

Letter to Fergus Ferguson, 28 July 1843

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Kuruman 28th July 1843

My Dear Brother in Christ

Since I have been permitted in the Providence of our merciful Redeemer to enter the missionary I have often felt the duties connected with that precious towards the bretheren at home. We in our sphere labour ought to endeavour to furnish you with infor-whereby your sympathies in the blessed cause may enlarged, your zeal increased & your thanksgivings to abound. But with respect to this duty I feel I come very far short & more especially with respect you. I believe I have written all the deacons with whom was more particularly acquainted & now I don't well know to excuse the ommission of you among the number might urge the usual plea in such cases of having had intentions but that would scarcely satisfy myself shall therefore in this give you some account of the in which I have been employed and if you see that cause to excuse me I shall try to do better in future

The best news I could give you would be that I had instrumental in converting sinners, this however cannot give for I have been employed chiefly in the of preparation. You are perhaps aware that sent out, our Directors instructed us to remain Kurumanuntill the arrival of M^r Moffat. No one having much local knowledge of the country it was desirable that we should be employed in acquiring language &c. untill he should come & assist us in a proper site for a new mission. I did however find the language such a formidable as was expected & very soon set off to gain local knowledge for myself. To this object I others such as a more through acquaintance the tongue than can be got by sitting with one or section of the people. Doing good by means [of]

[0002] teachers &c. the prosecution of these has led me very into the interior. Farther than has been reached by any European so that I can gratefully say I have preached gospel beyond every other man's line of things. the have expressed their cordial approbation of the I took & have instructed us to proceed immediately the knowledge of the interior I have acquired & form new settlement, the site[location] will be in sight of what

M^r Campbell called the Kurrichane range. the good longed to have a mission established there and no than seven of the bretheren have been sent out appointments to that part of the country But have always prevented the accomplishment his wish. Of the seven only one (M^r Edwards) has the place of his appointment & in his case it is a residence of 20 years in the country. I have doubt but you will be glad to hear that a prospect a permanent settlement is now before us. In or three days M^rE & I expect to be on our to erect huts on the spot chosen.

After hearing of our cheering prospects as to a settlement one part of the interior you may perhaps be anxious know our prospects for the whole continent. Well cannot say they are bright, there seems a cloud over

Africa & that seems to be composed of its pestilential . This portion of the continent now the most would if we had somewhat more rain be one the most unhealthy in this world. Our immense sandy would be swamps. Indeed there is abundance of that at no very distant date they were in so, & even now when a little moisture exists usual fevers are sure to break out. Fevers to be the great barrier to the civilization of Africa

~~beyond us~~. There is a lake called Mokhoror or of the about 200 miles beyond my farthest point

[0003] . It has never been seen by a white man but there be no doubt of its existence.

It stretches from the . E. to the South West, and all the country around is a level. Fevers abound so much there one of the of the Bangwaketze called Sebegwe lost so of his men by them he had not a sufficiency take care of his cattle. Last year a native travelled with me was affected by it & after all my & labour with him he carries its effects about with yet. This lake is a barrier to the North West

& North East, the Bakalahari desert to the West & De Sagoa Bay fevers to the East are a stronger to the boers from the colony than all the of parliament can rear. A little to the North of our to be station there is a peculiar fly bites the oxen & the first rain that falls proves fatal to them all. We who are entirely dependent on these[oxen] for conveyance the fly as we do fevers. Some traders have left without an ox to drag their waggon again. It is said M^r Moffat intends visiting Lake Mokhoror or Botletli. that is the best road could take if he wished to explore the interior there are canoes on it & many tribes reside on its But the fevers. I hope he may return in . It will however be impossible to establish mission near it now. White men could not live & we have no blacks who could be trusted far missionaries. there are none sufficiently or disinterested to carry on a mission by . But we may yet find them. We Europeans go as well as natives but in their most feverish , the sun is so scorching we should be of very use. May the Lord open up the way for us & the success of the blessed cause

[0004] think nothing has struck my mind more forcibly in this than the necessity of the Holy Spirits influences in the of conversion. At home I felt it But here no do we become intimately acquainted with the of the people than the mind is overwhelmingly that without Divine aid nothing can be done them. This makes me entreat in earnest prayer all my friends, I entreat yours not that I have any but that if the truth is presented in the proper manner influences will be withheld the Lord delights to bless, I not however exhibit the truth in the proper form

& this constitutes a source of great anxiety, I feel that might live all my life here & do nothing to advance the when the Redeemer shall see of the travail his soul & be satisfied. I implore then your that I may be made wise to win souls. If you any suggestions on that subject I shall take it if you make them. I rejoice to hear of the which has attended your labours. may you still more abundantly successful & may yours be the of those that turn many to righteousness.

We have great difficulty in conveying truth to mind these heathen in the fact that all our theological are newly coined, & sometimes these are far from adopted to convey the ideas. the word [for instance] adopted in the for holiness & sanctification is that which made use of when a man sees a nice fat ox or cow. is nearest the word in our language although not exactly. Other words have two meanings so if we take pains perpetually to explain which we mean are quite misapprehended. When speaking of Sin

& using one word to designate it we may be understood talking of pieces of dried [...] cows ordure are used as bull But when the truth takes of the heart they never mistake, and it is remarked this country that there are as many of the old converted of the young I believe this is different from what where people have had the corpus from infancy &

[0005] am very sorry to hear of some disagreeable circumstances have transpired and that M^r Moir has thought to implicate me in this affair. My memory not serve me either positively to contradict or , but my father having been my only inform-on this subject I have sent an extract from letter to me at the time it happened which completely exculpate him. I remember that I was not the first who introduced subject He [Mr Moir] knew perfectly well that a meeting been called & the subject of it too before he me - The fact that M^r M. left on the last in church and that he did not see me in

London until about the middle of May seems evidence that he must have heard it. I always disapproved of his conduct in affair. When I saw him in London my was he had come on a most unfortunate I cannot conceive what motive I have had, in making such a statement as

M^r M. puts into my mouth. Feeling as I have done that there is the closest relationship me & my parent I can conceive of nothing idiotcy which could have induced me to say one whom I might be sure would make use my words that my father put his name to a of censure which in his heart he did not . These considerations make me believe

& I should like to say it in a Christian spirit that M^r is surely in error

Have become [...] more of the old than of the young Please present kind regards to [...]

[0006]

& to all the family & accept the same yourself from yours affectionately in bonds of the gospel
David Livingston

[0007] have not yet heard from Fergus & to David I have not yet it possible to write
D.L.

[0008]

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