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ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY,

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28th October, 1931.

Arthur Grimble, Esq., C.M.G.,
Ocean Island, via S Y D N E Y.

Dear Mr Grimble,

Mr Kennedy has sent me your paper on Gilbertese Astronomy, and I was very pleased to get it for the Journal. It has always been difficult to get anything of astronomy from the Maori, probably because he has given up navigation for so many years; his ocean voyaging ceased one or two centuries ago. But I know from personal experience how keen even the modern Maori is to learn about the stars, especially what his forbears knew of them; those same forbears must have carried away much lore we should like to have on record.

I wonder if you have ever heard of the magic calabash - the gourd-sextant of the old Polynesian voyagers? Admiral Rodman learned of it in Honolulu, and whilst his conclusions were doubted by the Museum people, they seem to be winning recognition.

Mr Kennedy tells me you have some migration myths collected; - I hope there may be a chance of our seeing them, and getting them, in the original and translation; we like to get the original ^{rendering} record of old things on record, as you may have noticed in the Journal. It seems odd in a way that the Gilbert people did not have the nights of the moon all named - most of the Polynesian peoples seem to have had complete lists, and we published quite a number of comparative lists not long since. Are there authentic lists of star names other than the names in your paper, which will appear in the December number?

Again thanking you, and hoping to hear from you again,

Yours sincerely,

Johannes Andersen

Joint Editor.