

## Letter to Henry Drummond, 4 August 1841

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Kuruman<sup>4<sup>th</sup></sup> August 1841

My Dear Brother

Through the gracious care of our Heavenly I have at last safely reached this which for a little is to be resting or rather halting place. I have been ten weeks this journey but having visited the various missionary lying near our route I have not been more 2 months in continuous journeying. The oxen are paced, resembling much in this respect the common horses at home, and then we have such terrible it is frequently difficult to get along at all intend ( ( D.V.)) to remain here for about 2 months for the purpose acquiring a little of the colloquial language and then with hope of fully mastering the whole I shall proceed to the & live excluded from all European society -

M<sup>r</sup> Edwards of this station intends to accompnay me to an population at the distance of about a fortnight three weeks from this. We shall collect information their state & the state of the surrounding country, if circumstances are favourable for the formation a new mission, After two months more, leaving me. will revisit his family & afterwards return & we shall to the erection of houses &c. This course of exclusion European society is almost absolutely [necessary][^] for one begin[-]

-ning the language. I must form my own vocabulary

& ~~almost~~ nearly construct my own grammar & I must so with the natives as to learn accurately their mode thinking or I shall never [be][^] of much use as a preacher hear M<sup>r</sup> Moffat intends publishing a grammar & dictionary will be truly invaluable to all future missionaries

[0002] the mean time I must take the only course left for me, ~~and shall~~ go forward to mingle in a state of society of which you in

Scotland can form but a very faint idea. In the colony & even beyond it civilization has exerted a powerful influence & women are ashamed to be seen in a state bordering upon nudity but immediately beyond the range of the itineracies this station you have all living in a state of complete . I have seen several specimens pass through & really they give me a much better idea of what pure is than even I possessed before. Bows, arrows

& assagais which in the hands of those under missionary seemed puny instruments, now look terrible when bristling around the wild, restless, sparkling eye the real savage smeared all over with red paint these I shall soon take up my abode Do remember in your prayers that I may be kept faithful into . And pure amidst awful impurity

We passed through many missionary institutions & much gratified by much that we witnessed. The at home know comparatively little of the success has attended the labours of missionaries in this . I always imagined that ( Miss<sup>s</sup>.) were in many men of sanguine temperament & sent home tinged a little by their wishes but wherever I hav[...] [e] I have been convinced by actual inspection that the have been far within the truth. I grieve that churches at home are so little acquainted with the success which has attended the preaching of the in Africa. In many places it is truly delightful behold the Christian deportment of the natives - Their sense Christian propriety is ~~truly~~ really astonishing. On one occasi[...] [on] had to travel a long way without water and as it was Saturd[...] [ay]

[0003] hurried on till late ~~at night~~ but failed to reach water that night on our own account &

for the sake of the oxen we were obliged to next morning, Before we had arrived at the water however we reproved by a Bushman for traveling on sabbath. He said it was wrong to travel on sunday. We explained but it did not seem to satisfy .Near the spot where we came to the water stood a Bechuana consisting of about 100 houses. It had a native teacher connected the Guqua Town mission, had seldom even been visited by a but they hold service regularly in a house appropriated that purpose & for holding school. After morning service the chief with native teacher & principal people of the village came & requested an of our conduct. That being given it was next demanded we had not come to church since we had come early enough for . We knew not that they had a church but were glad to meet with in the afternoon. Next morning they purchased many sitchua[-]

-na testaments from us. I never saw such thirst for the word of before. All seemed eager to possess a copy   A# mighty is going forward here. & much more might be done there means for the employment of native agency every where amongst these people preach as soon [...] as feel the value of the gospel & although they have much oppo[...]   contend against. & no worldly support save what results from[...]   industry they persevere amazingly. The Bechuanas are great of news. Every circumstance that occurs is handed from to another. They are too, perpetually on the move from one spot to . We have people here who have come several hundreds of from the Interior. This [nomadic]predatory life is very favourable the spread of the gospel although it is opposed to the spread of . Ought the churches at home to not take advantage of predatory newstelling propensities, I think they ought for [...] it is no uncommon thing for a Bechuana after he heard a sermon to [...]   down among his friends at a & relate the whole of [it][^] word for word. Native agency (I fully convinced) although it has many evils connectd with it the only thing that can evangelize the world.

Please to excuse the short note. This opportunity of sending is the only one expect to have for a long time & this one over tomorrow morning. I should have liked much it had been in my power to write to M<sup>r</sup> Kirk & M<sup>r</sup>

[0004]

M<sup>r</sup> Marsmith. Will they favour me with a letter or two? Please tell John & Samuel. I shall consider it a favour to hear from them. I ca[...] [n] write nor shall I for many many months to come. We no penny postage here. Give my very kind regards to M<sup>r</sup> & ( M<sup>rs</sup>) Kirk & accept yourself my unfeigned christian regard

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