

Letter to William Thompson, 30 September 1852

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

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Kuruman 30th September 1852

Rev^d W. Thompson

My Dear Sir

Enclosed you will percieve a letter which I have ventured to address to the Lieutenant Governor I have endeavoured to give a plain outline of the facts and merely hinted at the possible consequences and view of the Government goes on heedlessly tho blame will rest on its own shoulders. I enclose it to you because I understand you are expected to be our go between in all matters pertaining to the Government. The reason which I feel the chief one in my mind for troubling you is that you may reverse your judgement on it whether it ought to be delivered at all From it and Mr Moffat's letter you will have a pretty clear idea of the doings of D^r Robertson's converts and may fancy that reverend sinner turning up the white of his eyes and saying to them at the communion table "Eat O friends! drink, yea drink abundantly O beloved" they went the whole hog attended church on Sunday hearing Mebahe preach and then made the parson flee for his life on Monday he ran the gauntlet some of them calling out when they saw him with clothes on there is the chief & then the bullets whistled over behind & before him he seems to have become terrified ran through the midst of the boers & so fast his feet were dreadfully bruised He has lost all he had my 27 head of cattle & furniture &c his house was burned by the Christians. He it was who stood by me when bitten by the lion & got bit himself He has been with me ever since I came into the country

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but I fear this will be a settler for him he is now on his way out here. Some fine young men whom I knew and loved have fallen My heart is sore when I think of them Sechele had two bullets through his hat and a third through his coat sleeve the Boers have lost one of their principal men I dont know his name The chief with whom Inglis lives is heart & soul with the Boers. He ought to leave. He has informed

Solomon that he is going to the Cape in order to send his wife and children to England[not of course in imitation of me] & M^{rs} Edwards sends her children to Walthamstow school. If you ask the opinion of the Directors you will find that they would like Inglis to come home too and there would be little doubt but that he would remain there. You may wonder what will be the end of all this and you may perhaps wonder still more if I venture to say that I see nothing in it all unfavourable to the progress of the kingdom of Christ. There is evidently a process in operation in the whole of South Africa and there soon will appear another wonderful development of this Providence who is wonderful in counsel & excellent in working. In every district of the country the process tends the same way. We "poor renegades from the anvil and loom" long insisted that the Hottentots had souls and our statements were looked upon as the blarney of silly enthusiasm. A few hundred of them however take it into their monkey heads to rebel and they actually kick the ossa coccyges of our dragoons and minié rifle men. No wonder that great was the wrath of the Gov^t Officials. Hottentot rebellion! what next. We may expect our cats to have a strike "cause missus dont give us the silver forks to eat with." If we had hinted at a Hottentot rebellion I believe they would have believed that a cow could handle a musket as well as they. The Rebellion is however a great fact and the con-

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demnation of Botha has sown seed which will yet vegetate. But I am away from my text. Everywhere there is a strong feeling of independance springing up. The English as a nation have lost character & honour. the destruction of my property is a fortunate thing for me. there is not a native in the country but knows now for certain on whose side I am. The Boers in plundering my house often expressed great regret that they had not got a hold of me. But we should yet catch him said they. How good God's Providence is to me. I was detained in Cape Town till I quite fretted and then again in the way up. But now I can plainly see that had I got my own way I should have been in the very thick of the fight for. I always intended to spend a fortnight or so with the Bakwains. I grieve over the losses they have sustained but there is another point of view in which the matter may be considered. the majority of the Bakwains have heard the gospel repeatedly but have not recieved it. They treated me uniformly with respect but when Sechele professed faith in Christ they persecuted him bitterly. the Bakhatla have not only long refused to listen even but treated M^r Edwards with great disrespect. Nearly £1000 has been spent on them in vain. indeed their p[r]ofessed principles were to get all out of the missionary they could but never recieve his message. the same may be said of the Bahurutse and although the two stations are broken up

it is no cause for sorrow. The Bakwains I am informed attended both school & church better after I left for the Cape than for a long time previously average of the school 80. Sechele's children are out here living with Mr^s Moffat they are well behaved the son resembles his father in manners. They give much less trouble than was expected I think the seed sown will yet spring up among the Bakwains though I may not live to see it I am at present prevented from leaving for my own country by two parties of Boers who are now in the North and are to be cut off. If I attempted to serve them they would very probably rob me in return, so must stand their chance Sechele sends a message to me to wait a little yet so though it is trying to wait when free & all ready for work, I must submit I have just been driven away from my writing
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by the chief Mahura he is here on a visit a great rogue he made a remark worth noting- " Sebube and Paul and you were taken out of the way of being killed - If either of you had been there you would certainly have been in the midst of the affair & been killed God helped you by sending you out of the way" Sebube and Paul are gone north. Sebube is a very brave fellow Native teacher to the Waubetre He has lost all, though Mahura is a heathen he has imbibed some Christian knowledge I have been thinking that I might draw £12 for Mebalol I have drawn nothing for some time for either him or Paul, our operations have been interrupted but as it is a matter of business I shall write you if I do. No word from my better half yet

30thSep^t 1852
Destruction of Property
at Kolobay

Prepaid
Rev^d W. Thompson
Church Square
Cape Town

Will you be kind enough to acquaint Mr Rutherford with any of the particulars of our hindrance which may interest him also George's wife if you happen to see her. Excuse this long ramble my mind is troubled by the afflictions of others Poor people when will they learn wisdom

Believe me yours of course
DLivingston