

National Museum.

Melbourne

24. 9. 20.

My dear Balfour,

I was very glad indeed to get your letter of Aug 4. + to know that the box reached you safely. We were feeling very anxious as so many things have gone to the bottom - also I was anxious for news of you + am very relieved to hear that you are well again. Time goes by and one does not pass the residence of thirty years ago - not that I feel much older. After 7 years of very strenuous work as President of the Professional Board, which left me no time for research work I gradually got more + more out of sympathy with zoological work + realized that I was losing interest in it so I resigned on reaching the horrible age of 60. to give place to a more 'modern' man who was versed in recent methods. I must confess that I had become completely out of date but preferred to recognize this myself rather than have it pointed out to me by the Council which had the power to do so on my 60th birthday. We have been most fortunate in Dr. Agar - he is not only a good field man - having spent in S. America - but he is very keen on + most exact regard to matters of heredity etc + will have a good opportunity. After 33 years of lecturing at 9 am. about first year students it is a wonderful relief to think a

morning that someone else is doing it & that you can sit down quietly
in your study & work away at what you want to. It was known as you
will understand somewhat of a wrench to walk out of my old lab. & hand
it over to another though nothing could have been kinder than the expression
of my old students or more courteous & thoughtful than the way in which
Dr Agar acted. I go to the old lab. every now & then but of course it
only takes a year or two before an entirely new generation of students arrives
& one realizes fully the meaning of a Pharaoh has arisen who knows not

Joseph

Taking advantage of the absence of my wife in
England I sold, as you know, the old Darby & now we have a new one -
only really a little larger - some 22 miles out of Melbourne - it is
quite big enough for us in fact we cannot live save on a very modest scale
but it is delightful to be in the country & to have our own fruit & vegetable &
milk & butter & flowers galore.

From the post-restaurant we look down
on the little Township & railway station & from the back one we walk
straight out into the wild bush. In a country cottage it is not uncommon
as we have our own electric plant, hot & cold water, vacuum cleaners, worked
by electricity, radiators if we don't want fire & any amount of wood which
costs me just 6/- a ton to cut. This must be almost as cheap as your fuel.
The whole place is about as big as three of your rooms & of course all on one
plot. I am much wondering what my wife will think

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now on her way out having spent some previous months with my elder daughter in Scotland - she was very far from well - some form of nervous breakdown partly due to much war & other work & partly, to anxiety about our two daughters' husbands (both of whom by good fortune came through safely). If you should ever be near Glasgow my elder daughter (Mrs Arthur Young) lives in a most delightful spot called "Core" on the Clyde & would be very glad to see you. I have told her you & Mrs Balfour ~~may~~ someday announce your arrival. She has now 3 picaunivis which makes me feel older. My other daughter allie - whom you met ~~there~~ - lives with her husband on the land in West Australia - a very wild part - she has a little boy & is coming with him over here for the summer as there is another little one 'on route'. For many months she has had a very rough time in the 'back-blocks' & needs a rest.

I was much interested in your lecture to the Somersetshire Society more especially because it was the old Pitt Rivers collection that first gave me my real interest in Anthropology.

It was I think in 1884 or 5 that Moseley asked me if I would spend the vacation in helping to pack up the collection which was then housed at South Kensington. I did a good deal of the packing for him & it was intensely interesting - have Moseley or Dyer coming in & hear them talking about things. I remember well that Moseley seemed to know a

great deal more than Tyler in
or the "Challenge" he could speak of
Tyler with his curious way which
'drawing in his breath' - I don't know

me. It was intensely interesting,
privilege to come into such personal
it struck me at that time that

but Tyler the wider outlook.

Wellhouse for sometime but is now in
still from. Could since he left & she

I am glad to say she is now out of
nice fellow & an excellent worker.

regard to detail & of course after his experience
many things with first hand knowledge but
may remember I may name a few as it were
how otherwise to express it - simply designated
to a young man like myself & also a great
contact with those such workers. Of the two
Merdy had the greater technical knowledge

Chimney who met you in Oxford was in
foreman W.G. He left his wife behind - There was a
has been in a very dangerous state for weeks but
danger - but has been a very serious matter. C. is a
I trust you are all well. Kindest regards.

Yours very sincerely

W.B. Adams, Esq.

I wish we could hear news of your being appointed Professor.