

(19)

Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria.
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM,

Melbourne, 28. 1. 20.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL MUSEUM, MELBOURNE.

No.

My dear Balfour,

It is ages since
I have heard from you
but I trust that all goes
well with you. Did you
ever receive the box containing
all your papers and stone implements.
Communications with England
have been so irregular that one
loses trace of things. The
box left here on Jan⁴ 1917 +
I sincerely trust that it arrived
safely. It had passed out of
my memory until the other day
when I came across a note
referring to it. at the present

19
moment I am in the midst of
removing or rather packing up
preparatory to this. After some 33
years of lectures one becomes rather
tired of the routine work so I
have resigned and hope to devote
myself to Museum work and
ethnology. Both of our daughters
are married - one living in Scotland,
the other in West Australia - so we
are selling the house in Melbourne
and are going to live in the
country about 20 miles out of the
city. The new house is really
only a little bungalow on the hills
but it has a good garden - orchard
and a delightful outlook & is
quite big enough for my wife &
myself. As you know, Australian
towns are merely feeble imitations
of those in the old country but

The wild bush amidst which we shall be living has strong attractions. We have some 20 acres of bush land with gum trees such as you saw on the hills outside Melbourne.

It seems a very long time ago since you were here and I am afraid that it will not be my fortune to see England again.

So far as one can see travelling will be reserved for professors & the so-called "labouring class".

Let me have a line from you when you have time to write. Oxford must be a very different place from what it was five years ago.

Melbourne is practically just what it was when you saw it.

I cannot get anything for the Museum.

Sydney University has just had a description of approximately £500,000 + Bursaries of £200,000 but not a halfpenny to us or to Adelaide.

Kindest regards and all good wishes from your very sincerely

W. Baldwin Spencer.

I have been writing with thick ink & a pen with crossed hairs.