

Letter to Margaret Sewell, 19, 26 April 1851

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[0001]

Kolobeng 19th April 1851

My Very Dear Friend

I am happy to inform you that your N^o 23 lately reached its destination and the reviews &c &c. accompanying it were all right. the parcel was in a box containing clothing for the natives, but whom sent we have no means of knowing. the letter the list and name of the donor had probably abstracted somewhere between this and England. the parcel was happily unscathed. From a former which I acknowledged, I have reason to believe is another parcel where Gilpius wig was "still upon road" There is a wide gap in the supply of periodicals hope they will turn up in time. Accept my sincere for your unceasing kindness. the different sent were extremely acceptable. the Report the Myapore mission very interesting. We have not a in the Bechuana mission who could equal printing of that report even in his own language of the printing has to be done by Mr. Ashton & Moffat. a very dear way of furnishing books I suspect I have no data on which to calculate. A few of youths are being taught by Mr Ashton but they are slow. and all the corrections have to be done by missionaries. Send another if you have opportunity ! a grandson six feet high. How he would look the little doctor his uncle. I fancy I see Charles standing

[0002] his tiptoes every time he spoke to him. It is cheering to see race is not retrograding either mentally or physically, though Puseyites poor dogs would like us to take a backward course sent no "Banners" because you perhaps thought some else would be more thankful for them. If so I can assure there is not a more thankful mortal within 100 miles me. this is saying more than you Londoners dare do here we can look out and see very few better than . However you may be assured that all you even Punch, is thankfully recieved.

M^r Inglis about whom you enquire, is settled ~~about~~ four days from this. We hold no communication him. When he came into the country he complained of the paucity of the population. then made an journey to the East of this. saying to me as he , Well if I don't find a population now I shall go home found according to his own computation about ten but did not attempt to settle among them. He went south and made some arrangements with a portion the Bahurutse tribe. Returning himself to Mabotsa. there he remained a year waiting for the Bahurutse to come to . As they did not appear likely to come at all I ask in Commitee what he intended doing - this gave offence but it had the effect of making him Mabotsa. He then went to the East of Mabotsa & down on a fine stream without any people the course of that year however the Boers compelled Bahurutse to shift their quarters & they did not come him but to another part called Matebe where he now . As it was now evident to the Directors that he only wasting the Society's funds, they sent out his to the Commitee but conditionally provided had not by the time the letter reached the Committee

[0003] down in some sphere of labour. He had not "settled down a sphere of labour" the nearest village being nine miles but his friends insisted that he had. And as it invoked so to poor Inglis the rest of the com. gave in. I was not . the Bahurutse came near to where he was soon the meeting of the Committee. the Directors seem apprehs-that his freinds in Scotland would in the event of his [re]call damage to the Society. It was through a whim of D^r Paterson became connected with the Society. He believes that the Boers best adapted for

civilizing the natives! And still wishes appear an original. His wish is gratified in so far as the of a few odd phrases goes. And he has sometimes out what friend MacLehose aptly termed "insane divinity"

(perdition of infants) but I can scarcely believe he is in believing such infinite nonsense. He propounds more to annoy others than for anything else. His case lamentable - enough to make one both sorry and afraid opportunity afforded us of standing forth as fellow with God. In Christ's stead to entreat to be saved implies such a precious privilege such an immense responsibility as forces the to all our Christian friends Bretheren Pray us, with an intense degree of earnestness you aware that he has many connections in Scotland? the above is of course between ourselves - though I cannot that even charity herself would say he has done in the country. Take an instance of his conduct Sechele. You know how nobly he made a profession three years diligent study & consistent conduct. of his people were opposed to him but he read the of God for himself and it was quite natural in to look for sympathy to Christians. Well, a short

