

Letter to Charles Whish, 9 October 1846

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Chonuane 9th Oct^r1846

Dear Friend

I am sure you have wondered again & again why seed box has been so long in making its appearance. The of the delay has been the isolation [^] [to] which we have for long time been subject. Even our Kuruman friends in ignorance of our welfare for about six months the transmission of the box was an impossibility. The has been very much disturbed of late. The Caffre has raged & rendered communication through the colony very precarious. You must have heard of the of nearly all the mission stations &c throughout Caffreland. If I had sent sooner the whole of the contents probably have been lost by delay on the frontiers of Colony - or perhaps they might have fallen into lawless . I need not say more about the delay except in process of time it has grown from a small box a pretty large one and contains - the following articles

- 1 Two Karosses made of the feet of Jackals
- 2 Two spotted cat Karosses - (grey)
- 3 Two Golden Jackal (Do)
- 4 One Ground Squirrel (Do)
- 5 A parcel containing a spotted cat Kaross for Professor Buchanan, 13 Moore Place - (Roots &c)
- 6 One spotted cat Kaross for Rev^d D^r Heugh,
- 7 One white Rhinoceros horn 2 (ft) 9 inches in length
- 8 A lot of (Cameleopard shape) Bechuana spoons
- 9 One ostrich shaped (Do) -
- 10 Two ladles -
- 11 One cooking pot two snuff boxes -

- 12 a bird's nest -
- 13 seeds of a tree Moana - 51 feet in circumference &c.
- 14 rings
- 15 Four Bechuana caps -
- 16 One wooden bowl
- 18 one cup
- 19 Three sewing needles, in two cases.
- 20 One shield -
- 21 one (the handle cut).
- 22 A Queen's sandals -
- 23 A lady's (ornamented). How worn? Will be more difficult you to tell than the puzzle padlock will be to him stole it.
- 24 A waistcoat made by Mokhatla, a living East of Chonuane -
- 25 A serpent's skin
- 26 Point of Rhinoceros' horn. To make a handle to your knife if you like, (Do) Tail (Do)
- 27 Tail of Elephant
&
- 28 point of probocis.
- 29 At least 20 varieties of seeds two bottles.
- 30 Club of Rhinoceros horn -
- 31 Two off Sechele's arm,
- 32 a native pillow which as stool by day "a cap by night [...] all the day"

feel sorry to conclude. I feel it as easy to write you as talk to a bosom crony But time or the want of it forbids M^r Inglis is in my at Mabotsa & has lately added another unit to the Worlds population in the shape of a daughter son. We go Eastward again take farther steps towards Paul's settlement with Mokhatla. Please present very kind regards from my rib to M^{rs} Connel finds it impossible at present to write. She works early & late & hard too

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The seven Karosses or skin cloaks are placed at your disposal although I have a desire to present one to M^{rs} M^cRobert one M^{rs} Connel & one to each of the friends Paton, White & do not presume to dictate except in reference to these ladies M^{rs} M^c (R) have her choice - then M^{rs} Connel then do what you proper in reference to every thing else[and] everybody else however to present my very warmest thanks each of the above named friends & everyone besides who have placed me under obligation to do so - I am sorry

[I] have appeared lacking in the acknowledgement line. It did not arise from want of gratitude

and having a general assurance of thankfulness when I heard of projected kindnesses I thought I might wait till saw the presents. The majority of the articles sent never . This loss was I believe mainly owing to their being in casks. Even very strong ones soon yield to influence of the climate - the ends fall in and a strong is placed in the way of carriers. The box sent will give you an idea of what does best this country. If dove tailed & a feather put into joinings such a box is just the thing. There is box in it wrapped up in an old bag to prevent charcoal in which the bulbs are packed from through & spoiling the Karosses. The bulbs upwards of twenty - but the varieties included not amount to so many. The delay has brought to the very "best" time of the year for conveyance was winter when they were taken up and as most them are very tenacious of life I think you will some satisfaction from them. They are not general covered with earth. A little more than ought to do & ~~but~~ little water will suffice - the of all ought to contain [a] considerable portion of , I should imagine no manure, vegetable mould not predominate. The soil is usually firmly baked them whether by heat or rains I cannot tell probably have some new plants as the botany of this has never yet been explored. If you discover a one it must be called - Whishii - M^{rs} Moffat the whole to the Kuruman last month -

