

Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 28 January 1845

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[0001]

Kuruman 25 January 1845

My very Dear Friend

I have again the pleasure of announcing the safe arrival of two letters from you and to say they were welcome would be only saying that which you already know, M^r P's I shall answer by itself, and hope each will keep the other company accross the wide gulph which intervenes in the same summer yours did. How affecting the intelligence yours conveys, and how instructive the time in short. Let us work with our might while we are continued here. About the same I recieved a letter from M^r Williams and we too has departed, he has the means of establishing a Welsh Missionary Magazine and his letter contained earnest entreaties for correspondence for it. I shall begin immediately & furhish the needful as far as my abilities go. I wish I were more able to furnish intelligence. I have been so busy of late I could not do anything and what was all the fuss about do you think only about being married. I am sorry I had not an opportunity of telling you before this for it was settled long to me. It was a few months since & I had to build a house after I was engaged. Well I am hooked now & M^r Drummond will no longer have it in his power to excuse me of being a monk. By the way I am glad you have heard from him and & that our dear departed Miss Marshall heard it before she died. He says to me "reverse her memory" & utters many affectionate things respecting her, who can speak otherwise respecting her, I never heard that to which you refer & am sure she never had any thoughts such as those presented to her by - As for myself I never thought myself good enough to aspire so high I may mention that my wife is in bodily appearance very much like her only a great deal stouter
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M^{ro} gives me a copy of a letter recieved from M^r Moore during the time he was writing to me. It runs thus Dear Chisholm, My hands are so full having to cook fetch water, sweep rooms &c &c that I have only time to say I hope you are enjoying the presence of our

beloved saviour & prospering abundantly in your work. My heart deserves that you may never labour in vain here alas everything goes wrong. The French have deposed the queen & taken full possession of the Island. Write me by Capⁿ Scott I am yours truly Joseph Moore. M^r D says you can draw your own inferences from it. It seems a flag of distress truly - the union Jack upside down & no mistake But I must not crow over poor Joseph for I too am married I am at present at Kuruman but intend leaving a week or two for Mabotsa, this place begins to assume an air of prosperity and this chiefly by the residence of M^r Moffat. He has toiled manually ever since he came, building repairing thatching improving in everything & makes me see that a great deal can be done when one's heart is in this work, His excellencies make the differences of those who had the care of the station more apparent But I must not praise now that he is my father in law

At Mabotsa matters go on pretty well But I dont expect to remain there long. The sphere is too small for the missionaries, as I am the younger I propose to go to the Bakwains of either Bubi or Sechele. If I remained at Mabotsa the utmost I could hope for would be the part of introduction of the gospel to a tribe while by going to another it would be an introduction of the gospel wholly by my intrustrmentality the additional labour &c does not weigh anything in the calculations so I think I shall go as soon as poss [0003]

M^r Inglis makes a very poor figure in the language While M^r Ashton preaches fluently & very correctly indeed He [M^rI] visited us at Mabotsa But has taken no steps for forming a station or doing anything else. He remains at Gruqua Town I wish he would devote himself to something when so much is needed. M^{rs} I. has been much troubled with ophthalmia,& so has her little daughter, all blue eyes are in the country very subject to it, in this respect it resembled Egypt M^r I's obtuseness in the language will be against his future usefulness for to be useful one has to excel in more respects than a minister at home. If a native excels a missionary in any work He does not listen as attentively to his instructions as he otherwise would

We had a party of English hunters up in the interior lately one the son of a clergyman and himself a candidate for holy orders offered to call on any of my friends in England & tell what he had seen of me, you may guess of what I thought his character made when I did not give him a single address, I have lately had a channel opened up for my transmitting parcels to the Cape, D^r Wallich the East India companys' superintendent of Botanical gardens at Calcutta authorizes me to put any expenses I choose to his charge. This, far sending him the edible roots & prints of the poor Bakalah are of the desert, I shall avail myself of his kindness by sending something first to you. Give my kind regards to Mary and all your family Benjamin, Marland Bernard & the other who may have by this time come, (the Queen is going on at a dreadful rate. In these my Mary writes Ever Affectionately

Yours D. Livingston
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P.S. I enclose the specimen for the album which you requested Give that which will suit her character. I did not intend to convey any reproof or ought else in that which I wrote for you formerly I never hint if a subject is worth talking about I talk out & never by a side wind so I did not mean you

Care of Rev^d D^r Phillip Cape Town
Benjamin Pyne Esq^r
Wildingtree Ongar
Essex
2 sheets

When I spoke of the teeth of a saw writing
However since you draw my attention to it so I must say I the application might be made
But I never would be made by such a wretched hand as mine excuse me saying this
It is always really & truly most acceptable
you must just write in the way you can, most sorely write often & long

long what from you & never fail
to answer yours & never will
Believe me yours affectionately