

## Letter to Margaret Sewell, 20 September 1847

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Kolobeng, Bakwain Country 20 Sep<sup>t</sup>  
1847

My very Dear Friend

It is now a considerable time since I heard from you supposing a letter or a parcel to be on its way I begin to answer it by . Your last kind favour we recieved & duly acknowledged while Kuruman in March or May last. We (you see I use the language of & great folks now) were very much reduced in strength during first years residence among the Bakwain, and took a tour Eastward way of recruiting it, having at the same time some important mission-duties to perform among the tribes in that direction. the journey me good but my better half became as thin as a lath. Having any provisions at home & a meeting of Committee being about be held at Likatlong we were glad to pay a visit to Kuruman visit proved very beneficial to M<sup>rs</sup> L. We got a daughter there too when we returned we were gratified by witnessing that love for had not been diminished among the Bakwains by our absence expressions made use of by them were so extravagant I should if I attempted to commit them to paper that I was writing the Irish call "blarney". their deeds subsequently have more pleasing than their words. Chonuane was a bad spot a European to live in. Water very scanty & bad so we could procure necessary food by irrigation. Both Chief & people this & had been searching for a better locality for us. they told what they had done and asked what I wished them to do for they "were determined to cleave to us wherever we went". They had selected Kolobeng a fine stream about 40 miles N.W. of Chonuane & after it we were glad to remove to the blessed sound of gurgling , you have your nightingales thrushes blackbirds & canaries. Of all birds in the world commend me to the merry frogs whistling with & main their midnight carols. We thank Him through whom we have obtained influence among the heathen and we pray may be a pledge of their future conversion. We have of course begin again at the beginning. We have built temporary houses . the country being thickly wooded we did not need to go for materials. the chief without any suggestion from told us that the meeting house must be his work entirely wish you to be at no expense whatever said he. It shall be

[0002] work to build a house for God who is the defence of my town" he desired me to name the dimensions, form &c believing I should only be a looker on, but we or our party said, it is the God of all so we shall all work at it. Unfortunately we are by the advanced state of the season to decide to decide on a tem meeting house. We must attend as soon as possible to wants of the body. If we do not sow we shall be starving again the winter. We get up a temporary building now in order our work of systematic instruction may go on in all , and also during the period in which we must attend to bodily wants.

I believe now the Bakwains believe that we are their real friends is a great step in advance. We never got so far with the . After leaving the latter people poor M<sup>r</sup> Edwards was to pay a fine for harsh expressions made use of by him to the . Had he not done so Mabotsa would have had no place among stations. I am sorry he lost his temper - loss of temper is loss of but keep in temper & you may say what you like this people - the chief of Mabotsa became enraged in turn & & his people expelled M<sup>r</sup> Inglis. they proceeded to M<sup>r</sup> Edwards for the same purpose as they had to Inglis' but a fine appeas-them for the time. My heart is sore for Mabotsa, I deeply regret M<sup>r</sup> Edwards there however all may yet turn out well suppose you know Inglis

domiciled in my house there. If wish me to tell how he goes on I must say easy enough wanted to be a great man among us. The Bahurutse wished missionary from M<sup>r</sup> Moffat. they sent repeated messages to him come to them & take them into their own country [^][Mosega] and place missionary among them. It was simply the result of un-confidence in him as a tried friend of Bechuanas are Independents but we need not tell the natives so. M<sup>r</sup> I. thought . the Bahurutse removed half way to their own country

& Inglis the whole way. the former [^][now] play falsely with him - they have confidence in one who can declare unfriendly feelings to their friend. After expulsion from Mabotsa he sat down at a to which he expects the Bahurutse to come. He who often declared his determination to go home if he did not a sphere embracing a population of some thousand

[0003] with a mere handful of people expecting a tribe to come to him the mean time the precious contributions of the poor Christians in are being expended in doing what? - I have seen so evil under the sun since I left your roof I begin to think that & folly & evil are necessary ingredients in our present . O your question related to Inglis wife. She is at Mabotsa with the Edwards. How she does I do not know. Not a Mokhatla child comes to school. What services are conducted attended by the dependants of the mission - the Bakhatla never since [^][the] period of the fine mentioned above. so how she gets is to me a mystery - I suppose M<sup>r</sup>Mather mentioned some he has had in India from the follies of others. they are to be everywhere

How is my dear friend Maclehose? Be sure & tell me. I do not him now. I would but can not. He does not even send account Present my kind regards to him [&] his better half & assure of my unabated esteem. A friend upbraided me for long letters to one who never answered & yet wrote ones to him who always gave double or treble the quantity paralysed my pen. I must hear from him now.

We were much gratified by a letter from the former Miss Leslie us know about her as much as you can. Never forget immortal Howie if you hear ought of him - also Dickson & Holland. I hear from Watt. Where is Best & Ayrton & old M<sup>r</sup> Wildman - I have heard of Charles &c from M<sup>r</sup> Pyne I believe you now know better than formerly -

Of Mokoteri I hear no good. The poor fellow wishes much to married but is unable to get a wife of any respectability - He lately on oxback to court & the Father of the family applied a rod to back forthwith. He is a Griqua & felt insulted by a degraded person presuming to ask one of his daughters - Poor fellow this is treatment from writing names in Albums & giving of his curly poll to London exquisites - he was spoiled & reaps the fruits of his pride & folly.

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you do not forget us in your prayers. May you enjoy every & spiritual blessing & believe me yours ever

Very Affectionately

D Livingston

the Ashtons are very well at present. they lost a fine little boy we were at Likatlong. We have a little boy running & a little girl in her mothers arms. Poor little niggers often look at them here in the heart of Africa & think, what I not -? May He who feeds the Ravens Remember them

~~Care of Revd Dr Philip Cape Town~~

M<sup>rs</sup> Sewell

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