After a protracted search I cannot lay my hands on yours con- a list of queries - I must try & answer much as I re- & such as may not be answered you will place to the of defect of memory & nothing else[.] Salary for unmarried missionary in our Society is £75. for a one £100. Our Society gives the least. The Wesleyans considerably more. The French have £20 to £50 to be have better prospects of usefulness here than at any former period. But there is not a single convert. Let us have prayers What may common windows without glass cost in Glasgow? I have seen cast iron ones which would well for our chapel but may have [been] mistaken, I cannot make them not having the tools

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expended on improvements on [the] stations £80 being considered as for the missionary's personal wants. I cannot specify salaries of other Societies. I have never been intimate with any except French. They have a mechanic on each station. Other Societies' employ mechanics from the Colony to build &c &c do all ourselves £75 seemed a large sum to me. I thought I could three native teachers out of it But it takes all my £100 to keep my station going. It would be impossible to do with . I think it would be an advantage if we had less manual labour I write now my hands have the same aching sensation I had when , my mind is often so exhausted by sympathy with the I cannot write in the evening & this is the only time I have do not know in what I could curtail my expenses - these are chiefly in consequence of great distance from the coast prices of everything are doubled or more ere they reach us common clasp knife worth 6^d sells for /3 A wretched fustian /18 is - £1. & other things in proportion. We recieve our in money invariably. Perhaps your question about equality of salaries referred [to] the missionaries of our society [^][in our society] recieve alike. The majority I believe are content & we to leave the future with God. We have a man & his wife as , & a girl as a nurse maid. The man is waggon driver

& everything else he can do. His wife a servant of all work form our establishment But these are not all require. Grinding corn baking washing &c. are done by calling assistants from the town. M^{rs} (L.) changes these assistants soon as [they] have acquired some knowledge of household duties [&] . These supernumeraries are taught reading as well washing &c. All sleep in their own homes - they become by the process - they are paid in beads, a variety which about 3 shillings per pound. I mention this that you may think the three above specified all we employ. We adopted plan of employing others beside those absolutely necessary in to do good. M^{rs} (L) superintends everything domestic & superintendence involves her arms up to the elbows in all . We must be at the beginning middle & end of everywhere If not, matters invariably go wrong Mebaloe the only man I know who carries a piece of work right to a termination without being looked after. We are all [...] working clergy & no mistake I bought 10 cows for about

£11 when I was married I have the same number yet Each in milk gives about a mutchkin. I once had seven in milk once & the whole did not yield as much as one cow at home cost nothing for grass - the herd gets one yearly. A pen made thorn bushes is all their accommodation. To have plenty milk throughout the year we ought to have forty cows. This equal 2 or three cows in Scotland - there is no Tryst cannot purchase from Bechuanas From £1 to £1..10 the price of a cow with the Traders Few bring them on of the losses they sustain by lions in the way have no sheep. I once bought 12 goats But whether have increased or diminished I do not know. The man whose charge I placed them lives so far off I have heard

John Wardlaw once in Glasgow. How employed? Do you know a surgeon in Glasgow call[ed] David - Can you give his address &c whatever you please If any of my answers require explanation that too

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nothing about them for two years. I think I mentioned the price my horse. It was captured & recaptured[.] I have it now is very useful - by sending out our man to ride down a or Eland we get a good supply of meat Each of animals is very good but the Rhinoceros is our most fare. Baba a Kuruman convert was killed by last week. Unprovoked it rushed on him & ripped him up

Mebaloe & I galloped off when we heard of the accident - Rhinoceros disputed our passage and as it was midnight were preserved only by Divine care. We saw a fire in distance & believe it was Baba - a party made towards We found that he had died the day before, & his com- had gone on to lay his body in the dust at Mabotsa cannot at present write you with the care I ought must excuse me - I shall do better when our house is finished I just now recollect another - the cost of [conveyance] [of] a case is defrayed by the society as as Colesberg - on this side [of] the Orange (R.) the expense is ours a case 10 (st). It costs about 30 shillings from Algoa Bay to Colesberg. From Colesberg to Kuruman about £1 more & then from (K.) to Chonuane about 10 shillings do not know the freight by sea

I thank you most heartily for the medicines you - they are excellent. The gentleman you bought them has acted conscientiously. There was no trash in the box. It most opportunely I was nearly out of some articles have seen boxes of medicines sent out to this country (value £10 - £12) & nothing in them of value - the price was up by as much sulphur as would have cured all

Argyleshire of the itch (& we have none of it here) & salts & senna of giving a black draught to all the blacks from this to Timbuctoo yours are most judiciously selected & I you most sincerely for your kindness

This is no *missionary letter* & the fault entirely yours. May the Lord be with you & bless you according to all your need.

of Rev^d D^r Philips Cape Town

Charles Whish Esquire

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Glasgow