A Missionary life has much to discourage him; labouring principally among a people who are so naturally simple that without being constantly watched over & assisted they are liable to instability, and I now feel particularly on this head. My Colleague dead, myself sick, and the weather so rainy, that our friends cannot always visit the country places even on Sundays. This makes me tremble lest the crafty enemy should take this opportunity of raising discord, and all I can do for them is to beseech God in their behalf. and besides this there are other things. But on the other hand I am as happy at times almost as any soul can wish; I would not then give up my dear People for an Emperor's Crown. I trust my dear Father you will take my situation into consideration, and send me help which may be here by January next, I hope no means to exceed February as I expect the Rains will be early next year from their late ~~earliness~~ this, but there is no doubt but they will be more favourable. In reference to this help I can assure you I am certain nothing can or will be done here effectually with only 2 Missionaries. My Reasons are. First, this station is not I am persuaded like any other we have. A man cannot do here what can do in the East Indies. The Church Missions here, have each their seperate station. This Country not formed by nature for itinerating from 1 to 2 (as I mean to be the itinerants.) many times the trade a Mile or Mile & half in almost momentary expectation of Rain, which if it fell would without doubt produce fever; and if we stay at home our dear People are disappointed. Again, if one falls sick the work is sure to buy the other down. Now 3 Missionaries might be placed usefully and have plenty of work. 2 Might stay in Fromdhy would have 4 places and find as much work as they could possibly do. The other might be placed at Cape Town, where nothing great can be effected till this is the Case as they are so far from us. He might keep School (the Boy of ours there be removed to Portuguese Town, where he is much wanted) and find two or three Stations of houses, where he might occasionally preach. This one could regularly change once in 3 or 6 Months with those in Town when if one should be taken sick, the other could step forward that part of the work which should be judged of most consequence. I trust my dear Father will not think I am dictating what they shall do. I only submit it for your consideration. I can assure you it is not only my opinion, but that of others who are well acquainted with the subject and with whom I have consulted. The generally way here with the Missionaries in the Mountains is to call their People together at day break every Morning, and I think it is 8 O'Clock evening for reading and Prayer; this is surely the best way, it keeps them from wandering, but this we cannot do without more help. You will no doubt feel the loss of my Colleague, but your loss is small when compared to that of the Church Missionary Society who have already lost 3 besides the Chaplain of the Colony who died since my last to you and I think Mr. Lemm the present Chaplain tells me they had lost 2 before this station since its establishment. I am happy to say the greatest harmony exists between myself & the Church Missionaries. In reference to persons who may be appointed for this station I would beg leave to observe I great care must be taken in reference to their Habit of Body. Persons of a costive habit will by no means do for this Climate. My poor departed Colleague suffered much from this inconvenience that a few days before he was taken sick he was taking some kind of Medicine or other every day. My Surgeon tells me that he is certain he is worse since his coming to this coast, & so will any the Person of this habit; this is also a bad thing in as that bines are easily at Bay, so that nothing could do for Mr. Gillesby but Glysters. Persons costive must be free from inward complaints a broken constitution will not get better here. Persons of a Phlegmatic habit are not fit for this Climate. Cheerful open Zealous persons best suit here, in this respect my Colleague was admirably suitable. Persons who have been used to Stoves and Coles will be better fitted to stand the extreme dampness of these Rains than any who have been used to the warmth of a Room all their Lives. If they could be been yet strong they would suit better than a full habit. — In reference to the clothing some alterations would be much for the better. Some good strong shoes, the bottoms made as tight as possible a Pair of short Boots laced at the top under the Pantaloons. with very thick strong tight soles. I have been obliged to buy a pair here & I know not what I could do without them, tho they are but thin in the bottoms. I could be glad if I had a pair of shoes for ~~big~~ enough to wear outside another pair, nothing is better in this country than those. It would be very well also for all shirts to be cotton, the Linen ones in the rainy Season are like ice when wet, which makes us change often and this is weakening. Some woolen Stockings are indispensably necessary here

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Nov. 9th

The Plan I mentioned in a former letter, of a School at Rondebosch about 2 miles off, I still look at as one which promises much good. It would cost something