

Letter to Hamilton M. Dyke, 20 May 1847

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Kuruman 20 May 1847

My Dear Brother

Having come out here for the purpose of attending meeting of Committee held at Likatlong, we have found it necessary wait for an expected addition [^][to] our family. The delay although pretty employed in preparations for another campaign is rather to a head pretty full of plans &c. which we hope to see in for the benefit of our people. But it gives a little for correspondence and I am happy to avail myself of it the purpose of acknowledging your most welcome letter I have not brought it with me. I shall therefore be to do the needful from memory, and first of all the books mention I have not in my possession. I need not add if had you should be most welcome to a perusal. I wish you happiness in your intended union. It is a state the jokes we can pass upon it which can impart large amount of true happiness, and a good deal of that on not expecting too much from each other expects his partner to be anything like perfect will as Goldsmith it "find his goddess made of clay" and will be about as little pitied an occasional ejac. of "poor fellow" as a person affected sea sickness. We have not heard whether you had proceeding . Indeed there has been a dearth of news from your for some time past. I felt amused when informed that must go to the Consistory or what ever else they call it Ordination and your old friend D^r Philip to be left out had imagined that this climate helped to make us forget some of our clerical foibles But perhaps the Atmosphere you live in more of the Antique than ours.

A short time previous to coming to this place we paid a long to a number of the tribes lying Eastwards of Chonuane have felt anxious to place a native teacher with one of but the fact of Boers living in that region and authority over all its inhabitants presented obstacles

[0002] the accomplishment of our wishes. I endeavoured to remove disinclination of those worthy landholders [to our plan] and found that [^][in] my presence was easily effected while [in] my [absence] absence their aversion was just the same as ever. they hate us cordially. Indeed one old "Christian" the chief we wished have a settlement with to assassinate humble servant. Our visit will have one good result natives now know that there are some white men are not Boers. they shewed considerable confidence us and especially those who when in subjection to

Mosilikatse had been visited by missionaries - Mogale whome a whole range of Hills is called Mogalesberg is completely the thumb of the Commandant Kruger. I could not get man to bring me a bit of Tin ore from a hill a mile or two unless I should ask leave first of his excellency the boer said it is not now my land. I can do nothing in it except Gen^l K.. We had good meetings there and I believe that time we were about due North of you. Still farther the East and about the latitude of Chonuane 24° 30' S. the Bagalaka M^r Arboussie if I remember rightly speaeks them in his work. Mokhopane or Secoamari is of one section, a little fat talkative fellow. We other two sections of the Bagalaka - and saw the of others in the distance. Mañk[h]opane chief of Bamapela is a young man not more than 20 and yet dictu has 48 wives and 20 children - the latter all much resembling himself in feature - these people their numbers exceed anything I have seen in this , had never seen a missionary before - I was ashamed to be called a Sekoa for the only Makoa know are men who treat them as the beasts of field. It would make you melancholy were I to all the tales of sorrow

& oppression I heard. I gave credence to those I heard from the Boers themselves do so & so said they I dont. On the side of the oppressor is power - The people are rich in cattle but have

[0003] fire arms - so the emigrants carry it all their own way. I shall you a specimen of what that really is On the month previous my visit three or four boers moved up to Mankopane's herds noon day & singled out 30 of the finest cattle & 50 sheep - and off. they did the same in another tribe about 8 miles off we came the people ran up the rocks in fear and the chief me the reason was the Boers came into their towns drunk their and abused their women &c. and what can we do? "We hold our on our mouths because we have no [...]" Are these fellows sowing the seeds of a future Caffre war? When I told the of this deed he pretended to know nothing at all about He promised to look after the thieves & said that they belonged a party which would obey no Gov^t. the Boers believed that object was to obtain information from natives respecting commando they made on a defenceless [^][but rich] man called Melechoe that I wished to introduce guns among the tribes. By the if one Hartley an English trader comes into your house may remember that he formed one of that Commando people I daresay wondered at our curious ways - preaching &c. they could understand but little by one visit and it so distant we cant go often. We were 19 days travelling we reached our farthest point. the Limpopo or

Ourie makes an enormous bend down there coming from North thus & recieving two large

rivers itself becomes

Malinokawith a truly magnificent stream. A rich country iron & tin are all worked. the ores rich. We bought few spindles & distaffs with cotton yarn But what a scene land will present in the great day. What multitudes never heard the glad sound. But my space is done tipa tseta is to spin there Is it so with you. they have great deal of the ole sound in their dialect

What funny chaps you are over there in Committee. You away Lenine & Langa from a station which required all energy to keep afloat. And then place a young man instead

[0004] these two hard working veterans. Is this your way of allowing a to die a natural death? If it does the blame wont fall on the shoulders. I feel compassion for M^rFrideaux left at this of his experience among such a people But this is between .

Please present very kind regards from M^{rs} L & self to your esteemed & sister Cassilis, and to your better half if indeed you secured the Rib additional. M^f & M^{rs} Moffat do the same latter wrote from Likatlong. there are no news . All goes on as it was in beginning, is now &c

Yours ever more D Livingston

Rev^dH. T. Dyke

Basuto Country

~~care of Revd T. Atkinson, Colesberg~~