

11, Norham Gardens,

Oxford.

30. May, 1902

My dear Spencer

I was very glad to learn that you had got safely back from your trans-Australian journey, & I congratulate you heartily on a noteworthy achievement. The undertaking must have been a very difficult one & its execution must have called for all your pluck & grit. I hear that for part of the time you were having a very bad time of it, & I'm awfully sorry to hear it. We are all looking forward to publication of some details of the trip, & later on to another epoch-making work on the natives. Did you succeed in bringing all your collections through? They must be

of immense value. The collecting possibilities mentioned in one of your early letters sent down from Central Australia, fair made one's mouth run. You must have recalled in stone knives. Amongst other things, I am eager to know if you met with any kinds of wind instruments of music (noise), also what forms of spear throwers (women's) you met & in what districts, also what methods of fire making, & to what districts they belong.

I greatly wonder what forms of Totemism you came across & whether you have managed to upset Roth's views in his own territory. I hope that there is a chance of our seeing you over here before very long. I badly want a talk with you. The Pitt River Museum progresses

favourably in spite of its meagre funds, but one badly wants information at first hand, & that is a commodity with which you must be fairly bubbling over. Do contrive to come over before very long. I hope you got a letter from me at Port Darwin. I sent a short one there to welcome you on your arrival. I dare say you found a goodly bundle of correspondence awaiting you at the P. Restante. I expect you will be far too busy to send me a line for some time, but I hope I shall hear, at any rate indirectly, that you are none the worse for the arduous journey & that Gillen too is flourishing. Things here jog along much as usual. Tylor is resigning the Keepership of the Museum, & that office will probably be abolished & a "Secretary to the Delegates" appointed. A general

Statement of University needs is in
preparation. Science naturally has
very extensive needs to announce. It is
to be hoped that some pious donor
or donors will provide the University
with a really substantial sum to
set it on its legs again, as we are
awfully pinched for lack of funds. At
any rate a statement of pressing needs
should draw attention to our
poverty as well as to our more
laudable aims. I could just
do with £20,000 to £25,000 for
the Pitt Rivers partly for building
& equipment, partly for income.
Well, I am looking forward to seeing
an account of your great doings, &
I send my heartiest congratulations
to you & to Jillem (who, however, won't
know who I am). It is a great relief to
know that you are safely through -

With kindest regards & all good wishes

Yours sincerely
Henry Dalford.