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BOWMORE HOUSE.

GARELOCHHEAD, N. B.

26 August 1898

Dear Sir

I send you by this mail the last batch of first proofs. Your letter of June 30th. has reached me. In passing the 'revises' for the press (which I very willingly undertake to do) I will attend to your directions as to the use of italics for the great majority of native words (apart, of course, from proper names). My attention will chiefly be given to seeing that your corrections made ~~to~~ in the first proofs are embodied in the 'revises' and that the additions are correctly printed. I will also take it on myself to correct any slight verbal slips that may have escaped you, as well as to mark any

printer's errors that the reader may have overlooked. To judge from the first batch of revisions that has reached me, along with your corrected ^{first} proofs, I do not anticipate that the work of passing the book for the press will be heavy or will demand more time than I can spare. You may rely, I hope, on the caution and discretion with which I will use the powers you entrust to me. In cases of doubt I shall prefer to leave the word or words unaltered.

2. You say there are some general questions which you would like to have touched at greater length. I am not sure that it is ~~unadvisable~~ ^{advisable} to mix up the discussion of

general questions with the account of particular tribes. Indeed I incline to think that the usefulness and value of books like yours is rather impaired by the importation of general theories and discussions. What we want in such books and what you and Mr. Gillen have given us is a clear and precise statement of facts (as far as they have been ascertained) concerning the particular people described - that and nothing else. All general theories should, in my opinion, be reserved for treatment in separate works dealing exclusively with general questions by the method of comparison and induction. In other words the purely descriptive side of anthropology should, in my judgment, be kept entirely separate from the comparative and theoretical side. One of the great merits of your book, as it seems to me and as I have already said in a letter, is that you have recognized the importance of this distinction and have rigidly excluded comparisons and speculations. But there is no

reason why you should not discuss such general questions as Australian totemism, marriage systems, religion &c. Such discussions by authorities so competent as yourself and Mr. Gillen would, I feel sure, be of the highest value and interest. Only they ought, in my opinion, to be reserved for another work. Why not undertake such a general work? Do think of it seriously. Could you not cooperate with Fison and Howitt to produce a general work on the Australian aborigines?

If you do not see your way to writing another book, you might publish the results of your enquiries in a series of papers contributed, say, to the Journal of the Anthropol. Inst., which already contains so many valuable papers by Howitt on these subjects.

Would you not add vocabularies and concise sketches of the grammars of the various dialects of the Central tribes to your present book? It would enhance the value of the work, especially to philologists.

Yours very truly
J. G. Frazer.