

## Letter to [Elizabeth?] Pyne, 5 October 1843

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[0001]

I wrote Mr P. some time ago and  
will send him no more than kind regards until see his  
own handwriting. My love to his children

about these great ones for it was quite a treat to meet them in this  
wilderness b[...] ut they felt it to be the same. For they sitting with us on stones  
and handing round the sugarless coffee threw off all reserve. They had their

Kuruman 5 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1843

My Dear friend

On returning about three days from the  
Interior I saw with joy your welcome handwriting But O  
what heavy tidings it brought. Three of my friends gone  
and all of them much younger than I. How solemnly  
this voice speaks O that my heart were not so familiar  
ized with death. As it is however I feel these events  
in providence more than I have done others for a long  
time past. May I have grace to improve by them. Teach me  
to remember my own days. That I may apply my heart unto  
wisdom. Miss Marshall is gone before and we are  
we really following in the path which leads to the mansion  
she ~~has~~ has found prepared her with regions of the  
blessed. She is arrived at home. How she wonders she  
ever looked at this earth as her home. May we die the  
death of the righteous and may our last end be like hers. It  
seems as if the portion of our existence is the  
most important we shall ever spend. On it hangs an  
eternity. It is then of more importance how we live and  
act here than it can be at any future period of our being  
I wish this truth for truth it seems to me were ever  
before my eyes. You must have felt a strange want  
in your house after she left you, a gap which will  
never be filled up till you are all transplanted into the  
celestial paradise. Think of the dear children, will they  
all be taken up there? O with what earnestness should  
we not pray for their conversion for they possessing  
the same natures as others need to be converted and if  
not must – but I cant endure the idea I was about  
to express. How does Mary feel now? And but I forget  
his name is it Moreland and - My head is filled with  
names of Bechuanas I am sorry I have forgot their

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their images are however still on my heart. May

the Lord lift up on them the light of his countenance  
 and bless them & turn them to himself. Poor Radford  
 my brother and Salome whose turn will it be next?  
 He sends I now learn a box of medicines to me and ere  
 They arrive the hands that prepared them and the heart  
 that beat warmly in sealing up that box lie cold  
 in the Tomb But he is where sorrow is forever  
 ceased What can be compared to obtaining an inheritance  
 there. The way is open blessed be God. Let us strive  
 to enter in. M<sup>r</sup> Tho<sup>s</sup> Cecil must under the circumst-  
 ances in which it occurred felt the loss of their Salome  
 severely. Young & full of life But it is in vain to write  
 You can understand it all. How comforting she is  
 enjoying happiness greater than she ever felt  
 here. Poor little Emily I shall never forget her  
 though I had forgot her name until your letters  
 reminded me of what I heard often in vain tried  
 to recall. The Lord bless you all. I hope your little boy  
 is better. You mentioned Miss M.'s illness indeed but  
 this time had elapsed ere I received your former  
 letter induced me to believe she must have long  
 before its arrival quite recovered. It is the Lords  
 doing and he does all things well.

I have just returned from the country of the  
 Bakhatla after having in conjunction with M<sup>r</sup>Ed  
 wards of this station erected a hut for shelter  
 during the warm season now just setting in

Indian servants with them but we being better acquainted with the country  
 got on better than they. I am not yet quite sure whether Mahotsa  
 will be my station. I like M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Edwards very much

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we are to be formed into a committee and that committee is to decide where  
 each is to be situated some other may go there and should that be the case  
 one of the younger missionaries, perhaps M<sup>r</sup> Nighs will be my companion

We may be said fairly to have commenced missionary  
 operations in the Interior. The Bakhatta professed to be  
 very glad at our arrival to live amongst them. We  
 bought a piece of ground perhaps as large as M<sup>r</sup> Ts  
 for a gun beads and some ammunition. You  
 may think this cheap but it is far beyond to value  
 they attach to it. Indeed land may be said in this  
 country to be of no value. Every one sows as he  
 likes and no one asks another as to where he can  
 fix his garden. Had we given nothing & begun to  
 plant in the best portion of the country we should  
 not [^] [have]been esteemed intruders. This is the land of liberty  
 in another sense than the Yankees apply the words  
 to their country. We however thought it best

to make a regular bargain stipulating that  
no one [^] [should] have authority over us or the land  
specified. I wrote an agreement before them  
read it in Sie [^] [tch]uana and then had the chief & his  
principal men to sign it by affixing their  
marks. I believe it is the first thing of the sort  
that has been done in the Bechuana country  
M<sup>r</sup> Moffat bought Kuruman for beads but I  
dont know he had any deed. I take a copy  
of this and [^] [will] send you [in the box] the original that you may  
see I am no lawyer when sitting under a tree  
surrounded by a crowd of chattering Bechuanas  
I remember Mary was drawing the last time I was  
in your house. If she could see our fine valley  
it would inspire her so. She would instantly take  
a drawing of it & perhaps myself aping the lawyer in the

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midst of it. We are surrounded with mountains -  
woods to the summits. Many ever greens & others gr[...]  
all trees. There is a stream on each side of the spot  
with many little waterfalls in the course of one of them  
At one part of the valley the trees are exactly as in  
gentleman's park at home. Some of them are  
four feet in diameter. A party of Indian gentlemen  
who had come for the purpose of hunting &  
getting health restored made this same remark  
on beholding it. One would have taken a drawing  
of it for us had time permitted. They were very  
agreeable and kindly supplied us with meat during  
the time we were hunting. One is a Scotchman  
and though not in a lucrative ~~pas~~ situation compared  
to others in India has £800 per annum. He is  
first cousin to Lord Breadalbane. Another is  
Captain Steele of the Cold Stream Guards A. D. to the Guns  
of Madras. He and I became so friendly he promises  
to do many things for me but I fear he will  
forget. He has often hunted at Dugar & will return  
to England after he has served 4 years longer in  
India. He obliged me much in several respects  
particularly in taking a little money to Cape Town  
where he says being well acquainted with the  
Governor he will open a channel whereby  
I shall be able to transit a little occasionally  
to my brother in Oberlin. He promises to write  
me soon and gives me his address. But alas  
he is not pious. I could tell you much more

I have however been permitted [to] be instrumental in commencing the first  
station in the Interior and though I love it much I must hold myself in readiness  
to do what is best for the cause May the Lord direct us

Ever Affectionately Yours  
D.L.