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A.
16.7.1929

% Anglo-South American Bank:
Magallanes. Chile.

(26)

24.7.29

My dear Balfour,

After a somewhat protracted voyage of ten weeks on a cargo - frozen mutton steamer - I arrived here. This place used to be called ~~still is on most maps,~~ Punta Arenas - it has now changed its name to Magallanes - quite an interesting spot. As my boat, the "Indorston" (Blue star line) did not officially carry passengers, owing I think to the fact that a higher rate of port dues is charged to passenger ships, I had to be "signed on" at a place on the wharf in Newcastle where they pick up seafaring men who are in search of a job + suddenly found myself devoted to the rank of "Purser" which fortunately included the possession of the Purser's cabin - the best of the boat with plenty of room to move about in. As there were no duties attached to the office I carried them out with perfect satisfaction to the Captain + had a most pleasant voyage spending most of the time in the vain attempt to master a little of the Spanish tongue - the prevalent one in these parts.

We called nowhere - in fact saw neither sun nor land - as it was, you may remember, rather a cold winter - until we went in to Cape S. Vincent to signal - then on, slantwise across the Atlantic + past Fernando Noronha - a wonderfully picturesque little tropic island that you may have seen - till we saw the Brazil coast in the distance + finally called in at Desceado - a forgotten out-of-the-way little settlement on the southern Argentine coast.

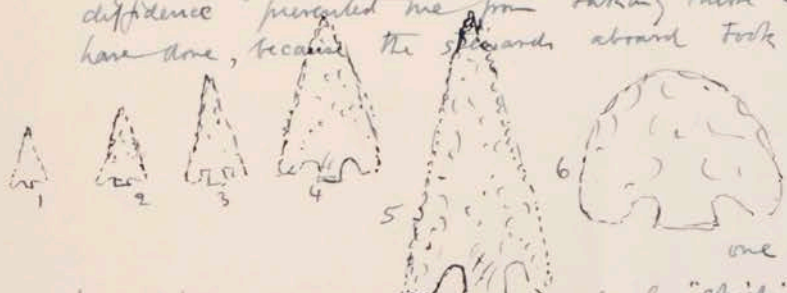
While the steamer was loading frozen mutton which in England you probably buy + appreciate under the designation of "Best Canterbury" there was a chance of working over an old kitchen-midden of the Tehuelche (a Tehuelche) Indians of what was once known as Patagonia - a name now discarded.

During recent years the municipal authorities have selected the same site for the general town-tip for refuse which makes rather a mix-up of old + new. However there was not, though the "midden" had already been

27.4.29 -

often searched over by an enthusiast who lives here, a few things to be found - yielded three little arrow heads, two scrapers + lots of rough chipped flints.

The same enthusiast kindly presented me with a few more arrow heads. I did not like to take many when he showed me his things in an old cigar box + now regret deeply that my natural diffidence prevented me from taking more as I could have done, because the stewards aboard took some afterwards.



These vary in size from 1-5 - the latter being a specially good one of a size, so the

people here say, that was used only by "chiefs". No. 6. puzzles me. I have about a dozen of these given to me at another post further south - St. Juan Santa Cruz. They are all

made of a very dark almost black stone + roughly chipped. It is quite evident that they are not simply unfinished ones + as yet I cannot find out exactly what they are - they were given to me as unfinished arrow heads but had been thrown away - but I doubt if that be true + were found on the surface of the ground.

However I am only at the very beginning of my work + am just preparing my way along. There seem to be two types of throwing stones (Botera). The first (1) is about double the size of the skull - quite spherical with a very shallow groove round the equator.



For their

lassos with which to catch guanaco (I saw plenty of these on the pampas behind Santa Cruz) they use three stones each attached to a string the three strings being tied together as in the sketch. They hold the one loosest in the hand + while (allegedly) drawing the other two round + round "let go" at the guanaco. The whole thing twists round the beast's legs + down it comes. At Santa Cruz the owner of an estancia about 40 miles inland to which we - that is the Captain of

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The east & away to the south the snow-clad peaks of the southern part of the Andes. In a day or two I am off on a small schooner to a little settlement called Ishucaya on the very south of Ticono d. Diego where I hear there are two or three surviving Indians. As winter is coming on I may perhaps be massacred here for two or three months. I understand that will suit matters. Write me a line to the Bank here - it will find me sooner or later. Kindest regards to Mrs. Balfour.

I am sincerely with absolute respect.

Magallanes 26
Chile
27. 4. 29

The Indorstar, Miss Hamilton my secretary who is very keen on the work & is going to study the native women, & myself ordered out, gave me first a very fine Tencelche skull that he had dug out of a grave, secondly some of the blunt arrow heads & thirdly a beautiful *bolera* with many attached & all complete, used for catching what they call 'ostriches' here (Rhea), which also I saw on the Pampas.



The stone (A) has a much deeper groove than the larger ones & is only about half the size of these; also whilst the latter are only 'pecked' over their surface this one is ground down quite smooth. It is about enclosed in leather. The thing seen round the groove; at A & B it is excellently polished & has a handle of leather (horse hide like the Mory) enclosing I think a short round piece of wood. I suppose you have got plenty of these things in the Pitt Rivers but they were the first that I had seen in their home country & I hope to get much more later on.

At St. Julian I visited the *Fajonigos* - the one place of importance in all these little settlements & had my introduction to the dietary system of S. Argentina, which is no other. At 7 am. or thereabouts or at any time convenient to yourself you have a cup of coffee with this lasts you till 12.30 when comes *almuerzo* (3-4th) our men at the *Fajonigos* was - Course 1. Cold ham & sheep tongues, plenty of the latter of course near any *Fajonigo*; 2 hot roast beef supplied by the ship (as no cows thrive in this country) with potatoes in their skins (all vegetable imported as there is no water for gardens) 3. Liver & bacon with potatoes & cabbage - I thought this quite enough meat for one meal but to my horror it was followed by 4. hot pork chops & vegetables. Then came 5. pastry & pudding & 6 bread & cheese & coffee. Mrs. Balfour may like to know what Argentinians & Chileans expect of ever any find their way to you at Oxford. When all was over I fortively undid a button or two, when my hostess was not looking, and lay back & rested. After *almuerzo* there is a break till 8 p.m. - broken usually by a heavy afternoon tea - when *cena* or supper with much the same menu as at *almuerzo*.

At the present moment I am staying at a quite comfortable little hotel at Magallanes & from my window look down the Magellan straits with Tierra del Diego on