

13/5/99

My dear Roth,

I have been ^{very} most remiss in replying to your letters, but ~~my excuse~~ must be pressure of work which leaves but ^{my} scant leisure. Thanks for the photos of 'Shiney'. I forget where you sd the head is preserved. Is it dried? or preserved in spirits?

I don't quite understand your remarks about the fire sticks.

While there is a doubt about respect, the stick figured as 'Las' in yr book, there seems to me to be quite ^{sufficient} ~~strong~~ enough evidence of the Blacks being acquainted with a method of procuring fire - eg. Cotton's evidence - though the exact ~~process~~ ^{process} is unfortunately of the apparatus used seems to be beyond discovery.

The 'Spectator' ^{in an article nearly written} some time since ^{or} made the astounding statement that there were races of mankind like the 'Las' who ^{down to the present day} were ignorant of the use of fire! But the 'Spectator'

Is it not most probable that it was in what Taylor Antrop's p 200 calls the Polynesian way, pushing the stick pointed stick along the wood in the under side of wood?

Sometimes goes strangely astray & is occasionally hoaxed - as when it ^{unwittingly} printed the story of a Maori who finding a new pair of boots too small deliberately cut off his great toes to make his feet fit the boots! and another story made in all seriousness that the rabbits in Aust^a had developed an adal claw to enable them to climb the scrub ~~when the~~ & feed upon it when grass was scarce. But why laugh at the Spectator when the learned A.D. was so delightfully hoaxed by Rougemont's clumsy fictions. Their gullibility was a huge delight to Australians.

~~I have not seen Moir's collections of flints. Moir lives at some distance from Hobart & I have not seen his collectⁿ of flints, indeed it is only lately that he ~~told me I heard~~ that he had a collection.~~

by the way I notice that the 'tomb' drawings
It has been ^{noted} that I must not draw

XVI. in Ferris Atlas is not by Matt

I only lately heard of Moir's
flints, & have not yet seen them.
His theories about the Stones seemed
which he explained to me,
seemed rather fanciful. I am
glad that Dr Tylor is giving his
attention to the Subject
I have little doubt ^{that you are right in thinking} that Peron's
description of the tombs on Maria
Island to be exaggerated. Both
he & Labillardiere were apparently
imbued with ^{the} Rousseauish ideas
of the noble savage & the State of
Nature wh were in vogue in
their day, and saw the Blacks
through ~~rose~~ ^{rosc} in the light of these
theories. Petit's photos of Petit's
origl drawings wd be interesting, since
it is quite possible they may have
been much 'improved' in the
process of engraving. But we can't
trust too much to these early artists.
They couldnt draw what they saw
they were too intent on making a
picture. Petit's portraits of Tas
Blacks are possible more or less possible

though they fail I think to hit the
race type. Piroris in Labill. Atlas
are quite impossible, espy his women
who might be models of classic beauty.
His 'Femme du Cap de Diemen' is a
 Venus of Milo in ebony. Petit's
The fact that Petit ^{or Agnew} drew only one
form of basket (the familiar one)
is a strong confirmation of the
conclusion at wh^{ch} I think you have
arrived, that the other forms
figured in your first edn are not
Las, but Aust.

The "flints" I am curious to see
what Lyell has to say about the
best Austⁿ flints found by W.
Morton. Their similarity to the Las
~~Aust~~ is very remarkable.

I have just seen Baldwin Spencer's
book, but have not yet had an
opportunity of seeing your brothers.
To judge from the notices I have read it must
be a valuable contribu.

I think that if the Las had carried
sacred stones or sacred pieces of wood
like the Australians.

5
To my mind if the Tas had carried
Sacred stones or sacred pieces of wood
like the Aust^{ns} it is hardly possible
that none wd have been found
on some of those who were killed
in the early fights. To my mind
their absence, like the absence of
the throwing stick, ground stone
implements &c is only another
proof of the separateness of the Tas^{ns}.

~~I am~~ I am curious to see the
maps you I fear the Gov^t maps sent
will have been dis appointing, if
not useless. ~~The Hurst's map~~ Have
you been able to reproduce Mr.
Hurst's map. ~~who wd he draw up~~
~~with the aid of my suggestions & his knowledge of the~~
~~under my direction & which he~~
took a good deal of trouble ^{thoroughly} he
drawn up under my direction, ~~was~~
~~made~~ It was I have said drawn up
under my direction, but Mr H's
knowledge of the localities was a
great assistance. ~~It wd be well~~
It does not of course pretend to
anything like precision, but only
suggests general probability & is
conjectured. Perhaps you cd spare Mr
Hurst a copy of the book.

Fanny Smith

I am looking out with some
impatience for the book.

Disappointed

Aunt - does it care for science or lit

by flourishing.

~~It is not for~~