

FRAZER
Terranto Creek (41)

Aug 6. 1901.

My dear Frazer,

Just another line
as there is a chance of sending a
mail away from this outlandish
and (apart from natives) desperately
uninteresting spot. We are

at work amongst the Warramunga
tribe and are just getting into
their ways. By good fortune

they are performing a series of
ritichiuma ceremonies which are
decidedly monotonous but will
enable us to understand things as
nothing else would and they are
most friendly and anxious for us
to see everything. The totem

is quite different here from what
I described to you as obtaining in

the Kaitish + Ummatchera. The
man of the Atom apparently
never eats his Atomic animal or
plant and one set of atoms belong
to one society of the tribe and
another to the other. At the
ceremonies a man of society A
always paints a man of society
B vice versa. Every totemic
group of individuals was formed in
the alchemizing of the Hesperian of
the totemic creature or object.

A great word gave rise to all
the wild people: a black snake
to the black snakes and so on. Then
totemic ancestors were not human
beings.

Yesterday and
today we have been watching
ceremonies concerned with burial
+ the breaking of the iron bones of

the dead person. These ceremonies
are not yet complete. In ten
days we hope to go out with a
few of the old men who are
most anxious to show us some of
their sacred spots and while
with them shall probably learn a
good deal.

We are simply hard at work
from morning till night and I
am sure you will be satisfied with
our results. We are getting
complete photographic records of
everything and have already taken
some 600 plates which mean a
lot of work as we develop + print
off copies on the spot in case of
accident.

Probably we shall be here for
6 weeks yet and hope to reach the

fully about the end of January
when deeply interesting through the
work, is we shall be delighted to
turn our faces homewards. I think
the anthropologic institute might
appropriately award a vote of thanks
to our wives to whom I fear the
anxiety & waiting are rather trying.

It is just beginning to 'warm up'
again and we shall soon be in the
midst of a hot summer.

Kindest regards to Mr. Fraser: I
trust you are both well.

Yours very sincerely

W. Baldwin Spencer.