

Letter to Robert Moffat 1, 8 September 1846

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[0001]

Chonuane 8 Sep^r 1846

My Dear Father

As we are in daily expectation of the arrival of your better half we feel as if the worse did not deserve a letter This is plain enough is it not? It is perhaps rather a sort of nervousness produced by stretching our necks frequently to see if the waggon is in sight that quite indisposes us to write. We wish heartily she would come & relieve our suspense May be after all she is single at supper giving the meat two taps with her knife before she cuts it by way of alagaing it to make it more digestible

A report furnished by M^r Lauga respecting the party of M^r Arkwright & Christie made us think a little. We saw nothing improper in their conduct while proceeding Northward and now that M^rA. returns We have neither seen nor heard anything which induces us to believe M^rL.'s report as having originated in him M^rA. has been here three days & neither he nor his people have shewn any disposition towards illicit intercourse. He is the son of a clergyman
[0002]

& if there is truth in what M^rL. mentioned it must have been perpetrated by Christie & not by Arkwright the latter I believe abstains from traveling on Sunday in accordance with a request of M^r Ashton and if he has so much respect for a missionary as to accede in one particular he surely would not be guilty attempting to take a prostitute into his company a deed he knows would soon be published over the whole country. We have found him agreeable & kind & he has during his whole sojourn here behaved like a gentleman I say this much because I feel it would be unfair to condemn any one unless the evidence is pretty strong & decided. Both M^rA. & M^rCh. have English servants who have

been soldiers. They may have given occasion
to the report above referred to

We go on much as usual. Walls of school
six feet high Measurement 48 by 20 this morning
Hope to finish it this month We have much better
soil for building where the school is than we had
in this house - A pie[...] came last week & passed
on to the Bamangwato All is peace But we are
sorry to hear a report of Cumming lying ill at the
Bakaas Hope it is not true Paul was in
[0003]

jeopardy last week: two Buffaloes attacked a party cutting
reeds & after trying in vain to lift two Bakwanas from
the ground ran off the men were hurt but will
recover the guns were at a distance & they had no trees
A Hottentot is left here with a broken thigh bone
For two things I can feel toothache & broken bones
M^rA. presented me with an excellent gun in its case &c.
He has shewn great likeability & is very thankful for
very small favours Brunghere to do all the good we
can it is pleasant to meet here & there with those
who feel that we are of some use The Land is
full of Griquas seeking their new location
alias filling their bellies with Eland fat No new
information respecting the boers except that they
are anxious to know where Mosilikatse is in order
to attack him ordered Sechele to send men to advise
Sekhonia to find it out for them This S[echele] does not
feel disposed to do

I send to you three full grown fruits of the
Mōana kindly brough by M^r Arkwright. Will
you when convenient send them & the Thama
to India? The Roots of the Thama dry up &
will not keep

Am happy to hear you proceed with the translation
Will you put P. I. above Isaiah as I. H.
above Sehela 49 I always laugh when I think
of my hymns. Spelled the new way too sharing the
[0004]

fate of Pharaoh's fat kine they were devoured by
the lean ones & yet the illfavoured are the worst in all
the land of Egypt still. Something of the sort will
happen if yours & his are brought with coaptation
How will the following motion in next Com. do
"that as certain friends of M^rL. ignorant of the
fact that he took no part in the translation of the

new testament have produced the impression in the country that he has not recieved his full share of the honours belonging thereto, We now avoid the production of a similar impression by referring his translation of Isaiah to the Judgements of our esteemed bretheren of the French Society” Translate Isaiah by all means & five have nothing else we can at least compare I cannot see that you should take any notice of his doings If his own bretherenwont print it for him why should we? Will bad translations please us more easily than them?

Is no protest to be entered against the keeping back of the Directors letter. Was it not concocted thus by E. R. & I. The third triumvirate I feel inclined to abandon the Com as a root of Rotteness - We shall write by Plaid on & its well - They will soon be here Our date tree has come up & we expect more