you may be glad to have
more especially one or two stone knives that
it is rather difficult to secure & a few
Churniga. It is most exasperating to
know that thanks to a German mission
station in Central Australia Leipzig has
secured a great collection which ought never
to have gone outside Australia. These German
'missionaries' have been subsidized by the
Australian governments & have sent to
Germany collections such as we do not
possess out here.

Kindest regards to yourself & Mr. Balfour
& I most sincerely hope that in the course
of a year or two when this war is over
& Germany is brought to understand what
"Kultur" really means we may once more
meet in your delightful home. Australia
may have interested you very much but
you can hardly understand what it means