

35 Rustat Road,

Cambridge.

22nd Oct 1917.

Dear Father,

Thank you very much for your letter with all the enclosures – Mr Percy Smith's letters, the chart of the Chathams, the copy of No. 2 of the J.P.S., the circular re preservation of cave paintings, and the cutting about the war museum. I have already told you that I am using Dieffenbach's account of Chatham Island as being sufficient for my purpose. Yes, I made bad mistake in stating the Morioris to be "perhaps the purest Polynesians." I based my judgement on Eveline Thompson's craniological work which quite swept me off my feet. I will take the first public opportunity of recanting as I have already done by letter to Mr Smith. The Morioris were merely a branch of the Māoris, neither more nor less Polynesian. I have certainly been too rash in some of my printed statements. I hope I have learnt my lesson. I am glad you have got in touch with Mr Kinsey and I hope you will be able to secure me photos of his things.

(Line of text written along the edge of the letter: You might let Mr Smith know this, in case my letter to him has gone down, and also that I will quote what he says in his letter about the vegetation at Chatham Isd...)

Mr Cheeseman writes that his museum will let me have photographs free of charge. I am very glad that my account of the Auckland Museum, to appear in the Journal of the Museums Association, is already in type. No one can accuse me of flattering in return for favours. I certainly have praised the Auckland Museum very highly. I hope it will not be interpreted as an implied slight in the others, e.g. the Dominion Museum.

As regards finance, I quite understand the arrangements you are making, and we both thank you sincerely for them. £20 a month, and my insurance premiums is much more than you promised in the first place. My present financial position is as follows: in my wedding-present and back pay account I have £73, which means that the account has been drawn on for purposes strictly within its scope to the extent of £10 or so. At the present moment I have drawn on you to the extent of almost £95. This is within the allowance, but next month will see some heavy calls, and I may have to overstep the mark a little. However, unless prices increase enormously, I think we should see the first year through at about the estimate. Mr Gibbs is continuing Eva's dress allowance, and he has also established a credit for our general use, though he has specified travelling in particular. This credit we intend not to use except for occasional travel. We drew £5 from it for our expenses when going north this time. But as I have said, we shall not use it unless compelled.

When in Edinburgh I secured a very fine pouwhenua about 5'9" long, very well carved, and highly polished, for 10/-. It is one of the best I have ever seen. I intended to hand it over to the Baron who would have jumped at it, but it struck me that you would like it, so I have stuck to it.

This afternoon I matriculated, no ceremony, fee £5. I also pay £15 caution money, which will be retained.

Will has sent us a number of his things to look after. We all thought his article in "Tales of a Tub" very fine.

Now I must close, as I want to write to Aunt Lucy. Goodbye. Love to you all and best wishes for Christmas from both of us.

Harry

(Written below H.S. in different writing)

This is just a note to say we are safely at home again, and Harry much himself again, tho' still very white and thin. I still keep him in bed for breakfast and Uncle says he should not do much swotty or book work for a time, but be out in the open as much as possible and have lots of rest, and feed up. I am taking a pint extra milk a day for his special benefit and so on, and hope he'll be a credit to me yet. So far we are keeping quite well within our allowance, and I use Dad's money for little extras when we have visitors and for tripping round and so on. Of course Harry's illness will make a difference to this month, still Auntie and Uncle taking us in as they did made a lot of difference in that direction, as well as in our comfort. And should we unavoidably overstep the mark, I've always Dad's 'birthday fund' to draw from to tide it over. But we want to keep it as much as possible for travelling. Winter is on us again, and I have brought a nice cold back with me. I do hope it won't be another season like last! We were so sorry to hear of all the sickness at Carlton St – especially Aunt Lucy – please give her our love, and hope sunny little Nelson will soon do her a world of good. Thank you so much for the cake and sweets – they were very welcome. These P.C's will give you some idea of our travels.

Love from Eva

I suppose this will be a Christmas letter, so love to you all and best wishes for the happiest Xmas possible.

Eva