

Letter to David G. Watt, 18 August 1850

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Kolobeng 18th August 1850

Dear Watt

Received your *first note* dated Northwich by Ches[^h]ire yesterday and with pleasure begin answer before the mental stimulus it imparted has evaporated. Happy to hear you are settled a sphere of usefulness. We hope you will prove a blessing and make yours a working . I think if Christians are not set to act on the masses of heathenism around they soon get to quarrelling and plague the "incumbent" who as the word I believe is a weight lying on them. I don't understand how the mental work of ministers is than that of missionaries. If one spins long yarns out of his own noddle or out of the infinite variety of motives inducements persuasions & threatenings &c from Heaven earth & Hell & ready made for him in the *Bible*. I should think in a pretty "fix" & fancy I see him sweating at every pore in close embrace of the Nile Difficulty I observed that one of the most useful ministers in London Mr Sherman had very in his sermons of his own weaving and I believe you wish to be useful more than any[-] else. Dr Leifchild seemed much the same as Mr Sherman Will you enlighten my in reference to the mental labour which can be dispensed with here. I suspect ministers often shoot over their peoples' heads by taking it for granted that know the simple elementary truths of the gospel - I may as well give it to you twitting me anent the Committee. I am no anti Phillipite. Nor am I an anti Committee[-]

-man. I think that a set of ignoramuses with but little principle in them would be best by a bishop or Archdeacon or something of that sort. If the body of missionaries a little more knowledge or principle then they would be entitled to a committee Presbytery. If they possessed the highest degree of principle & piety then they might allowed to act as independants of the other words. Episcopacy for the most , Presbytery for the better informed & Independancy for the highest order moral excellence, Despotism for the barbarian (Russia) mixed monarchy for the civilized (Britain) & Democracy for the most civilized (United States) Committees work well here. It is my full & sorrowful conviction that there is no more Christian between the members of our Committee than there is between my riding ox and grandmother. Had it been possible to foresee the state of feeling now existing I should have formed the mission. Sechele made a very fair promise to become an eminent

Christian. Mr Inglis who never saw him was visited by one of (S)'s people and Mr (I) took the of spewing forth a volley of abuse upon Sechele, so very gross the man a heathen not repeat his words to me. He repeatedly asked his authority for his statements Inglis would not mention it. The man of course told his chief and I suspect the 's declension commenced. We make but little headway in this country Even Ross admits members more presbyterians cannot be said to be doing much. A triennial deputation perhaps be better than a committee for us for without joking we are a sorry set of . Mr Thomson late of Bellary is to be our Prelatus and agent. I just now notice I am becoming latinized in style. If you get through thus far with your dictionary grumble for I will try & amend - Mr Freeman thinks I ought to have my extra paid which I suppose is as good as done. He seems very friendly to us - and regarding the friendship of the wise & good as tokens of the Divine goodness to me my obligations the Father