

## Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 30 April 1851

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[0001]

Boatlanama 30<sup>th</sup> April  
1851

My very Dear Friends

recieved a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Pyne on the 19<sup>th</sup> April and as we were putting our stuff into the waggons I could not answer it. We are now on the route to the Lake & are engaged in drawing water out of the deep wells of Boatlanama. the oxen making a dreadful lowing because they have been two days without water, so you need not expect fine writing. I expect some of them will tumble themselves into the wells before morning and force us to eat them. this will be taken back by a Mokalahari and I hope you will hear by it that I recieved your favour written it seems in a hurry as this is. We are going North again. the country is drying up. The Kolobeng is losing its pools even and the people must annobe whether they will or not there are many reasons why we should go to the regions beyond but yet it is a venture. We venture our all and who would not for such a Saviour "Lo I am with you." Be it so our Lord. thy presence is enough.

We feel much when we look at our children going into a fever country But we all belong to the Great Redeemer and let him do what is good in his own sight May we all be resigned in all circumstances to his will. And active in our duty to him & the souls of the sinful brethren

[0002]

There is nothing interesting in this part of the world. All is dead and stagnant the fields burned up. the grass crumbles in the hand like powder. People lost their crops again. and all looking as if coming out of Typhus fever. the caffre war raging. The Hottentots rebelled All looks like confusion worse confounded. the Damanas on the west the Boers & caffres on the East and Mosilikatse shews some symptoms or arousing himself in the North East but Jehovah reigns. We may trust Him for he is able to set all right and He will in his own way

the reason why I write now is a selfish one  
We wish to trouble you again. M<sup>rs</sup> Pyne's taste in choosing  
dresses is so highly gauged in the interior of Africa  
we beg to put her to it again. We send a notice to  
D<sup>r</sup> Tidman that he is to pay M<sup>r</sup> Pyne £10 on demand  
and this is to be laid out in clothing for my better half  
& children. Some dresses for M<sup>rs</sup> L  
Some stuff for making boys trousers  
Lining for dresses &c &c sowing cotton  
tapers  
A piece of good flannel (Not Welsh)  
a piece of unbleached calico - (coarse)  
A piece of cap wire & ribbon  
three woven small shawls - A piece of diaper  
Regulate the amount by the money sent. And send in  
the usual way at your convenience. Dont put  
yourselves to any trouble. We shall [not] be out so soon  
[0003]

as we were last year. that is if as successful as we hope  
We shall probably go beyond Sebitoane seeking an elevated  
locality. We shall of course write you on our  
return, and give you the particulars. At present we  
have nothing to speak about but our hopes &  
fears. Of these we have an assortment on hand  
and you must pray for us that we may be made  
faithful even unto death. Was Manning Prentice  
married? Sorry to hear of M<sup>r</sup> Cecil's illness but  
we can not condole with any one for we are all  
so far away. If we condoled with a widower  
he might be laughing with his new wife by  
the time we reached him. If with a widow  
she might be married to another and almost forgetting  
that she had ever had another husband or if with  
anyone else it might come upon them like ripping  
up old sores. Matters go on as usual among us Our children are our cue. Thankful to say all  
well  
they have a weary time of it in the waggon  
Kind love to all of yours. Mary &c from  
both of us. Excuse me troubling you so

Ever Affectionately

Yours

David Livingston  
[0004]

Prepaid

Benjamin Pine Esqu<sup>e</sup>

Wildingtree

Ongar, Essex

England