

## Letter to Robert Moffat 1, 11 March 1846

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[0001]

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My Dear Father

Having written so fully by  
Boy I have nothing more to trouble you  
with now that it is appointed for  
Hendrick to accompany him. Paul  
expected the conveyance of my waggon  
for Isaac but the intention of  
sending it having been relinquished  
he now sends his own. They  
have some hankering after Francina  
but having dissuaded the father from  
sending for her I hope he will refrain  
The house has at length got a  
coat of clay on its top. This was  
accomplished today. The kitchen  
and bed room with the vorhuis  
are furnished. Two inside walls  
alone remain to be raised a few  
feet. We go to Mabotsa on  
[0002]

friday (this is Wednesday Evening) to remove  
our duds &c. The white ants are already  
in possession here - a theme on which  
to try our inventive powers for extermination

M<sup>r</sup> Cumming left a good deal of  
powder under my care with liberty to  
assist any of the people with it for  
karosses whom I thought fit. Fortun  
-ately my engagements prevented my  
using that power with one exception  
Sechele is now apprehensive of  
an attack and looked very queer  
when told that I should place M<sup>r</sup>  
Cumming's powder back again  
into the hands of its owners. And  
never mend a gun while there  
was any probability of its being  
used in shedding blood - strange  
to say he goes on reading and listens

to preaching with as much attention  
as ever. He quotes Malura's advice  
in justification of his late deed

[0003]

& declares he will stand everything but a  
direct attack on his town if from a  
nation not his subjects. Says his reason  
for not telling us was I would have  
gone before or with them and spoiled  
all. For they persevere in plaguing  
him because they know he has  
a teacher to hinder him from attacking  
them. The fellow does not want arguments  
he would beat many who look with con-  
tempt on savages as void of sophistry  
"unsophisticated children of nature" say they  
A funny mother and stranger children  
verily. Had M<sup>r</sup> Ross been the first  
who got Malura to consent to hear  
the gospel he would not [^][have] found it  
so easy as entering on other men's  
labours. Had I been to the committee  
meeting I suspect this pill might  
have been given to the Translator of  
the Flower gathered. This last was  
denounced by Edwards in no meas-  
-ured terms at this time

[0004]

and a building line finds its way out  
among the sticks of the tent? this brings  
to my recollection the other tent. Paul  
brought it and said it was to be left with  
us, we supposed till an opportunity of  
returning it occurred. A short time  
afterwards he required it again as a shelter  
for his family till their house was  
finished. Knowing you would have  
no objection to this I let him have it  
and he has used it ever since. I have  
just been out to enquire if he could  
not send it with Hendrick. But he  
says he does not understand how it  
is. Whether he is to buy it or give it  
to me to be sent back. I think it  
better to let it remain till you inform  
him. He seems to like it. I am  
very glad of the "Lancets" I thank you  
heartily for ordering them. I shall pay  
2<sup>ds</sup> price or the whole if you allow  
me to keep them. Hope this is not covetous[ness]

[0005]

I am very thankful for the promise of old iron  
my smithifying has been at a stand for  
some time partly because of the house &  
partly because I was afraid of running  
through my stock. I often thrashed at it  
till I was fairly done up. You did not  
tell me how to temper cold chisels  
I shall need mine tempered soon for  
I must cut through a band of one  
fore wheel A piece of diseased wood  
as large as that you cured exists  
which I must rectify. Please remember  
the tempering in your next

The Captain at Philipolis sent a note  
informing me of an addition to  
my stud in the shape of a filley  
and asking if I wished means to  
be used for what George Buchanan  
calls in the Psalms "Another of the same"  
I had not time nor dutch enough  
to tell him that the proposition was  
[0006]

agreeable. If you send for your  
horses Will you be kind enough to  
thank the Captain for me & request  
him to do the proper sort of thing  
If not convenient never mind  
my not sending for the annual will  
be understood as wishing it to remain  
the horse of M<sup>r</sup> Oswal strayed and  
he having given it to me provided  
it was not found till after M<sup>r</sup>  
Cumming had passed. I find it  
has be found by the Barolongs  
of Taoane. Mahura laid a claim  
to it but the saddle was too  
good for them to believe it his  
I have apprised Taoane of its  
being my property but have seen  
no one from his place since  
I dont know how to come by it  
[0007]

but as it was the best M<sup>r</sup>O had if there  
was any way of communication  
I would make an effort. Is there  
any intercourse between Kuruman  
& Taoane

We each enjoy by the kind favour  
of our Heavenly Father a fair

measure of health & strength. Mary sends  
her love to Mother sisters, John M<sup>r</sup>  
Hamilton and yourself

Paul has just now entered to inform  
me that he had spoken to his wife on the  
subject of todays conversation concerning  
Francina. He mentioned the ~~motives~~[reasons]  
we have against her coming But these  
the mother overrules by saying the people  
here will not take her unless she  
is boyalified. Paul believe this  
and wishes me to inform ~~you~~  
M<sup>r</sup> Ashton that should she be exceedingly  
axious to come. So anxious as  
[0008]

that in the event of becoming ill the  
a disease might be aggravated. he might  
let her go in peace. Hendrick is  
instructed to say nothing about it to her  
we hope she will be induced to stop  
where she is. We dontconcieve the  
Bakwains such sticklers for loyalism  
I should have given Paul's message  
to M<sup>r</sup>A if time permitted. He is to be judge  
whether it will be against Francina's  
future fatness to see Hendrick coming  
away alone without her

Rev<sup>d</sup>R Moffat  
V. 2, Kuruman