

Melbourne

July 7. 1913.

(9)

My dear Balfour

Very many thanks
for your letter that has just
come. Needless to say

I very much appreciate the
honour that you propose to do
me the only thing is that I
do not think it quite right or
justifiable that I should appear
side by side with men like
Kaupeker & Sell. I know of
course that thanks to opportunities
that come to few workers, I
have been able to do some good
anthropological work & the capacity
to do this I owe to Moreley &
Taylor. It was just the merest
chance that when I was demonstrating
for Moreley the Pitt Rivers Collection

This relates to my having incorporated his name
in the design of a stained glass window which
is presented to Exeter College - to commemorate
Exeter men of Science. (H.B.)

was left to the University & Mundy asked me if I would help him pack it up. Of course I went & for about a month I was daily with him & Taylor & from both of them but especially the latter I learnt much - little during that I should ever come to Australia. Any work that I have done has been due to this initial stimulus of Mundy & Taylor & later & still more to that of Dräger.

I have no armenial bearings and so my initials W. B. S. must suffice and I thank you again most sincerely for the honor that you do me in associating me with such distinguished men.

As to archeological work: Your letter reached me when I was attempting

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to prepare a lecture that in a week's moment I consented to give on the Stone Age in Australia. As yet I have been collecting 'recent' material together with, very rarely, older - but the latter is very difficult to find. However I am going to devote time to this as soon as possible. As to recent stuff I have not apart from uncounted rough flake etc some 16,000 specimens. I think that amongst them I have Chellean, Moustéan, Acheulean & some Neolithic forms and all of them at the present day in use amongst the natives. When the Post. Ass.

comes out next year I hope to be able to show the Anthropologist a series of stone implements that will astonish them. In Victoria & Central Australia I have roughly clipped stones which are apparently exactly similar to those of the Tasmanians in fact, if it were not for the labels attached to them I could not possibly distinguish them.

It is just possible though please do
not mention it as I have not spoken
to anyone here about it that I may
have to run home before long for a
hasty visit on business. If so I will
bring my Kiviat. & Photograph
records with me. They will give you
a much better idea of our natives than
anything you can gather from a
written account. If there be any
serious likelihood of my coming I
will send you word.

I hope this will be in time. You
know I am a wretched correspondent
but this is actually catching the first
possible mail.

Yours very sincerely
W. Baldwin Spencer.

Will you give my regards to Hackett
Jackson & Thomson.