Melbourne.
Aug 18. 88

My dear Balfour,

It is ages since I heard from you & when you have time you might send me a line giving me some news of how things are going on in Oxford.

Last week I had a note from Mr. Partington telling me that he was just bringing out a new part of his album which he shall be very glad to see as it ought to contain many Australian things.

The immediate purpose of this note is to ask you about Tye & Co. Are they well or ill? the team is thus some
Little time ago Horwitt sent me a ms. written by Miss Horwitt dealing with the folk lore of Victorian tribes containing some valuable and interesting matter — asking me, indeed, what advice with regard to publishing. A post-card in reference to it has just come from Tyler, the manner of which makes one fancy that he may be ill, and Miss Horwitt has suddenly been a little troubled about it — so I promised Horwitt to write to you asking if you happened to know anything of the ms. as it is likely that Tyler would show it to you. I have written to him two or three times about filling my work party of which Macmillan and him, but have not heard about

it for some weeks in a little strange. Mr. Ingalls has been very kind to me — going through the first proofs in now undertaking the final revision. He is a splendid man. In the toil of other work the content of family friend are more than busy as I have a good deal of original work to do, and it will be no little relief when the book is off my hands.

Roughly if you will put of some interest to you and me hoping that it will prove to be of value as, I think, it is the most complete account of an Australian tribe yet published.

It is wonderful when once you get beneath the surface, what a lot there
is to be found out; the difficulty is to
get beneath the surface of there are very
few men like fallen who will feel
beginning away and refuse to be beaten.
Until one has actually worked amongst
savage it is hard to realize how difficult
it is to get at the truth--but I am in
hope that at all events our work will
not contain any gross inaccuracies.

Probably Roth will by now have
sent you a copy of her last letter in
which she puts forth her ideas with regard
to this. It seems to me to be simply
entirely wrong. The idea of the old
men part of all inferior condition to
the young or their the latter combining
to force the old men into a compromise
is exactly what could never take place
in a savage people. He will not know of IKimm in his tribe.

hairy, a pruri, made sure his mind that such do not exist. I am very sorry that he is starting his work with a theory of this kind as he will read it into all the facts which he discovers in to distort these in accordance with it. The terms which he has invented are quite hideous. The writer as if Hoolett + Frank + others had never done any work on classifying systems in Australia. However, he is still hard at work and has wonderful chances — better far than any over there out here.
A few days ago I had a call from your friend in London, and I was very pleased to hear from him.

I suppose you have heard of the Great War, but I think it is still a mystery to most people. It started in 1914 and ended in 1918, but the effects are still felt today.

I have attended many conferences and meetings related to the war, and I am proud to have been a part of it. It was a difficult time, but we were able to come together and work for a common goal.

I hope to see you soon and hear about your experiences.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
lost early years of colonisation – for it was in many respects the abnormal coast tribes which most wanted studying, now they are practically all extinct. In Victoria there is not a single native who really knows anything of tribal customs.

Let me have a line from you before long – you can hardly realise how refreshing it is to hear about what is going on at home.

Yours sincerely,

Waldemar Spencer.