

Letter to Hamilton M. Dyke, 1 December 1851

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Kolobeng 1st December 1851

My Dear Friend

I was pleased a few days ago to receive an epistle you containing some statistics with which I have you. they seem to have driven your own domestic out of your head for you do not mention your half - so I conclude she is dead and I am now my widowed brother Dyke. Have you no either? You must try and remember that every is not so transcendental as yourself. I for one to hear how the families of my friends get on. I don't scandal but I give you an example by telling that I have four children - three boys and a girl the fifth a little girl is in Heaven. I must soon with them for the region to which we go to settle is a feverish one and though one may dispose his own life in the way he thinks best for His 's glory - he can scarcely be said to have the of his children at his disposal. How do you em-your time? Do you think the young are likely to a set of model Christians? Are they better the whole than those who have believed after they grown up? We have a theory that though the have not become great things yet your hopes ought be sustained by the expectation of great things to be among the young. We seem to think we shall a set of model Christians from among young. And I begin to doubt whether the notion sound? Are we models ourselves? Providence Tahiti out of our hands and we are deprived the Hottentots. Are we not taught that our ideas doing wonders with the young are erroneous. Our seems to be to preach the gospel to every creature those who believe will be saved those who believe not condemned. A great number of both become manifest

[0002] both young & old. though I have plagued you for , excuse me while I beg a few more. If convenient you let me know - How many years the Basuto Mission been established. What the average missionary force in each years of the time. [with] What [expense or a rough guess at it] the average number of in each seven years. Can you furnish any of the Wesleyans. Don't turn up your nose the work I would fair extract out of you. You seem rather a desponding turn of mind. Some such work your leisure moments will do you good. this is medical opinion so you must bear with me.

I sympathize with you sincerely in your afflictions know it must be extremely trying to you to see defections the church. the world may deride & scorn but you the sympathy of your bretheren in Christ and far of Our great High Priest in the Heavens. Here we nothing to encourage. the people have had no corn four successive years, and have now removed about 8 miles up the Kolobeng. I would remove with them they are so badgered by Boersthey have in addition the hunger no heart to learn. God has by his good opened up for us a large field on the North we may either enter in there & work for Him or & build again in order carry forward his work among Bakwains. the former seems to me to be the best the Divine glory and I am now going Southwards order to deposit my family some where and then for the Interior work. the existence of African renders this step necessary. the whole country Sebitoane so far as we saw it is an immense marsh is intersected in every direction by numerous rivers these overflow annually & cover many miles [...] [sur]face. the higher parts are only a few feet above surrounding lowlands. Tsetse abounds, we lost about 40 oxen - a wonderful insect. It only affects domesticated . We lived two months in the midst of it children were bitten and recieved no harm. and may see Pallahs waterbucks, buffaloe Zebras &c &c

[0003] undisturbed in the very midst of the venemous insect Calves not killed by it so long as they suck their dams but dogs fed on die. Its poison is fatal to domestic animas only but is a husband not as much as domestic animal as calf. Let such beware.

the Sesheke we believe to be the main branch of the Zambesi is from 300 to 500 yards wide - and when it overflows extends fifteen miles out. Date trees abound and so do and other trees which were new to us. Sugar cane sweet potatoes are planted by the Barotse And slave has begun among them. A party of Nambari tribe from the Nor West came last year and carried about 800 slaves. they brought lots of English to purchase slaves with. Blue [...] & cottons. Blue red & green baize. they would take ivory or cattle in exchange. The people Sebitoane are a mixture of Bakwains, Bamangwato

& . the River tribes a black race speaking another are subject to them. I tried M^r[...] but they seem to have adopted more words than Suto. And could understand me when I read M^r Moffats testament. He [(Sebitoane)]has done service to us in introducing the Sitchuana in that We found people every where who understood us the river languages differ as much from Sitchuana Latin does from English. there is an immense on the rivers - very black & strong but not . they excell all in basket making & as smiths & workers in wood. Iron & honey abound in country and they seem to have abundance of food was to our inexpressible sorrow that Sebitoane fell & died while we were there. We hope God will establish kingdom in that dark region.

Present our kind regards to M^r & M^{rs}Cassilis and to
M^{rs} Dyke. And believe me affectionately yours
D Livingston

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Rev^dT. H. Dyke
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