My dear Spencer,

You are quite right, I ought to have written long ago. Indeed, my last letter to you was written in December last or January. I seem to have had a very busy year, I have been abroad a bit, and hence my correspondence has rather fallen a bit disorganised. Pray forgive.

Things here are much as here to fore, the chief excitement is caused by the translation to a higher sphere of course the question of his successor.

Now I am very sorry that you don't mean to go in for it. There are so many who would welcome you back here,
you have been gaining so much experience
of the A.R. at large. The difficulty, to
my mind, about the post is that nearly
everyone is a complete specialist,
almost a one-group man, and for
the purposes of the Honour School,
it is surely desirable to have as
much of a generalist as possible, not
too much biased by ideas as to the
special overwhelming claims of
any one group. I don't mind saying
this to you as I know that you
can teach the subject from a
general standpoint. I suppose
Weldon with his experience of teaching
can do so to some extent, & he
seems from what I hear to be a
candidate. Of course Bourne has
acquired a good deal of local
influence & he is also a very
estimable man & amiable one.
I imagine that this chance is distinctly
good. All the same I'm sorry that you
don't put in. I always hoped that you
would come back to England, here
if possible, but I can well understand
that Australia has its fascinations,
& the fact that you have included
home in the zoologist's fauna,
must make it hard to leave a part
of the world where so much anthro-
pological research remains to be
done, & must be done quickly.
Your work & tillings will prove
of very great value & we all look
forward to its publication. Your
preliminary papers have interested
me greatly. What a capital chap
Jillen must be, he seems to have used
his opportunities. I was very pleased.
with "Tommy" Roth's book, which came as a surprise to me as I had no idea what he was doing or exactly where he was. The information is most valuable & well collected & illustrated. The deductions must be taken cum grano, the terminology in many instances fairly "gives one the blight"! I wonder if he would collect a few specimens for my Museum. There are so many things I want I was of course delighted with the horn exped. Specimens which are a grand addition to the Museum. I have just received a lot of Mins from a certain E. Clement who travelled in W. and N. W. Australia up country. He brought back a large collection. Do you know of him? What is your opinion of Louis de Rouge Montbeau? We are having a close of him in England. He appears to
have been in Australia all right &c. 2.

Some of his information seems good, but he is being so exploited by the Magazine
(Ethnographical Department)
(Pitt Rivers Collection).

University Museum, Exaggerate
So stupendously to sell the magazine
that one doesn't know how much to
believe. Is any thing known of him in
Australia. From his account he
lived no very huge distance west
of the McDowell Range, & it seem
odd that the Horn Expd. should not
have heard rumours of at least of him.
I should like to get hold of him quietly
over a pipe & pump him a bit. We
had him at the Brit. Assoc. I almost
envy a man who has seen a sperm whale
150 ft long, or rather a man who has the
pluck (or is it cheek) to say he saw one
(? caught it)!

Tylor is quite well,
setting rather old perhaps & he may
forget things a bit. He will be back
here I fancy about the 10th Oct. I will
ask him about Miss Howell's Ms. of
which I had not heard, I will ask
him to let me see it, & if I can help in the matter I shall be very pleased. I don't quite know what he has done about your own proofs, I thought they were entirely in Roger's hands. The latter is a capital man & I am very glad that he is helping. I hope however that he will abstain from editing your paper & will merely revise it as far as its form may be concerned from the publishing point of view. I hope the work will soon see the light of day, & that illustrations have not been stinted at all by Macmillan. I wrote to fillen some good time ago asking him if he could not bring let me have photographs of his native especially such as deal with arts, customs, etc. I have not heard from him & I dare say he is far too busy to attend to 'hurry letters', so I have worried him again. Other I find are so important an adjunct to a Museum that I try to beg all I can for a series, I am making for the Museum. My friends don't allow of my buying today in the open market, & the trade ones are apt to be unsatisfactory & made up. I am very glad that Howitt is still working away & has a book on the stories, his work is so excellent & careful. I sawed Partington his cruise around & I greatly wish I could get to Australia & see the Museum, but I don't just yet see my way to being away long enough. I have no underly who can do my work in the Museum & I have some papers I want to set off my hands. Can you or anyone trace out a map the native trade routes in Australia generally, I wish one could feel a bit clear on this point. The general lines of
dispersal of ideas from one part to another, & the extent to which the fragments of New Guinea & Malayan culture have penetrated along trade routes (or by standing lines of communities) from the North into the remotest part of Australia. I am busy with a monograph (to give it so dignified a title) on the musical bow, & have a very wide distribution for it over the world. So far as I can see the evidence points to dispersal from one or at most two centres, dispersal in early times, but I don't want to theorize & shall stick to description. So far as possible, the more I see the more I see that it is still dangerous to form theories, & I prefer to collect & collate & leave the theories to fit themselves out of masses of facts not small groups of indifferently connected examples.
I wish that men like Hortt & Fison, Sillen & the "Pakeha Maori" would appear in England & come & chat over piper now & then. I am of course delighted to see Fison when he was over, but had very little opportunity for quiet talk with him. I see you refer to "Old New Zealand" in a former letter, it is one of the best of books & simply excruciatingly funny, a talk with the Pakeha Maori would do me no end of good. My work lies amongst the arts & appliances of Man & my main object is to trace the history of things back as far as possible using
modern'scavenger' to fill in gaps in the archaeological record. Customs, myth etc. I hardly dare write about as the difficulty of getting hold of them completely is so great, & it is hard at home to sort the facts from the lies in the ordinary published accounts of more or less inaccurate observers. More. Our Tyler has a natural aptitude for this line of research & I can be relieved of the responsibility, which he can so well tackle. It really is wonderful in a way & is one of the very few stay-at-home. Who can make much of the subject. Now is at present running his head against Totems, it is somewhat fogged just now, but I fancy that your work has clear matters for him, though it is the N. American side of things with which he has been dealing.

Anson of All Souls is to be our next Vice Chancellor, I hope that he will view the Museum with a kindly eye, though I have no doubts. Science I fancy does not mean very much to him. Carfax Church has been pulled down leaving the tower only, to the great improvement of the traffic arrangements & also the abodes of that part. The Brit. Ass. at Bristol was pretty successful. The heat was awful however. We had a few No. 1 size cranks around after papers, & it was annoying bemoaning them.
off. There were some very good papers too. I was up the Norwegian coast this summer, mostly north of the circle, with my wife and boy. We had a jolly time in the Lofoten Iks + Tromsö, but the weather was bad and spoilt a lot of small trips I wished to make. Now I must dry up, or I shall weary you. I hope that you and yours are in the best of health. This very jolly hearing from you now and again. When do you next come this way? Remember me to Fison & Stirling if ever you come across them.

With kindest remembrances,

Very truly yours,

Henry Halford.
10 SEP 23

The National Museum of Victoria

Melbourne, Victoria

Australia 7804