

Melbourne.

Aug 30. 98.

My dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter of July 18th.

After consulting the proofs I had begun to think that before offering the work to the public it ought really to be re-written but your more than kind letter has given me a good deal of comfort.

As regards native terms you will find a good many of these are struck out. I only wish now that they had been struck out in the original as it would have given you much less trouble on the revise the

correcting of which will I fear be
a most tedious work. By this
week's mail I have sent home a
Glossary of Native Terms used.

In regard to comparisons with
the customs etc of other Tribes I
have made a mistake which I trust
it is not too late to remedy. After
thinking over the matter I decided
to add a reference to some Customs
in North American Tribes appended
to the proof of col. 152 a slip as
a footnote. After the proof had
gone home I felt that this was a
mistake & have written to Mr Macmillan
asking for the footnote written on the
slip to be omitted. If it should

come to you on the review will you

please strike it out. It refers to
a work in the 16th - 14th annual
publication of the Bureau of Ethnology
dealing with the snake dance of N. Am.
Tribes in which reference is made to
dances, sacred poles, 'sweat houses' &
sacred drawings which are strikingly
suggestive in regard to certain of the
Siwora customs in our Tribes but
reference to which is out of place in
our work.

Please feel quite free to make any
corrections which you think should be
made in the review as I could hardly
say that we shall fully agree to any
~~corrections~~ omission or correction which
you may think it advisable to make.

W. H. Hitt is hard at work on a

general account of the Organization of
Australian tribes & I hope that before
long it will be ready for the press. The
difficulty in Australia is that none of
us who are interested in Ethnological
work have so much else to do that we
can only devote to it our only too short
leisure hours. Most of the men - fillen
is really the notable exception - who live
amongst the natives have neither the
inclination nor the ability to study them.
However before the Australian aborigine is
civilized out of existence I hope that we
may be able to ^{secure} better records of him than
we have of, at least, the Tasmanian.

Yours very sincerely

W. Baldwin Spencer.