

TELEGRAMS "AQUILÆ, LONDON"
TELEPHONE NO 2389 GERRARD.

University Museum
Oxford (28)

~~ROYAL SOCIETIES CLUB,
ST. JAMES'S STREET,
S.W.~~

My dear Spencer

I was delighted to get your letter,
forwarded on to me as I was away.
I was very glad that the memorial
was successful, & that you and
Gillen are going to continue
the paid work you have begun.
You will have a splendid field
over the line of route you propose
to follow, & it will be very
interesting to trace out the
connection between the art
& culture of the Mc Donnell
Range region & of Northern
Australia, & perhaps you

may be able to map out the migration lines of culture & old native trade routes for the region. I do hope that you will have long enough for Tommy Roths domain, or on the edge of it, to clear up there the question of Solenium, which, as you say, one feels must exist there, at least as a remnant.

Shall you be able to make large collections, or will transport be too great a difficulty. Find out all you can in regard to details of belief & practice in "Syncretistic magic", ideas which lie at the root of it. Shall you be able to explore

The country between the upper

20
water of the Roper R, & the Alligator R - district. It should be interesting. I suppose that

Parkes saw some of it. Try and get examples as far so along of the best efforts at realistic representations of men & animals, & ask the natives to draw profile faces, & to make the best they can of portraiture.

It is rather a chance with quite untaught savages to see how their ideas run.

We all here shall feel quite certain that it will be no fault of yours if your results are not splendid. We have great faith in you & know how keen you are. Naturally we shall look forward with great eagerness to the first news

of you, so get something through
to us as soon as opportunity
offers. I suppose you will hunt
for "new-mammals" amongst
other things! You will have
heard of the death of Sir Henry
Acland, Max Müller, & Sir
John Cowroy at Oxford. All
great losses. Acland was certainly
very decrepit, but I was very
fond of him & his work in
getting the Museum founded
& the deep interest he took in
it to the end, make me miss
him as a founder of science
in Oxford. Hatcher Jackson
is Radcliffe Librarian now, &
the Museum is throwing out
pseudopodia in all directions
a new Pathological laboratory,
a new morphological ditto, &
a new library are all large

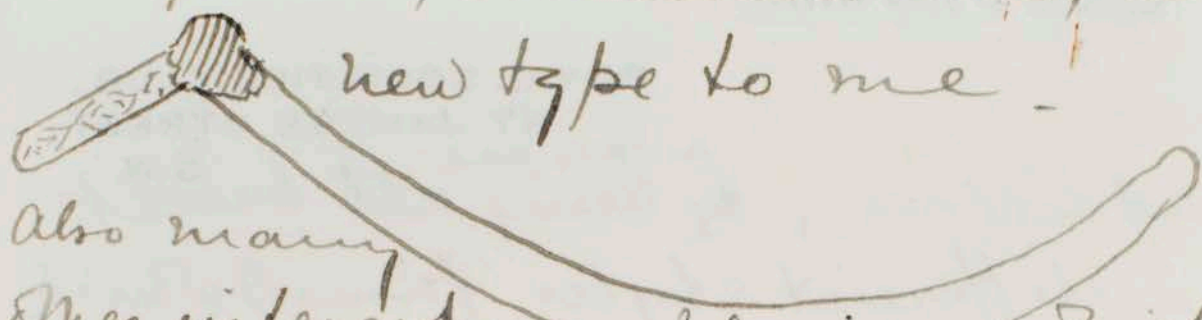
TELEGRAMS "AQUILÆ, LONDON"
TELEPHONE NO 2389 CERRARD.

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ROYAL SOCIETIES CLUB,
ST. JAMES'S STREET,

additions, ^{as they are} being all built-
in different styles (none of which
are anything definite) The
Museum is becoming the
most heterogeneous medley
of architectural horrors that
can be imagined. However
inside is better than out.
The Pitt Rivers goes along
saily, & I have had a fine
year for accessions. With the
Wardy collection I got a large number
of good Australian things.
Amongst them two of the "strangling
cords" which B. Smyth describes.
I believe there are but three
or so known, though I may
be wrong. Also I have a

beaked boomerang made in
two pieces, somewhat thus; a



new type to me.

Also many
other interesting things which
are very good additions.

Now I must wish you & Ellen
all prosperity, the best of luck &
a safe return with heaps of
information. I wish it most
heartily, & I shall be quite anxious
for the year to pass quickly in
order that news may come
of you. Tylor & Thomson would
send greetings if they were
here.

Yours sincerely
Henry Dalfour

Thanks, I got over my typhoid
fever in time, it took 6 months
but I put in a trip to S. Africa
for the sea voyage, & that was
something. The rest was sheer
waste