May 14 1890

My dear Sir,

Accept my best thanks for your kind & friendly letter and for the invitation therein contained. I am quite prepared to entertain the idea of writing a book for your 'Contemporary Science Series' – I would much like to hear what suggestions you have to offer on the matter. Personally I rather incline to a general work on Anthropology written from a biological point of view and not as is usually done, from the 'anthropological' standpoint.

I think it should be possible to bring out the essentially geological character of the study & thus help to reconcile Biologists to it! For example. Archaeology is the Palaeontology of Anthropology, & shall only be treated as such. Much of Folk-lore (If the term may be allowed) is 'psychological Palaeontology':^ Savages are an “arrested” or “generalised type,” like Chitons – Peripatus, Amphioxus, the Mud-Fish &c. etc. The Geographical distrib. of man has many correspondences analogues with that of animals waves of migration. Insular types, forms persistence of low types in the fag ends of continents. Pygmies in the Andaman & in Central African forests. Australians comparable with their own Kangaroos – The geographical distribution of manufactures & especially that of art is now interesting me & I am making a special study of Papuan art, & its local developments, its evolution & devolution.

The development of customs, & beliefs, ceremonial & so forth of handicrafts & fabrication are embryological features.

If you think this line of thought articulate worth following out I will draw up a skeleton for you. (should you desire it).

In writing a general anthropology one would be putting oneself in direst comparison with Tylor & his little imagine and most excellent book; but I fancy that such a as I have sketched out my book^ should have an so sufficiently anxxx as causing distinct scheme to avoid xxxxxx any unpleasantness.

I know the books already published in your series. I am much pleased with them. In Geddes & T. – Taylor & Gomme’s there is a distinct influence of the Zeitgeist. The first and the last certainly appreciate the practical value of their work in reconstructing institution. I am increasingly seeing the importance of anthropological work and heartily echo your wish to cooperate in any movement for putting anthropology in England in its proper position.

Believe this to be - yours vy faithfully

A. C. Haddon