

## Letter to Robert Moffat 1, 13 August 1845

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[0001]

Mabotsa 13 Aug 1845

My Dear Father

The bearer of this to Moiloe is a Mokwain by Khake to announce the death of Bube, which place a few days ago. As you may not hear correct version of the circumstances which that even, I may mention that it was by an explosion of gunpowder. The had been out hunting elephants, and having none thought the reason must have been their ammunition not being charned. The men were therefore requested to try same medicines they employ in charming spears. All the powder in the town collected on a kaross & the three principal with medicine burning (roots, I suppose) close, and pointing the stuff to the combustible uttered a sort of whistling incantation explosion burned Bube nearly all over. His was nama hela The others suffered chiefly the limbs & face. From their description the quantity of powder, it seems to have been 10 or 12 ( lbs.) in amount. They sent to Mabotsa for medicine, but was gone to Sechele's. Having followed me I gave them a note to Mary, and the

[0002] fellows trudged all the way back again. But

Bube was no more before the medicine arrived people don't wish it to be known in what way fire was communicated to the powder. They there was no fire near, and as some of the was procured from Sechele they may it to have been bewitched. But the above I received from some Bamaleti who there at the time the accident happened, who can have no motive for falsifying it.

In my last by Paulo I informed you of our to leave Mabotsa as soon as possible took our trees & planted them as the first step sufficient ground for three large gardens a gun, some ammunition & beads. Sechele he never expected that we should buy it the whole of the plot being cultivated I could request him to remove his people from gardens without remuneration. He was pleased with the price. In the event of it is stipulated that the missionaries to receive an equal amount of garden for nothing. I intend to build a good house, whether the station be permanent not, we shall have the pleasure of it there. Mary says this is not an inch large for us. I got next week to begin &

[0003] I am no longer with it that I was with this, it be fit for residence in December or January should have left this week, but did not like to my dear rib to encounter M<sup>r</sup> ( E) alone. I left note for M<sup>r</sup> ( E) when I went last time. Mary had delivered it when I arrived & he had not troubled . The note was to the effect "that he M<sup>r</sup>E to set his mind completely at rest respecting leaving Mabotsa; he might consider the establishment as entirely in his hands" – in order to prevent him conceiving I did this now order to impede his Colonial journey, I stated I did it simply to relieve his mind from great anxiety he seemed to feel for my . I shall not alter my plan of preaching keeping school while here, though I have renounced with the station. I likewise requested to furnish his letter to the Directors in its form only. I intend making use of my of it in that form & no other.

I greatly long to hear what you have of our correspondence. I did not wish keep up the quarrel, but did not see the probability of any amicable arrangement come to by our meeting alone. I do not it by our meeting at all, but the perversions he has penned of what said made me afraid again to come into

[0004] with him the very first "charge" is false never charged him with putting out a member from . And all the others are culled out of the

"interview" Now when I saw by the written charges he had shifted the ground of his attack entirely believe unless I had a witness to attest what might he might get something more against me

M<sup>r</sup>Edwards has not put a single point against exactly as it happened. Now I had no witness . I should have been very glad of an interview I only had one witness. In what I wrote tried to be frank & plain. I believe as I told before when he got the assurance that I should he gained the point he wished from first. Had Ashton not been as he has been second conjecture I made would I have no before this been verified. My going to

Sechele is however against the realization their hopes. You will have seen by his note I sent by Boe that had he known my intention to have another station would have waived all this "row" he would have cried & groaned before you not he he only known that the "nonentity" probably withdraw himself from immediate vicinity of his supreme importance

Pilanie seems to think him as much a nonentity I am for in his recent visit

[0005]

Pilanie went out of his way But let it be known he thinks him "a child of Mosielele" Pilanie said his last visit to Mosilele, Edwards O'mpehile from ; ñuana oa Mosielele hela eo. M<sup>r</sup> ( E) gave him present when here. I gave him nothing – If he of is so much esteemed, what must I be? think I did not tell you of the grand conference Kings once projected to take place at Motito.

Sebegoe Moiloe Mokhatla Mahura Andries &c &c &c all to be there. Sebegoe was sent for [^][here] and to go. He thought Edwards wanted to betray him was sent for & found the poor man did not what to make of M<sup>r</sup> ( E)'s earnest entreaties

M<sup>r</sup> ( E) thought I would assist him, I unfortunately a doubt about the safety of Sebegoe himself into some of their hands and the congress was knocked on the head

Sebegoe said he would go if I would take but I did not feel inclined to interfere kingly affairs. I dont remember that you to [^][be] one of the party but Ross, Helmore &c were. I think of it now as if it have been very fine – I now hear car passing the window, but we dont letters by him.

[0006]

I have taken out two door frames, & two of the frames I intend to take <sup>also</sup>. If this house is a meeting house of it will not need the frames and if he makes it a dwelling house M<sup>r</sup> ( E) can make others more easily than I dont think spite will allow him to do anything it. If the inside walls were removed it would a much better church than that at Motito

Mebaloe goes with us. I said not a word to him when digging up the trees he came & asked if should help him by taking his. I replied that I contemplated removal I had not thought requesting him to move, I had wished to get to go forward with me. To this he requested I had any fault to find with him not to hide it on my saying I had no fault but supposed he had at great expense cleared out all the out of a fine garden, built a good house, &c thought he would prefer to remain and another could go me as assistant, he then entreated me to him to go forward & let the other of whom spoke remain here & take his place. To even I would have objected had M<sup>r</sup> ( E) not his letter to the Directors quite discarded him

The chief made many objections and it was with difficulty I could remove the impression

[0007] I had some cause of dissatisfaction either in him or . Had any one stolen anything? He would give immediately that no one should from that day beg. If any one had vexed us Tell who it is & shall punish him. Were we tired because the hearts the Bakhatla were hard he explained that the of all Bechuanas were so & he could observe were just about to begin [^][to]

give way to the preaching the word. If any one wished to believe he was liberty to change his customs &c. I tried to persuade that I was not in the least dissatisfied with him or his people. I promised to mend his for him where I was in future as if I were living him, &c. but they all say "Loa re latla" did not expect they would have shewn like the concern for our leaving they do. It made me sorry for there many of the younger men who seem to affection for us and I suppose that might have been the means of them to the Saviour. I hope they be converted although not by our instrumen[-]  
-tality

We have sown a great many garden seeds to us by M<sup>r</sup>Methuen. The endive [a]ch, turnip, marigold wurzel & Knights early have come through the ground

[0008] so lettuces & carrots, so we shall have vegetables have got three large Swedish turnips - intend them seed. None of our onions have come up, the seems bad. I am very sorry the olive is but there is hope in the roots. There are olives at the bottom of our garden at Chonuane. The soil is black deposit at some parts small portions of limestone . The banks of the stream are clayey water is small but it will serve. The of success in the great object of mission is greater there than here. The are not so degraded as we found Bakhatla. The people there all profess be highly pleased with the prospect of residence among them. Sechele is a wall round his town, it contains for shooting. The shape of the is a sort of triangle and the base line longer than the wall in front of both at Kuruman

From what I have said of our plans will understand that we cannot come a committee till February. I suppose the will make some allowances for convenience as well as for ( Mrs ) ( E )'s