

FRAZER.

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Trinity Coll.
Cambridge.

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My dear Spencer

I was very sorry to hear from your last letter, received a few days ago, that you had been overworking and were obliged to rest. I don't wonder at it. It is a marvel to me how you can get through all you do - the excessively laborious and trying work of exploration, and then the literary work of putting your results into a book, in addition to all your teaching and administrative work as a Professor. How I wish that you could be set free for anthropology entirely! It would be the best thing for the advancement of the subject that I can think of. Meantime - which I fear means a long time, for where is the money to come from to found a professorship of anthropology at

Melbourne or anywhere else?
I hope you will try to take things
easier and not strain your energies
to such an extent as you have
been doing of late. You have
now got your book off your
hands, and may look forward
to getting some reward for
your long labours in the praise
and gratitude of anthropologists
and (I hope) in the more
tangible shape of cash. I am
sure the book will succeed, and
that its very high merits will be
recognized. It is a wonderful
feat to have collected that mass
of materials in comparatively so
short a time. I do hope to have presented it
to you. I was disgusted to hear
of Lang's getting hold of
the missionary (I forgot his
name) and using him to attach
you. His stuff has not yet
appeared in folk. lore, apparently,
but I have not seen the last

number. If he prints the rubbish,
you should point out clearly
how little the evidence is worth
drawn as it is from a tribe that
has been long under missionary
influence. Lang seems to me
to be sinking lower and lower, and
clutching at any straws that
may break his fall. I have
quite ceased to take any notice
of him or to read what he
writes. His last two books I
have not even ~~mentioned~~ opened,
much less read.

I passed the last sheets
of your book for the press a
few days ago. They (the printers)
seemed to have the best of
illustrations complete. I hope
you will find the book correctly
printed. I think that between
us we can have let very few
actual misprints escape. And
I think that the use of italics
and capitals is pretty consistent.

The small verbal changes I made here and there will probably be imperceptible to you, except that I changed "lifts up his hands in holy horror" (about which I gathered you had some doubt yourself) into "protests against it." In the preface I did not alter a word, but ~~changed~~ ^{corrected} the date of the publication of your first book. The date was 1899; you had put 1898.

The Clarks have printed Howitt's book at an astonishing pace - 382 slips (= 764) pages in less than a month. I am glad to hear that Howitt is coming to England to correct the proofs. It will be good for the book and good for him by giving him change and variety of scene after his great loss. I shall be very happy to make his personal acquaintance. In a letter received from him the other day he announces the very interesting discovery that he has found

totems amongst the Kurnai at last. And what is more he has found what I would call negative Intichiuma for diminishing noxious totems, as distinguished from the commoner positive Intichiuma for increasing useful totems. When sharks became too plentiful, a man whose totem was the shark would "sing" the sharks, and they went away.

If traces of Intichiuma are thus found in the most untitled tribe of all to have preserved them, we are pretty safe in inferring that every tribe in Australia must have had them. ~~them~~ This will help to stop the mouths of the asses who bray about the central tribes being sports.

The ~~a~~ new edition of the G. B. goes very slowly indeed just now. I am adding some new sections or chapters, which give me a good

deal of trouble.

I am glad you approve of what I say as to the forms of religion in Australia. As to the suggested explanation of the initiation rites, I admit it rests on very little evidence, but there seemed to me enough evidence to justify me in putting forward the theory tentatively as an hypothesis.

I expect you to criticise quite freely, adducing any contrary facts that may occur to you.

My wife is in Paris with her daughter just now, or would join in all kind messages. My hearty regards and congratulations to you and Gillen on the completion of your splendid book.

Yours very sincerely

J. G. Frazer