

## Letter to Margaret Sewell, 9 September 1850

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

Kolobeng 9<sup>th</sup> September 1850

My very Dear Friend

I wrote you about six months ago and having been from home for more than four months lately I could not of course you again. But you have often been in my remembrance. I been reminded again and again of your kindness when reading Banners you kindly sent us. And more than once I have wished had had an opportunity of thanking you for them In this however was a good deal of selfishness for I feared that as you had no thanks you might, disgusted with my ingratitude, have them somewhere else. I did not advert to them particularly in letter I sent acknowledging the receipt of the parcel in which they . And the reason was I did not know what a treat they contained however I thank you most sincerely and beg a continuance of the favours. D<sup>r</sup> Campbell is really a fine fellow I hope he may be spared to the world. I have had no letter or parcel from you . this is a disappointment for I expected one at least when returned from the Lake. From the Pynes I am sorry to hear of indisposotion but hope you are again restored to health. Be & let me know if your illness has in any way impaired your vigour. I love to remember you skipping out of the parlour springing up to ring the bell as nimbly as ever did the little Courvoisier

Have only recently returned from revisiting the Lake. the reason have for bending our thoughts in that direction is the Bechuana having been shut up into a kind of cul de sac. On the East the Boers they have prohibited any missionary instructing the A French missionary M<sup>r</sup> Fredoux of Motito lately attempted follow on my trail to visit the Bamapela but was forcibly back by a party of armed boers, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles they may be saved - they truly know not what they do. By far largest portion of the Bechuana people live in that direction the West we have a country without water & hitherto deemed impassable

[0002] as the desert extends round to the North East we must either have confined attention entirely to a few tribes or bully the Boers. I am sincerely thankful God has given us an entrance into the far North for when the Bechuanas that we cannot go to others they become extremely careless about the we try to impart. It is rather a favour for them to attend to our - not [^][a favour] for us to impart them without fee or reward. And O are as a people slow of heart to believe - patience long continued must be practiced here. Hope deferred has been a frequent visitor me since I saw you. I cannot work away at other things if I have real missionary work too. this set me away again to the Lake

M<sup>rs</sup> L and children & Sechele accompanied me. When we got to the Ngami found the fever raging. A fever I suppose not very unlike that cut up the Niger expedition. It seems destined by Providence keep the Intertropical Africa for the black races alone. No boer could in there. It cuts off stout people first and they are generally very much . A party of Englishmen went in and a young artist & a Hottentot servant of fever. A trader too called Wilson who resides at Kolobeng was brought a stand still by all his people & himself being siezed by it. He got a squeeze from the king of terrors and lay for several days more than alive. Our children played in the Lake as if they had used to water from infancy or as ducklings do. but two them had fever and were nearly cut off. God was gracious to us people had it too - and I had to become driver in order to get from the focus of malaria. We spent two very pleasant with the Botasana But the fever & fly prevented our going to Sebitoane. M<sup>rs</sup> L would have preferred waiting for

me [...] the Botasana while I went forward on ox back but I could not after the fever began. We must find a salubrious settlement some of the regions beyond and I have some hopes that we will such for the Teoge which falls into the lake at the North West very rapidly and probably descends from an elevated region Ngami is low as compared with Kolobeng. then we must a passage to the sea on either the East or west coast You understand this necessity when I tell you that here we are

270 miles North East of Kuruman and the lake is 600 miles beyond . If spared to effect this we should then probably be allowed to the gospel into a large & populous region of at least equal

[0003] to the entire Bechuana mission. I hope to go in again next and will make perhaps a twelve months sojourn there Dont forget in your prayers. I shall try & write you again but that may be last. It is well to be always prepared. May He remember us both who I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.

We were favoured with a little daughter seven days after reaching . We have a pair of each now. 2 boys & a like number of girls. the fruits of matrimony which you always advocated Robert now speaking to me with all his might and turning round my occasionally when he sees my thoughts are quite away in

57 Aldersgate St. How is Charles? I could not find time to write as I intended but you must be kind enough to give him kind remembrance and good wishes. And your son & daughter India how do they get on. they have population enough without far. China seems to attract a great deal of attention now

M<sup>r</sup> Robert Moffat lately visited his parents at Kuruman - he is a <sup>t</sup> land surveyor at between £300 & 400 per annum. Seemed enough benefit Africa but the mode of life he has adopted does not seem calculated for that end. What a poor set you are in England pay your secretaries decently. And then so suspicious of the [...] dont seem to know that the Directors of our society give smaller than those of any other society 38 Wesleyan missionaries about £3000 more per annum than an equal number ours do. Then such a scurvy meeting as that at Leeds passing such as 1<sup>st</sup>. Directors the mission churches must be free self governed &c. 2. Why do you allow free independent to do as they like in reference to Gov<sup>t</sup> grants for . the directors poor fellows must proclaim freedom

& coercion with the same breath. I am a voluntary but if proclaimed a certain church independent & self governed I would think of grumbling because that church acted out its indep-both in reference to Gov<sup>t</sup> grants & everything else. then pretending were only sifting affairs after "a lapse of 50 years" though only two had elapsed since there was quite enough of sifting and poking What would they have? Remove our suspicions and then we shall Wont we. Ough. they parted with a stroking of each other backs

[0004] puffing about the "excellent spirit which pervaded this meeting" Bah

Wishing you every blessing - many thanks for the Banners and a wish you may send more.

Believe me Ever yours

very affectionately

David Livingston

Care of Rev. Wm Thompson Cape Town

M<sup>rs</sup> Sewell

57 Aldersgate St

London