

TELEPHONE No 2.

17

LANGLEY LODGE,  
HEADINGTON HILL,  
OXFORD.

June 7. 1915

My dear Spencer

Many thanks for your letter. I am much  
distressed to hear that my letter written to Mrs  
Spencer never reached her. You must have thought  
me both rude & ungrateful, whereas I would  
not be rude & I could not be ungrateful after  
all your kindness. I expect that the letter must  
have been given to a steward to post & he may  
not have thought it worth while. I apologise  
for the seeming neglect. I am sorry  
that you have been exercised in mind over  
my box. Don't worry about it. From what  
you say about the things which you are  
so kindly adding in the way of specimens  
the consignment will have greatly increased  
in interest by the time it reaches me.  
I shall be awfully keen to see what

you are adding to my series here. Also  
Kenyon's selection is sure to be of much  
interest. There is a type of stone axe which  
I am most-anxious to get examples of,



The kind with a well-defined hafting  
groove round it. With the exception  
of America (where it is very common),  
Australia +, to a limited extent, Denmark  
this type is rare, + I badly want Australian  
examples for comparison with New World ones.  
So if you can persuade Kenyon to let any  
of them go, they would be of very great interest  
here. Stone implements fascinate me + are  
very absorbing, + the show at your Museum  
was a revelation in Australian varieties.

Thank you so much for having thought  
to send me the news of Sir F. Sutor's death.  
I should have remained ignorant of it but

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for you. I am extremely sorry to hear the sad news, as I got very fond of the old man when I stayed with him. He was awfully kind & genial & I should think would be greatly missed. I am very sorry for Miss Suttor. Miss Stirling is in London & I am greatly hoping to see her & get her to stay with us. As usual she is busying herself with doing work for others (feeding Belgians just now).

The war certainly keeps us alive here, & the appalling warbe of life recorded day by day makes sad reading. So many of our friends have gone under already. However I must say I feel optimistic still, in spite of the mean, barbarous methods of the Germans who are no better than mere cutthroats. Their "blockade" by submarines is a stupid & ineffective bit of boorish spitefulness.

strategically it is worth next to nothing & no one is frightened. I only hope that when they go under, they will be made to reap the full reward of their savagery. Oxford has a bare third of its complement of undergrads, & those are largely physically unfit, Americans or other non-combatants. Pretty well every athlete has joined the forces. I expect you say that Poulton's son was killed recently. He was a very nice unassuming chap & a magnificent footballer. Jenkinson (the embryologist) is a great loss from the Oxford Museum. He has just been killed in the Dardanelles. It is all very sad, one's friends are going so fast. As to the net result of the war I still feel quite optimistic, but the sacrifice is awful. The Australians have been doing splendidly & I hear that their rushing of the high ground when the landing on Gallipoli was effected, was as fine an achievement as ever was.

I have been awfully glad to read lately

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That the Australian drought is over &  
that there are good harvest prospects. I hope  
it is true. We are having a drought-  
here now & gardens are suffering badly.

My wife, I am glad to say, is quite  
recovered from the effects of her operation,  
& is as energetic & busy as ever.

Have you published your guide to the  
Melbourne Museum yet? Some day  
I should be awfully obliged if I could have  
a photograph or drawing of your fishing  
kite from the Solomon Ids. I was only  
able to make a very rough sketch in a hurry.  
I will post to you a copy of my short monograph  
on Fishing-kites which will show why  
I want to get all records I can of the  
practice & varieties of apparatus.

Did I tell you that I picked up on the way

home a number of fine Melville J. Sparr  
They were given to Dixey in Port Darwin &  
he passed them on to me. Nothing like  
your magnificent series however.

I will write to Mrs. Spencer, in a day  
or two & hope my letter will have better  
luck than the last. Please remember  
me very kindly to Veruon, the Grimwades  
& my other friends in Melbourne — I also  
send my very kind regards to Mrs. &  
Miss Spencer, I hope you are all quite  
flourishing.

My wife joins me in all kinds of  
messages ("tante cose" as the Italians say)  
to your good self.

Yours  
Henry Balfour