

Letter to Margaret Sewell, 14 July 1842

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Kuruman alias Lattakoo 14th July
1842

My very dear friend

I assure you I am very sorry to hear your (4) letters that you have not got any of those which have from time [to time] written you. I am afraid you have me unmindful of all that [you] have & are kindly for me. But I hope you recollected what I asked you when parting, "that if at any time you did not letters you might be sure some good reason me." this however is what I did not upon, I only thought of being myself prevented writing & not of defects in the transmission

I write again although I have nothing new to add than I put in the one I wrote in the interior & about a month ago. I have a request to make however I am sure that if you can with propriety you will gladly oblige . I have an excellent friend here M^r Edwards, a most worthy and more useful among the Bechuanas than any one I . He however is not ordained, came out as an artizan

& schoolmaster, is an excellent workman & in connexion with

M^r Moffat used to do all the printing. Since M^r Moffat's return England He has been the sole pastor of the church & during these more members have been added to the church than at any period, and according to the testimony of M^r Hamilton affairs have been conducted by him with very great & prudence, now after having acted the part of a full for 4 years & always as such in either one capacity another it seems attempts have been made by some here

& others at home to deprive him of the privilege of being anything than a mere printer under M^r Moffat, this mission to be made a completely clannish affair (perhaps one of the M^{rs} M wanted to get me noosed down at Ashton) Now am sure the Directors are not aware of the value of M^r Edwards

[0002] a missionary as they would not sanction his degradation if

~~M^r~~ All I beg of you is if you think it consistent with propriety

~~to~~ if at any time in conversation with M^r Tidman, to drop a expressive of my opinion of M^r E. as a fellow labour whom much esteem & admire on account of his devotedness &c. course it would not do to introduce the subject purposely for object so that he could see what you were driving at But might happen that the subject of this mission might be the of your conversation & then it could be done But know better than I do about what is proper in the . I write with freedom & I ask the favour because is not for myself and the only way I can see in I can help a truly efficient minister of the gospel think it may be of importance to his cause that M^r be acquainted with the opinions of one who has in the house & witnessed both public & private conduct the individual in question for nearly a twelve month I say, you there sitting at your desk & reading this , you must pack up immediately, & come over here I am going to marry you. It's no joke for M^{rs} has told the sisterhood here that I am in love a young widow in London called M^{rs} Sewell, so are done for, for I say it is true, and I am sure cant object. Remember your own text, "It is not for man to be alone " there's scripture for . Come along then, no delay. N.B. Dont forget linens please But I forgot we can tear up my old for that purpose, then bring new shirts for me &c &c 't be the death of me by refusing -

I have written M^r MacLehose oftener I believe them he will thank me for them, I was in

the key for

with writing one day & I gave him a regular sermon am waiting with some anxiety to hear from him But fear I wont be here to recieve any thing for some

[0003] to come as I am again about to depart for the interior am very much obliged to you for visiting my former home am now a vagabond on the face of the earth & any where has be a home for me But though it is only a bush at my head & fire at my feet it is no sacrifice to me and that it is not mainly owing to my having been cradled in a rough bed since . I look back with both pleasure and gratitude to my days and to no portion of them do I recur with fonder than that in which those parents whom you saw me struggling almost to desperation in order to amass much as kept soul & body together while attending classes Glasgow. By toiling at manual labour through the day & mental during a large portion of the night, I at length succeed-in getting two sessions at the college. A happy time it was & if could begin life again, I should like to go through the very same . Indeed when through the advice of friends I applied & I was accepted by the L.M.S. I felt somewhat sorry that could not continue in my career of independence and face without resisting what seemed to be the voice Providence. I wish you had seen my sisters you [...] had a better opinion of them than you have of [...] me

I have got a letter from our excellent friend Watt tells me of the love affair of Ingram. Better surely be a than go mad like him. I am happy to hear of restoration of the health of M^{rs} Mather, I imagined she was home with you & was fearing your heart would have filled with sorrow at receiving back a shattered remn-of the daughter you sent away. thanks to the Author all good for his great compassion & kindness

I got a letter from M^{rs} Paterson & one from the man we became acquainted with in Rio Janeiro Bible is beginning to cause a stir there, & during the week friend wrote me a furious article had appeared in the prints against all protestants in general & him particular. It was very abusive & stated that the writer by the bye is an archbishop is astonished to see with

[0004] avidity all classes of the people whose ignorance is notorious

& the priests who are if possible still more ignorant receive the from this missionary. My friend remarks neither priests people will thank him for the compliment. the most resp-people in Rio receive the word of God thankfully. I hope time will soon come when the Brazilians will no longer held in the bonds of superstition, I told M^r Mac. this would gladly furnish papers for his magazine if he

should only state to him his willingness to receive them I dont know whether our dear Glasgow friend has the letter which contained the information, M^r I tells me he has not yet heard from M^r M. this is a love letter you must if you please burn it imm-. Your letters are most acceptable Please write soon your affectionate D. Livingston

Care of Revd Dr Phillip ~~Cape Town~~

M^{rs} Sewell

57 Aldersgate Street

London