

Letter to John Arundel, 22 December 1841

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should feel greatly obliged by a communication however short. Please let me know how you are in health, my sheet filled & I have not said half of what I would but I shall write you again I hope a more connected *letter*, Yours affectionately

(D) Livingston

Kuruman22 (Dec) 1841

My Dear Sir

You kindly permitted me to address you occasionally private communication and though I have now been away England more than twelve months I have no yet availed of that privelege but I have not delayed long. I have been long from England but I have only been but very short time here. My time has been spent in the long journey to this place and recently I have returned another pretty long journey beyond it– I undertook latter journey by the advice and with the approbation of

M^{rs} Hamilton & Edwards to whose counsels I was commended the Directors before leaving home. The object of it was to the state & disposition of certain tribes lying north & East of this. They had frequently sent messages to brethren requesting missionaries and as frequently the were anxious to visit them but Mr (E.) could not Mr Hamilton alone for so long a period as was necessary it was only when we arrived that the way seemed open the Interior is to be my field of labours I confess I was glad an opportunity of entering it at this time

Our journey was in going & returning at least 700 miles length, but though so long we were not at any time than 250 directly North. This however is farther that direction than any missionaries have yet been. In case the people had not before seen a white face and some others only one, (viz.) that of an enterprising trader has frequently penetrated far beyond anyone else were however everywhere received with respect and those tribes situated farthest off even with kindness was astonished at the difference observable near to mission stations. Within a distance of 100 miles, the who do not live actually on the stations are violent of the gospel. They partially know the of the gospel. They know they must put their superfluous wives &c &c, and on their they hate it cordially. They wont listen. the to please the teachers call the people together but the know the minds of the chiefs & they refuse to come flocked round the waggons for medicine & would talk any subject except that which of all others is the important to be known, And I was pained to the scorn thrown on the name of Jesus when thought I did not hear them. One chief got a dance round Mr Hamilton lately to drown his while preaching. This was an outrage that

[0002] not be committed by any other chief but himself but though openly opponents to that extent they are no less certainly to preaching. When I say this I dont refer those situated far beyond us. These know nothing of the nor of missionaries except that we are good people & friendly with all. But they equally with those nearer & to a greater degree possess an impression that

Europeans are a decidedly superior race of people & it be dangerous to provoke our enmity, the respect their opinion of us, it must have undergone a complete in the space of the last 20 years. And to what all to attribute this favourable change by which any white may travel through the length & breadth of the land fear of molestation: It would be pleasant we attribute it to the influence of the gospel which has long, so affectionately & faithfully been preached to them

expected this was the case but when I have seen one over all the tribes and this stronger in proportion we recede from the regions where the gospel is known am compelled to give the credit of the change to a less influence - (viz.) the successive defeat of two large of marauders who had overcome & treated with great cruelty all the Bechuanas, by a mere handful of boors & Griquas this impression which rests in full force in all the beyond 100 miles of this will not love remain so are now purchasing guns themselves rapidly. They are by traders every year, and also by Griquas for the same with the traders. And these latter are giving them diseases of Europeans without any of their civilization. (The disease was unknown amongst them until this same it was taken into the Interior by a Griqua whom I know) also from the tribes adjoining us are passing on for sake of getting game; and if a rigorous effort is not made by us I see no prospect left but that soon tribes situated 200 & 250 miles distant will become as opponents of the gospel as those within 100 miles of us you must not think me visionary when I say effort could be made immediately. We don't need

European missionaries to do it. They are good but much be done with far less expensive machinery. The whole the tribes we visited could now be placed under effective had we only the means to employ them. The tribes would all receive them, not however from desire to be instructed for I could not ascertain that motive present in the mind of a simple individual we visited. is not by any means like the South Sea Islands. One wishes

[0003] teacher because it will make him of more importance in the eyes his neighbours. Another expects a lot of guns with him &c and

[But] it is well they are willing at all to allow teachers to come amongst them of the tribes nearer would not allow so much. They say if a teacher comes we will listen to him but we wont have a one. This however is just an excuse for they wont listen a white teacher neither. The native teachers are really efficient agents in the dissemination of religious truth and we had two with each of the Interior tribes I dont hesitate affirm that as much would by the Divine blessing be affected them in the way of removing prejudice & enlightening & the people as would be effected by any two Europeans the first half dozen years at least. That you may whether I am right or not I shall mention some facts I wish I could mention to the Director without appearing make an invidious comparison. The facts stare me day in the face and were I was anxious to stand entirely from party feeling and anything like impeaching that wisdom those who have preceded me in the work & who are all my superiors in prudence & piety. I should certainly them publicly known to the Directors. But knowing they are fully aware of the value of native agents & they need nothing from me to strengthen their convictio[...] [n] the subject. I do no more than mention them to yo[...] [u] for your own information

It has been the policy of the Griqua Town mission[...] [aries] along to employ native agents. The consequence has been believers have increased in a compound ratio. They many imperfections but God has blessed them . On our way here we unexpectedly came upon village on a Sunday morning. The want of water having us to travel at that time. They knew nothing of us

& we were entirely ignorant of them yet we found that worship & school for the children were regularly kept although from the illness of M^r Hughes & the distance being

60 or so miles from Griqua Town, they had been visited no missionary for 10 months previously. This fact strengthened my predilections in favour of employing soon as possible all who are capable of making known way of life. We had the best possible opportunity of them conduct, and who after seeing it would wish to have a band of such assistants to aid on the of truth & holiness. They have imperfections but see nothing else in the operations of the G. Town mission account for its success but these very imperfect . The missionaries now can do little else itinerate & superintend them, and they occupy not only may be called their own field but great part of ours

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Am I sorry to see them stretching out on all sides & passing us as they are doing (W.) by (N.)? No I rejoice at it & dont care though they hug by & by in their arms & squeeze us out towards the North. If no other will send us North then prayers will. It is all the same of brings in sinners to Christ. It is common cause & I am really [...] at see to see the work going on. But unfortunately a little rivalry than prov[un]king to love & good works has got in amongst us & those have been longer in the work have local associations which them seeing something in the same light we do. They look at subject from a different point of view & consequently it appears in form to them But native agency has been tried here as well as at Griqua Town. After Mr Moffat went to England he to have changed a little his opinions on that subject for he back advising the bretheren here to make a trial of two; These appointed and the consequence has been a large accession the church. Each at his location has more members under than are at the station. That is they have more than of church & the chief accessions to it are always from their . Add to this they are much more consistent in their than those here & so affectionate to us & to each it is quite a treat to visit them - And this notwithstanding
Mr Edwards is an excellent sicuana scholar & an excellent preacher it too. Since I understand him I am quite delighted to hear him believe this is the case too with the G. mission for the truth so much more effective & comes home to the heart better proportion as it is divested of all the strangers which attaches
[to] foreigners in every country.

I am most anxious that more native teachers be employed & this anxiety the bretheren (E) & Hamilton now cordially join with this I make an application to the Directors and I with much anxiety an answer.

~~Care of Revd Dr Phillip. Church Square~~
Cape Town
Rev^d John Arundel
Mission House (St.)
London
single sheet