

Letter to Margaret Sewell, 22 November 1852

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Kuruman 22 November
1852

My Very Dear Friend

I have not written you for some time I believed you would have a living epistle by you would answer the purpose better than pen and paper expected that my better half would have found her way to 57. but I suppose she must have forgot your . I am sure I would not forget it. Well you have my little niggers, noisy enough I fear they made your domicile. I was sometimes bothered by their roaring ranting and noise but now I wish I could hear again. It is much easier to live a batchelor's life than of widowhood. The "stillness is shocking to me." Of the batchelor it may be said as Cowper said of his "that delight he never knew." I am getting quite I declare. I must stop or instead of a letter you recieve a sonnet to the Moon or some other bit of wise .

I have met with many obstacles to my progress since I left the Cape. but I found when arrived here that the delay had been wisely ordered had I got on as well as I wished I should have at Kolobeng exactly at the time the commando Boers came. they vow vengeance against me the reason of their hatred is the following. they attacked and plundered eight tribes since I have into the country and on each occasion, have off large numbers of captive children and great numbers of the parents. they have

[0002] compunction for they believe the blacks have no souls these massacres they never lost a single man for having and horses the natives cannot approach them with spears. The Bakwains however fought bravely, and about 30 of them. A son of Pretorius the rebel was among the number. Sechele had two bullets his hat and one through the sleeve of his coat the difference in this attack is all ascribed to me

"Its all owing to thst horrid doctor" they say - and we shall his head yet for it. they believe that I must have them to fight. Only fancy your reverend friend

"teaching the young idea how to shoot" boers. they our house - tore [^][the] books & smashed all the bottles contain-medicines. I have not got the length of taking joyfully spoiling of my goods. We had just bought an iron . I may have sat twice on it but not oftener. It was to be a spare bed for any stranger as well as a resting for ourselves. Now only think of a big fat Boeress it and drinking coffee out of my wife's kettle &c. are worse savages than the natives. Yet the ministers of Dutch Reformed church go among them administering sacrament - baptism without the least discrimination people have been severely punished and viewing punishment apart from the iniquities of the . It seems a judgement on them for rejecting the . They have rejected it. And I hope they may be to repent of their unbelief. their kindness to us was very great and I feel much for them it is not to be forgotten that they have by unbelief despite to the spirit of grace. All the fault the could charge on Sechele was his refusal

[0003] throw obstacles in the way of Englishmen going to the beyond. Our Government can do nothing for natives [in the Interior]. It has foolishly been led into a war with the and though wishing to exterminate them cannot effect . Sir George Cathcart brutally hangs or shoots all prisoners women are not spared. the Hottentot leader wrote him lately requesting him to fight with men and not women. And now that he finds his brutality avails - the "Caffres being just as they were and where were 20 months ago"* * statement of a leading colonial

Newspaper He tells the friendly chiefs recieve the enemy among them - which means "for sake take them away from fighting with me. they beat me out after all". this after about millions of English gold have been squandered the war. The Hottentots have fought bravely [...] [advance] and retire in strict military order by sound of the bugle and though our troops are with all sorts of guns & rifles they never out of an engagement unscathed. If no good comes out of this struggle than this we sure that nobody will henceforth laugh at for believeing that Hottentots have souls no future Caffre war will be undertaken as little cause as the former wars have had. Calderwood has £600 per annum as a magistrate preaches on Sunday and beats the Caffre seats of on Monday. The Caffres say he holds the in one hand and the Sambok [(whip) in the other. They [(converts)] been forced in some cases to fight against their chiefs & have asked to be shewn in the bible text which authorized such conduct. My opinion

[0004] all I have heard of your friend is that though he do good for fifty years to come he will not counteract evil of his missionary magisterial course. He was the instrument in the condemnation of Botha a Hottentot of forty years service and it came out that he (Cald) been in the habit of acting as a Government informer

Calderwood himself admitted it in the Newspapers. At the same confessing he had not an interpreter when he took the & sent it to the Government

I was quite taken aback with this for I have always understood to be a man who would not rest with the stilt of an interpr-. In our part of the country the missionaries are decidedly the best in the native language. there is not a man of us except M^r Ross who needs an interpreter. From all I can learn less you hear of Calderwood the better. I am sorry he has out so. I had a high opinion of him formerly. Please my love to Charles. M^{rs} L. was highly pleased with all. I leave this in a few days. Ever Affectionately Livingston

I have got your parcels up to - Reviews for Jan Feb. & March 1851 - inclusive your very welcome letters, last one being N^o 25

Thank Charles for his kind promises of welcome Fain would I see you all again I have such a world of work before me I shall never have time to visit England

Care of Rev^d W. Thompson

~~Cape Town~~

Prepaid

M^{rs} Sewell

57 Aldersgate St.

London