

Frazer

(9)

13 Guest Road
Cambridge

5 May 1898

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for
your very interesting letter of March
8th.

On considering the matter and
consulting with Messrs. Macmillan
we came to the conclusion that in
the interest of the book it would
be best that proofs of it should
be read by Mr. Gillen and yourself.
I felt that with my ignorance of
the native language, not to speak
of the botany, zoology &c. of the
country, I might often be quite
incompetent to detect mistakes
which had slipped into the type-
written copy and had escaped your

eye. My decisions on such matters might oftener be wrong than right, and the result might sometimes be disastrous. It would be a thousand pities if what promises to be a most valuable book were disfigured by blemishes of this sort. Moreover it is very possible that in going over the book in type the authors might wish to make changes in the form or substance, which no outsider could make and which they themselves would be precluded from making if they did not see proofs. For these reasons I think, and Mr. Macmillan entirely concurs, that, after all, the delay caused by sending out proofs to you will be more than compensated by the assurance thus gained that

the book will appear in ^{FRASER} exactly
the form which the authors would
wish it to have. I think you
will agree with us in this. At the
same time I thank you heartily
for the high mark of confidence
you have given me by expressing
your willingness to accept my
offer of relieving you of all
responsibility in the matter, as
well as your willingness to acquiesce
in any arrangement I might
come to with Messrs. Macmillan
for the publication of the book. I
trust that you will find the
terms of the agreement satisfactory.
They are very usual terms — all
expense and risk to be undertaken
by the publishers and the profits
to be divided equally between
publishers and authors. They are the

terms on which my own books are published by Macmillan. Acting on Macmillan's suggestion I ventured to sign the agreement on your behalf. I hope I did not exceed my delegated powers by doing so. A copy of the agreement has, I understand, been sent to you. If you and Mr. Eyllen sign it, the copy signed by me can be torn up.

I have asked that duplicate proofs of the book may be sent to me. I have read the first set with interest and forward them to you with a few trifling suggestions. Thank you very much for your permission to use your materials. It is quite possible that in reading your book I may meet with some facts which I should like to incorporate in the new edition of the Golden Bough which I hope to bring out before the end of the year. I understand from you that I may, of course with full acknowledgement and reference to

FRAZER 9 2

your forthcoming work, cite from
your book any facts that seem
appropriate to my purpose. My book
may possibly be out before yours,
but I doubt it. I have some
months (I expect) of reading before
me before I begin to revise and
add to the text of the first edition,
and after that there will be
the printing. So the chances are I
think, that your book will be
out before mine. Still even if mine
came out first I don't think
that references ^{in it} to your forthcoming
book would injure ^a the sale of
your volume.

So much for business, except
that Macmillan write me that they
expect to be able to give all the
illustrations you want.

Very many thanks for your
most interesting answers to my
questions. I hope to send Mr. Lillen

some questions on Totemism before long,
but I have such a pressure of work
of various kinds just now that I
can't put them together just now. I
am writing to catch the mail.
When does he leave his present post?

I rejoice to hear that Mr.
Fison's health has improved. I had been
concerned to hear of his illness. Please
remember me very kindly to him when
you see him. I have been wishing
to write to him for long, but never
seem to have time to do so.

The dedication of your joint book to
Fison and Howitt is a compliment
which they well deserve.

Yours very truly

J. G. Frazer.