

Letter to James R. Bennett, 30 June 1843

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[0001]

[[END OF LETTER IS]

Kuruman 30th June 1843

[16]

[MS.10708 F. 11]] Dear Sir

Your most welcome letter I found a few days ago on from a tour in the Interior, and I assure you the perusal it afforded me a great amount of enjoyment. Every topic which you advert is interesting, indeed everything from home peculiarly so. Just like cold water to a thirsty soul, so you not imagine it was unworthy "a passage accross the Atlantic" thank you heartily for it and earnestly hope you may find convenient soon to give me just such another

I am not surprised you have not seen any account of my in *the magazine*, the reasons are, I am not yet settled, the

Directors expecting their M^r Moffat would soon follow instructed to remain at Kuruman till his arrival, and this in oder to the benefit of his local knowledge of the country in the choice a suitable location for a new mission. M^r (M)'s departure been delayed my labours have been mixed with those of elder missionaries. Good has been done but as I believe has been effected chiefly through the instrumentality of my I have not felt at liberty to advert to it in *my letters* the Directors except in a vague & general manner; I have examined the country for myself & been much farther the Interior than any other European & preached the glad of mercy beyond every other man's line of things But labours have [^] [been] all of a preparatory nature. Nothing permanent been effected. But now in company of M^r Edwards of mission I expect very soon to commence a station the Bakhatla, they are situated very near the spot M^r Campbell faced about to go home and, the iron which he heard of but was not permitted to see to them. The reason he was forbidden the sight of them a foolish idea that his presence would bewitch iron. No one dare approach them who has had intercourse the other sex since the commencement of the season in they work it. He would certainly bewitch it, I who yet in a state of single blessedness can examine them as like, and I assure you it is difficult to maintain my when I see iron bewitched. If they use their bellows briskly having no lime in their furnaces, the iron becomes to a cinder. They take out that & looking upon it in exclaim behold the effects of witchcraft. The evidence so clear no one doubts it. They then apply a double portion their prophylactic against witchcraft & begin the process again

This is a *parvum in multo letter* but you must its many blunders, my sentences sometimes come tailforwards as in & require many corrections Will you be so kind as [to] present my Christian regards to your much respected father & mother & to your partner whom I hope you will long live in much domestic happiness,

Believe me Yours affectionately

(D) Livingston

[0002]

Our station will be about a day beyond the spot where Mosilikatze seen by M^r Moffat. I lately walked over the site of his town & field where he suffered such a dreadful defeat by a handful Dutch boors, the grass had recently been burned off the country I could obtain a good view of the whole and a very few human were all I could discover of what belonged to the tyrant. He is alive & continues his career of blood. He lives at a distance least 300 miles north east of that now. But last year sent out a marauding party to the Bakwain, Wanketze & other tribes and there committed great excesses upon them great slaughter of the males they plundered these tribes all their cattle & took many of the women & children captive Makabba who was the terror of the Interior in M^r Campbell's time been succeeded by a son called Sebegwe, who is the bravest all the Bechuanas. Mosilikatze could never overcome him he retired into the great Bakalihari desert & there by his cut off detachment after detachment of Mosilikatze's , sometimes he finished them so completely not one to tell the tale. Last year when I was in the Bakwain Sebegwe sent messengers to me to say that he was anxious to leave the desert & return to his own country & requested me to tell him if it might be a safe movement. I him although the people of Mosilikatze had been driven away of the Batlapi (people of Kuruman) refused the gospel & having now got guns would certainly attack him for the of his cattle. Several of the believers of Kuruman to be in that country at the time when (S.) contrary to advice did leave the desert, they visited him & were kindly recieved but unfortunately during the very time their visit Mahura with his Batlapi pounced upon them people of Sebegwe being quite unused to guns fled in dismay & the Batlapi murdered as they chose The believers although by Mahura to fire refused obedience to their chief the ground that they served a higher master than he. But as are Batlapi a most injurious prejudice was excited the minds of all the natives in the Interior against the *gospel* by the circumstances in which they were placed at the . A gun had been fired the night previous to the attack Sebegwe thought must have been the signal by which believers apprised Mahura of his situation. The singing family worship their incantations for success, and fact that one of the party a deacon in the church here in the act of collecting the people for worship (it being Sabbath morning when the attack was made) when the

[0003] of war was heard was considered by all the heathen as only a [17] by which to aid the work of slaughter. The believers it was believed had been the betrayers of the brave Sebegwe. The of my last tour which commenced on the 21st (Feb'y) last by my presence & explanations to disabuse the minds of heathen & particularly that of Sebegwe of the unfavourable recieved. He with the remains of his tribe live at village 10 days (N E) of this & near to the towns of the Bakhatla driver of my waggon was one of the party of believers above to. When I entered the village Sebegwe with his remaining was seated on the ground I squatted down beside him neither looks nor words betokened complacency to my who during a most uproarious recognition looked but comfortable. Sebegwe demanded of me why I destroyed all his people & stolen all his cattle. I being a returned for answer Why did you refuse to to my advice & then destroy yourself. His messenger last year then recognized ~~him~~ me & we were soon good He said he had lost so many of his people by , while [in] the neighbourhood of the Lake Mokhorro He not a sufficiency to attend to his vast herds of cattle his desire to sow corn again with his ignorance of power of guns [^] [had] induced him to leave the desert to my advice. During the whole of my visit he in a most friendly manner, one instance I may Having arrived on a Saturday I explained the nature of following day & desired to have an opportunity