

Letter to [Margaret Sewell?], 17 June 1843

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(N^o 9)

Kuruman 17th June 1843

My very Dear Friend

I shall not advert to the topics contained the other letter which I enclose to M^r Macle hose But will to give you some account of my recent tour the tribes of the Interior. You who are accustomed to & steamboats can form no idea of the slowness of movements in this country, We are five or six centuries you in regard to locomotion, and this makes our as tedious as voyages to India, I had 10 of this tedious drawling before I reached the valley of Bakhatla which you may associate in your with the turning point of M^r Campbell when he the Kurrichane Mountains for the Bakhatla tribe within half a day of the spot where his waggon stood its farthest progress north. It is also the spot where was informed of the existence of iron founderies. they still in existence but they do not refuse me permission examine them as they did to him, and it is also near the place where the notorious Mosilikatze had his residence seen by M^r Moffat. I walked over the site of his & the spot where his people suffered a dreadful by from the boers, the rock where he executed those had fallen under his displeasure by casting them was unknown to the natives who now reside in vicinity. But though I examined with care the whole and anything which might have remained could be discovered as the grass had been but recently off, I could only see a [^][very] few human bones

& these the last vestiges of the tyrant will soon all devoured by the hungry Hyaena. I mention these because there is a probability I shall located for time at least near[^][in] that neighbourhood

rhe chief Sebegoe of the Wanketye who suffered a massacre by the Batlapi last year also lives in

[0002] in that neighbourhood and as some of the believers Kuruman were on a visit to him at the time of attack

& in circumstances which could not fail to produce impression on the minds of the Heathen that they had been means of betraying the Wanketye, one of the objects of my was to endeavour by my presence & explanations disabuse his & their minds of that impression. It was not danger that one put himself into his hands, for

Sebegoe has been an almost total stranger to missionaries But Lord was with me & gave me favour in his eyes went directly to him as soon I arrived, the people around & as the recognized a young man who was the others at the period of attack it was anything pleasant to see their looks & gestures. the first uproar ceased Sebegoe demanded of me why I had attacked

& destroyed all his people. I replied why did you not to the advice I sent you last year from the country & thus destroy yourself. I told you you came out of the Bakalihari desert Mahura certainly attack you. Did your messengers fail deliver my message or did you discredit it? the were there to recognise me and by a few answers of that sort his prejudice seemed evaporate & he became quite friendly. In one of letters I wrote you I gave an account of Sebegoe is the bravest of all the Bechuana chiefs & into the Bakalihari desert bade defiance all the forces of Mosilikatze. He was on the out of it last year when he heard of my in the Bakwain country & sent a number messengers to me with the present of an ox. I him not to come out of the desert as Batlapi (people of Kuruman) would certainly & plunder him of his cattle. He did

not know power of guns &c. which the unbelieving of the Batlapi now possess & and ventured to

[0003] contrary to my advice. Of the subsequent massacre of people I also informed you in another letter. I left him evincing towards me a most friendly disposition perhaps the reason why I did not fare worse might what one of his people told me, "O, nobody thinks killing a teacher" As poor Sebegoe now is, his power gone, only the remains of his tribe are left him yet he gave me in the way of presents he gave like a . When he sent milk or porridge to me they were in a dish as large as that basket sort of thing put your plates in at dinner. When I returned from countries beyond that he took me to the house of one his wives & said, as we squatted down beside a huge of beer, "now you must remain many days with & we shall drink much together", "my wives (he has of them) are all busy making beer for you" I am still a teetotaler notwithstanding M^r Moore's

"defection" But I always take a little of their stuff it is offered in kindness. It is not intoxicat- whatever the quantity drunk may be, and is as as the nice gruel you used to make but sour & of a pink colour. I think it is nutritious it contains a large quantity of the native corn which it is made by a very simple . Another kind of beer is now being introd-into this country made from honey & a native which is not only intoxicating but produces kind of frenzy most horrible to behold. With to this I am a teetotaler as I never tasted . the other or ancient beer I taste to shew good but fear in any way to encourage by example other pernicious drug. I never objected to beer porter as a medicinal agent but only never felt needed it as such. I went a long way beyond

Sebegoe not less I think than 350 miles, North. Formerly went far beyond missionaries. Now I am determined

[0004] spared to be outdone by no one in carrying the blessed gospel the regions beyond. I see it stated M^r Moffat intends to where no white man has yet been I can tell you he go a precious long way for that purpose for I have as far on the other side of his farthest point North that is on the other side of Kuruman. I should have a lake in the Interior which has been long known by report But I had a most dastardly set of servants with this time who refused to go with me farther than the country. I had therefore to leave them & the wag-there & proceed Northward on an ox. A curious enough of conveyance for add to the great looseness of his which renders it difficult to stick on, the annoyance him putting back his long horns (frequently 4 or 5 feet long) give one a punch in the belly when he likes

The sun was sometimes excessively hot but we jogged on the whole weary My powers of doing without water excited the astonishment of the natives
& I think I suffered as little from thirst as any of them

Please present kind regards to M^r & M^{rs} John Sewell, Charles, Miss Brodie & M^r When he comes over on Monday, would the good old man write ? Affectionately yours David Livingston

M^{rs} Sewell

57 Aldersgate St

London

For^d by M^{rs} Pyne