

Melbourne. FRAZER

Oct 19. 98

18

My dear Sir,

I have just received your deeply interesting letter of Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> referring to the totems and will try and write about this next week and meanwhile will see Howitt & Fison & discuss matters with them. As I leave Melbourne in a fortnight and am in the midst of Exam. papers my time is rather limited just now. I only write a few lines to thank you for the firm stand which you have taken with regard to the non-compression of the Chapter dealing with the Intichiuma ceremonies.

It appeared to me that this was the most valuable and important chapter in the book: my only regret was that we could not supply more detail as every scrap of information

relating to the subject would have been put in.

In writing to fill in last mail I impressed upon him the urgency of securing further information with regard to the use of Churinga such as is mentioned in the case of the Kayaroo man who claimed a Churinga so as to enable a man of another totem to secure Kayaroo.

From the point of view of a correct understanding of the totem this appeared to me to be of considerable value and I hope that we may be able to substantiate it by similar evidence in regard to other totems.

Dr. Hylor has not said anything to us about the matter in fact I have not heard at all from him or received any proofs except the first four sheets sent through Macmillans but with no alterations suggested and I had begun to think that he was not reading the proofs at all.

We feel perfectly safe in your hands and if there be any changes which you think it desirable to make I can only once more repeat that we shall fully agree with whatever you do.

The one part where I thought that compression might have been advisable was in the chapter dealing with the 'wanderings' the details of which are decidedly tedious but on the other hand one can never feel sure that an absolutely trivial fact may not be of service to some other worker & in addition the very minuteness of the details seemed to be of interest & importance for the proper understanding of the mental condition of a typical savage tribe like the Arunta.

These & the tradition associated with the Churinga & their former possessors seem to carry us back towards the my beginnings of anything like a historical record & from this point of view I thought it advisable to place them on record.

I notice that your last letter is addressed

from Scotland & it has only just struck  
me that possibly the revision of the  
proofs may have been interfering with  
your long vacation plans which I sincerely  
hope has not been the case.

Yours very sincerely

W. Aldwin Kleeves.