

Melbourne.

Sept 4. 1900.

My dear Frazer,

Your request to the Viet. government arrived last week + was passed on to the University Council which at once granted me the leave of absence for a year and I am hoping to hear in a day or two that the S.A. government has granted the same to Jellen.

I trust that you will fully understand that we are most grateful to you for the trouble which you have taken. It is impossible to thank the many who signed the petition and all that we can do, if we so, is to show our appreciation by our work. You must not expect too much. I really believe that

we shall secure a goodly amount of information but you must remember that we shall be working amongst natives to whom we are at most only known by report and, in the more remote parts, are quite unknown.

The main difficulty now is the expense. My leave of absence has been granted on the understanding that I provide a substitute at the University. It is remarkably possible

that the Government of Victoria may provide this if so well + good. The S.A. Government will, I think, provide fillers.

Then there comes the cost of the expedition itself. This I estimate at about £800. We shall of course have to send stores up to various depots and buy horses etc.

I am in hopes that through the kindly help of one of my colleagues - Professor Morris - or

or two wealthy men here may help us. My substitute at the University will cost me £500 which is about as much as I can stand though if the Government will not depay the other expenses - that is about £800 - I will endeavour to manage it some way or another. However in a week or two I hope to be able to tell you that the difficulty of finance has been overcome.

In the course of a month I hope to run over to S.A. to see fillers and fix plans up finally.

Meanwhile my idea is for us to get to Alice Springs (about 3 weeks from Adelaide) and start off north following up the overland Telegraph line as along this we have stations at long intervals which will serve as centres. From these we

can work east + west over
distances which will depend upon
the nature of the season + the
whereabouts of the natives. We
can follow the line as far north
as the Katherine River + then I
propose if possible to strike first
west into the Daly River district
+ then south on to the Victoria River.

All of this is very wild tropical
country occupied by tribes which
ought to yield most valuable results
if we can only get to know them.

I feel certain that this will
yield better results than working through
towards Carpentaria though if time
permits we might spend a month or
two on the Roper River which runs
down into the Gulf. I will write
more when our plans are more
matured.

Kindest regards to Mrs Fraser. Also
please remember me to Dr Jackson +
Professor Bridgway. Yours very sincerely
W. A. Miles