



The University of Melbourne.

Apr. 5 1898

My dear W Frazer,

You will I think  
 be hearing from W Macmillan  
 before long with regard to our work.  
 The ms. went home to him three  
 weeks ago though the last paper only  
 left last mail - or rather a few  
 odd drawings + an appendix  
 containing a series of anthropometric  
 measurements.

Dr Hylor has very  
 kindly also been in communication with  
 W Macmillan and with two such  
 advocates I am in hopes that the  
 publishers will not be altogether alarmed  
 at the illustrations asked for. They  
 seem a great many but some of them

will be very inexpensive & I have really been as moderate as possible. The photos have been chosen out of a large series & are fairly representative ones.

There are just a few which, if some have to come out, must not be amongst the lost ones. There are (1) the men on the fire (2) the men with painted backs (3) the Kudavitcha + (4) the Ilapwiniya woman.

To make the work complete we have had to insert at the end a long chapter on the implements & so forth. This necessitates, if it is to be intelligible a considerable number of illustrations and I do not will see how it can be left out but as far as possible illustrations in this might be sacrificed rather than those concerned with ceremonies.

However we will gladly leave the matter in your hands - I trust that you will not have much cause for trouble.

I am not quite sure as to how far we have done right in leaving out reference to the work of other people beyond those who have dealt with the Central Tribes. When I came to cover it such references would have been almost innumerable and as our object has been to simply describe the Customs & organization of these Tribes I determined finally ~~to~~ not to refer except in rare cases to similar customs etc. amongst other Tribes of Australia & elsewhere.

There is however one reference which I intended to add but have not done so & I should be glad if you would kindly do so if you deem that you feel able to read the proof. It refers to B.

Coddington 'Melanesians' & I have written it on a separate sheet. It will come as a footnote on the 21<sup>st</sup> page of the chapter.



on totems in reference to an account  
given therein of how a woman heard a  
spirit child crying 'mida' 'mida' (mother, mother)  
& entering the woman was subsequently  
born in human form.

I have just been reading the ms.  
of a short work written by Miss Howitt  
(daughter of W.A.W. Howitt) on the "Legends  
& Folk-lore of some Victorian tribes". It is really  
a valuable & delightful little work written  
in a most pleasant way & containing much  
that will interest you. The account of magic  
and medicine men is especially good. The  
legends are like those of Mrs Langloh Parker  
but while this part of Miss Howitt's work is, I  
think, quite equal to that of the former, she  
has a second part detailing what is known  
with regard to the customs of the Victorian tribes  
amongst whom Mr. Howitt lived. Mr. Fison is  
very much interested in & pleased with it and  
we are hoping to see it published before very  
long.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely

W. Baldwin Spencer.

Footnote to be added as reference  
on 21<sup>st</sup> page of Chapter dealing  
with Totems.

~~With this reason~~

In connection with this, reference  
may be made to the following  
sentence in Dr. Codrington's "Melanesians,"  
Oxford, 1891, p. 154. "Sometimes a  
woman would hear a Nopitu say  
'Mother, I am coming to you', and she  
would feel the spirit entering into  
her, and it would be born afterwards  
as an ordinary child."