

-----  
Lambadina Mission,

April 16th, 1911.

Chief Protector of Aborigines,

P E R T H.

Dear Sir, -

According to my promise, I have sent you for the Department:-

1. With the Inspector Sellenger, the skull of a (half-aged) wild native, and his brain in a phial, etc.

2. Recently, care of Corporal Stewart of Broome, four big parcels containing 2 small canoes, 6 long spears, a cradle or "pingen," 3 iron tomahawks, a collection of stone tomahawks, and stone spears, two phials of green powder, a big "Wakeboor" or "Coddor," 2 "Gnaolos" with the native blood, 2 parcels of sticks for make fire, collection of sticks "Faren" they continually use for kill louses one to the other, collection of stones with whom they break their fruits, a collection of their daily food, (different kinds), also of sticks found in their camps, etc.

You may think, perhaps, I have sent you too much rubbish!; but considering that I have selected all the stones, etc. in the peculiar places amongst perhaps more than 200 camps I have visited, they were to me of a special value. I have sent you without exception the whole of my collection, and nothing remains with me.

And now, with this letter, I am sending you also (registered to your address) the aboriginal album with which you were so much interested. The title of this book remained in Spanish on account, as you know, of my former intention to give it to the Lord Abbot of New Norcia (now Bishop and Vicar Apostolical of Kimberley).

I make a true sacrifice in depriving myself of its possession and sending it to you at your request:

but trust that it will be a benefit to yourself and the State if you have it in the Museum, as you intended.

Speaking about this album I must declare and say:-

(1) That in the copy of each figure I have been scrupulous in respecting even the smallest details: I never went away from one cave until I was myself satisfied and convinced of the complete likeness of my copy with the original. So, I can say that the pictures of this album are exact.

(2) I cannot say the same about the exactitude of the measures of each figure: I took them in haste considering the danger of my position, being far away and unprotected amongst those solitary rocks; but at the end I think that they are at least nearly exact.

(3) The classification or number of the caves is arbitrary and only for my private direction in the labyrinth of holes and caves I have found.

(4) I told you in my interview I was disappointed in leaving some <sup>interesting</sup> pictures more of corroborees, etc., in the caves of one place about 15 miles from Mission, want of means for to take them. I wanted 3 men with me (with guns) to allow me to remain two or three days in the place, and I could not obtain. If you are interested in them, I shall go on May with my blacks to copy them (as soon as the reparation of my boat "Salvador" will be finished) and I shall send you at once the picture for to complete this album.

(5) Finally, I have to observe that nearly all the pictures are in the roof of the caves, and not in the walls; that the caves with few exceptions, are small and the roof so low down, that to produce the paintings, or take their copy, I was obliged myself to lay down on

my back in the rock.

Don't be astonished at my intimation of the date of some pictures because my position in some time of my past life gives me, I think, a little knowledge of the matter; notwithstanding I may be in the wrong.

Amongst the objects sent to you in the four last parcels, you will find two phials full of green powder of some leaves which I found in the possession of a wild woman who carried all her things in a piece of my cut sails. This powder was carefully enveloped in the same fine paper bark I have sent you in the phials. The smallest, can you destinate for a chemical analysis; it would be interesting to know the properties it contains. The importance that the natives attach to this powder, and the careful manner with which they envelope and carry it, made me convinced that this powder is, no doubt, a medicine or a nourishing food, as is the Coca in the Bolivian Republic of South America, where the native Indians use it when in voyage taking a pinch two or three times a day, to give them vigour and strength.

The small canoes were made, no doubt, for the children and found them hidden in the branches of a tree, between Vansittart Bay and Napier B. Bay (in the long point front at Graham Moore Island).

If you tell me to go on lay for the pictures, I shall try to catch one long canoe for the Museum.

.....

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,

(Sgd). Father Nicholas P. a. Emo,  
Missionary of Aborigines.