

## Letter to John H. Parker, 11 May 1844

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Mabotsa 11<sup>th</sup> May 1844

My Dear Brother

I received your most welcome letter and present January last. We were then busy in packing up in order to leave Kuruman as every step of our subsequent progress took us farther & farther the Post Office I have been unable to acknowledge your kindness promptly as I should otherwise have done. The book for which I thank you, could not have come by any more speedy conveyance had you posted the letter I should have been cheered by its arrival least six months sooner. Please transmit your letters always post for although Scotch I don't think I shall ever grudge to pay though those from you should cost three times as much as they from any one else. My heart warms every time I call to remembrance old fellow students and I am always quite delighted when I hear them By the bye, what has become of that man Fairbrother? is the only one of all our squad at Ongar whom I have lost sight of. I heard a long time ago that he was then at college. But he can't be there now unless he is trying to become an ( S.T.P.) or ( D.D.) -

I feel thankful for the trouble you were so kind as to put yourself to the question of Polygamy. I am not however so happy to feel convinced that your views of the subject are correct But the you mention of so many men of ability having supported these will have the effect of inducing me to follow the same line of I have hitherto done viz, with respect to that subject follow the track of my predecessors, I still have doubts and a variety of which you don't touch at all tend to keep me in suspense. am not aware that Christianity gives any licence for assaulting the institutions of man, (slavery?) and it is expressly stated that a man may not put away his wife for any cause except one But polygamist does not seem to have this cause for putting away his wives. We cannot call it adultery when we think of Hagar sent back by the Divine command into that state But I cannot that I am right in this & when I think on the subject I always feel , the same sort of reasoning makes me reject your remarks

[0002] ( Tim), III &c God never permitted brawling, striking drunkenness

&c as he seems to have done with regard to polygamy & this I conceive it from being called a parallel case But this is not to be controversial correspondence so I drop the subject.

We came here in ( Feb<sup>y</sup>) last and have fairly made a commencement the Bakhatla. Our cottage is built about 30 miles North West of it is called the Kurechane. We are in a delightful part of the country

Mr Moffat's description of the region to the East of us answers in every respect to our locality. We have fine scenery, the vegetation luxuriant - the mountains covered with trees (many of them ) to their very summits and abundance of excellent water when we think of its moral aspect it is as yet a land of - a vast howling wilderness which has never yielded any those fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory God the Father. The people however are kind and agreeable in manners towards; We have to endure none of those vexations the earlier missionaries suffered; there is no stealing comparatively little impudence and pride. But we don't know long this state of matters may continue, the Bechuanas from the most abject can be when they like the most insolent fellows in existence, and there is no overcoming them they are so but by meekness & patience, these virtues seem have been possessed in an eminent degree by the elder brethren

Hamilton & Moffat. I can conceive what they had to endure than you and I hope my forbearance will never be put the test as theirs has been. You have read Moffat's work of , I think you must

have liked it. It is peculiarly interesting us who know many of the places & persons described. I read of the manner in which you were honouring its author home I thought these good people will spoil him But I was happy to find he was not in the least elated, assumed no over the rest of us who are much his inferiors and eminent by his humility & devotedness to the cause of Jesus

[0003] got badly hurt by a lion since I came here but by the kindness God I am nearly well again. These animals are very trouble to us at times But should the Lord crown our labours the subversion of the kingdom of him who goeth about as one, it recompense us for all our troubles. May the Lord grant accomplishment of His gracious in our experience - have no news respecting the progress of the cause in the Lattakoo , as no letters have been recieved since we came here. church there had for some time been in a dead sort of state to the commotions which then distracted the attention of the . We hope however the blessing will again be poured & men [be] prevailed on to think as the whole country is now quiet. Rumours of wars have a very different effect [from]what they have in the newspapers at home. War here all for no one knows where it will end and thus native mind becomes distracted with anxiety. It is also great hindrance to the progress of the Gospel.

You must be a very learned man by this time. I am sure I met you at the Cape on your way to India I should ~~know~~ a great difference. Your sentences seem to march out & file with so much ease they make me ashamed of which are so straggling. Dont forget then when you can it with so much ease, to send a fragment now & then to a dweller in the wilderness. - I shall be glad to hear that you sent to China. I don't regret having been sent here but if I had been connected with the Society I should in all probability been before now. May you have grace to be faithful unto in the great work in which we are permitted to engage. us remember each other at the throne of grace

Yours ever affectionately David Livingston

Please Address me at Mabotsa, care of D<sup>r</sup>Phillip Cape Town

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Care of Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup>Phillip Cape Town

London Feb.1.1845

M<sup>r</sup> J. H. Parker

Homerton College

London

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