[0004] he was baptized, one of his people went to Matebe on his own and being favourably inclined to Christianity went to the missionary. Inglis began at once to denounce man's chief as one of the worst wretches on the face of Earth - and that too in language which the man not repeat. "He never knew a white man could such language. And rather than encounter it again would disobey his chief and refuse (although ordered) to go him. think of this and Inglis never once saw Sechele's reports he had recieved were of course from Sechele's . And the man of course told his chief the whole. effect on Sechele's mind will I have no doubt be apparent on judgement day. He has lately using something of the same sort of language to the respecting their circumcision and they will look near his meeting. When M^r Freeman came Inglis took care to vent out against Sechele. I suppose is his way of giving me a stroke. those who see and with Sechele invariably think a great more of him than I do. I am always with him know his faults and failings best. M^r Freeman him to come to England. (at Sechele's own) While I mindful of Mokoteri have always the idea. S. was mightily pleased to hear

M^r F approve of the project of proceeding to England the way I mention that Mokoteri has at got a wife. A Griqua, the height of his ambition the parents refused to let him have their daughters & gave him a drubbing for presuming to ask them by means of seduction he has got one at last parents yielded with no very good grace you may be . He is a rank Antinomian in sentiment

[0005]2^d sheet

With respect to this country generally it is in a very sorry state is war on all sides. The Caffres are at war with Colony. the Basutus among whom the French chiefly labour are at war among themselves with the Colonial authorities too. the Batlapi truly mean, rob the poor Bakwains who are from the Colony with a few head of . their hard earned wages, for work performed a distance of more than five hundred miles from . the Boers knowing that the Colonial has its hands full met yesterday Mosega to concoct plans for bring the Bakwains under their authority. Which authority is to be in forcing them to work without pay. this is their practice among a great many tribes East of this. Very like I shall in the of this season lose all my little property at Kolobeng. I think the Boers will certainly attack soon. Mosilikatse on the North East seems to make a stir. the Damares too the west Coast have been fighting & one mission been broken up. Add to this there is nothing in the country. no conversions & very candidates indeed even where the gospel been long established. the only work worth is the translation & printing of the carried on by M^r Moffat & Ashton at the Kuruman

[0006]

Here we are doing little. We are hindered in our work by the fact that the Kolobeng is dried completely up we nor our people can obtain food and very we shall be compelled

to remove for want of water whole Bakwain country is drying up. When M^r visited the Mauketse country as it was full of fountains there were many streams near to Kaukoe but when were lately there they pointed out nine streams have dried up since, and we had to send about miles off for water to cook our kettle. Our are much attached to us but we must I fear from them soon. And the only way open for is the North. I wrote you an account of second visit to the Lake. And in a few days we wend our way thither again. the fever and make me quail. I look at my wife & and my heart yearns intensely over them know what a parent's feelings are. I cannot into all circumstances of the case at present it seems duty to go. And were I alone it would cost me a thought But O my children. Am I them. Your institution at Walthamstow certainly a noble affair. How I should be relieved I could place them there till I had alone proved salubrity of the climate. You know the African . How it baffled the medical staff of the Niger though they had all the resources of medical art at hand. this may be the last I shall write you. I do not shrink for but for those I love however we

[0007] as soon as M^rOswel comes and we expect him . He with great generosity has supplied many our wants and will do more. I have not written

M^r Tidman since I returned and do not now. Have heard from him for a long very long time 18 months at least, and feel as if I could carry on a correspondence without any . I shall however send my journal - or substance of it. If you happened to meet you might inform him I had written you before departing for the North. May God be to you my dear friend and supply all need out of His abundant fullness. thanks for the information communicated in your last MacLehose will be abundantly compensated the amount of conjugal bliss he will enjoy [...] [for] misery he endured while compelled to live the glorious of a batchelor. Will you present my congratulations did so before but Miss Hall gave him the go bye many have done before here (not to him however) me to Charles and M^r John Sewell saw Ashton &c when out at Kuruman lately are well. M^r Hamilton seems nearest death's door. He walks with crutches and sight is so impaired he cannot see the print Believe me

Ever Affectionately

Yours David Livingston

My Wife joins in salutations

[0008]

Do you know anything of a young man a distant relative late Thomas Wilson by the mother's side. He goes by that . (James Wilson) here - lives very retired, seems to avoid . Had the fever badly last year in at the Lake went in with us at the discovery. Seems respectable avoids intercourse. Speaks very little of the language father was an upholsterer.

26th Now two days beyond Kolobeng on the road - send these letters back. DL.

M^{rs} Sewell

57 Aldersgate St London