

William Cooper to Rev. Ernest Gribble, 31 October 1933, E. R. B Gribble Papers, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 1515, Box 11, Item 66

I am Pleased to have receive the Book safly and in order, I have not had time to have a read it as you know I have so Much Writing [to] do at Present, hope to start with it next week, I am sorry to say I have not received any reply from any of the Members up to now, in the Event of me not getting a reply within a few day, what would you suggest in doing in this Matter, I will be glad to receive any information you wish to suggest to me, as I want all the help I can get in this Great work I have taken on, I did not get any sympathy from any of the Church people here in Melbourne. The Government and our Christian People are very dull on this question, I am at a lost to know why. as I am sure they know their responsibility for the Aboriginal people, the Aboriginals are men women and Children and same as we are in Gods sight, God [h]as made us after his own image and Left with us the fear of himself, the same as he did with the White races, and if Everyman had the same respect as you have for [the] Aboriginal race there would be no sufferage for their race of People, I feel sorry for my People that have got in Contact with the worst side of Civilisation that has bought to them Corruption and Diseases which is a problem at self for these people to get rid of, I have a longing to be near you. I feel sure you would be a great help to me in this good Cause Which I have taken on. my education is not what I would like it to be, it seems a struggle to me to keep up to the standard I have got the worke up to, but all the same I am sticking to it to the end, I wrote to rev. J. Noble some months ago and have not received any reply from him, I would liked to have got in touch with him, he may have been a good help to me. I received a letter from one of my friends in Western Australia who has kindly offered to help me in getting signatures, I have forwarded a copy of the Petition, also received another from Mr Craig at Cairns giving me a helping hand, I have also sent a Copy of the Petition to him. I have received a list of names from South Australia about 160, and I should soon be getting a number of others in a few days now—I have not been home for some time but hope to go home at Xmas time, and will remember you to Bobby Cooper, I am sure we would like to see you, so if you should have the Luck to come our way dont forget to give us a call.

Now Mr Gribble I thing [i.e.think] I shall draw to a close with kindest regards to you & your family.

I beg to remain yours faithfull friend.