

FRAZER

(52)

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My dear Spencer

Many apologies for having kept these two sheets so long. But, apart from being busy with other work, I found the account of the relationships very hard reading, though I daresay it could not be made plainer than you have made it. But I would strongly advise the addition of m. or f. to each of the names respectively in the tables of descent, in order to distinguish the sexes. In some parts you may think I have got rather muddled, and perhaps I have. If so, forgive my scrawls, but I have done my best, which may be bad. There is a certain trifling lack

of uniformity in the spelling of
the some of the native words,
which I have called your attention
to - eg. Chupila and Tjupila.
It does not matter which form
is adopted, but having adopted
one it is best to stick to it.

Again as to such trifles as
capital letters, do you prefer

AIcheringa, Intichiuma, Churinga
AItatungja, ^{statinga} Intichiuma, churinga.

I think I prefer the capitals,
as more distinctive, marking out
these important native words
from the English context, and
in Native Tribes of Central

Australia capitals have I
think, been adopted throughout,
so perhaps for the sake
of uniformity we should
keep to them. But that is
of course as you like.

I learn from reviews of
Lang's book "Social Origin"
that he supposes the patriarchal
family to have been the
unit of society since man
emerged from the lower animals,
and the classes and subclasses
to have been formed, not by
subdivision of a larger unit,
but by the accretion of a
number of smaller units. This
is a pretty specimen of
progress and discernment in
anthropology.

I hope to send at very short
intervals. The rest of the proofs

Don't you think it might
be useful to give a complete
list of all the totem clans
you met with (among the
Aranda &c. as well as among

the new tribes), with a brief statement as to the use made of each totem object by the natives? E.g. when the snakes are edible (as perhaps they all are), this might be mentioned. Ordinarily we in England don't think of snakes as food, and so might wonder why ~~so~~ ceremonies are performed for their multiplication. Considering the important part which Totemism plays in the economy of your tribes, it is of interest to know what exactly is the economic use of each totem.

My wife joins me in very kind messages. We trust you are flourishing.

Yours very sincerely
J. G. Frazer