

Sept
Thursday, 16 - 1915 A13/73

Fernand Paul Mission
Nynetham.

Dear Mr. Glauert.

Since writing last note... I should like to add that
in weaving the fibre the women roll it on the leg, as
well as in the hand... & did I mention to you about our
uncovering a sort of fetish amongst our people here... a package
in a tree... it consisted of two coloured cockatoo feathers
& some native paint, rolled in paper bark in layers.
While it excited considerable interest... It appears that
this charm, or other similar is in charge of the witchdoctor
of every bunch of natives, as we know the contents of the
bottle but himself... This was opened in our case & everybody
felt sorry that we should all die as we had liberated
some spirit... we opened the package in opposition to many
protests... Mr. Gribble here is head of the station
and during a conversation tonight he was very emphatic
that no information should be given for any scientific
purpose, & made some strange charges against that
faculty, in their attitude towards missions which I think
personally, are not true. I feel in the matter as I ^{am} keenly
interested in the subject myself, & believe that the best prospect is
for the work of any mission is to know as much about the natives
as one possibly can, and you can understand the difficulties
presented when the head of a station offers objection at any point.
It seems more unfortunate on account of the number of.

influences creeping around us & limiting the area where the
 blocks suitable for scientific research will be available -
 in another few years. all the customs & ceremonies which
 we have an opportunity of investigating now, will be almost
 obliterated - The development of Nyndham - on one side
 & the opening up of cattle country on the Drysdale will
 have far reaching influences as far as the primitive nation
 is concerned, added to this the influence likely to be spread at
 from our own mission centres - and guided by a man
 who is emphatically opposed to any approach other than
 a civilized nature of ^{the human} kind & am more than pleased that
 the 11th monthly exploring party get a record of these paintings
 for our & write to you about them they have been
 disfigured for the reason we were told to prevent any
 enthusiasm or enterprise from people other than our
 own kind. It pains me to point all this out but I
 feel it better that we should know exactly how we
 stand & if our feet fall information is not ~~at~~ up
 to skinheads & can only for the above disabilities under
 which we get information as an excuse -

Yours truly
 John A. Dobson