

Letter to Joseph J. Freeman, 18 July 1842

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Kuruman 18th July 1842

Rev^d (J. J.) Freeman

Dear Sir

A period of twelve months has now elapsed since my arrival in the country of the Bechuanas. though during that time ample opportunities have been me for ascertaining the real state of this mission, have not untill now felt it to be my duty to make definite statement to the Directors respecting the of amelioration of which, by the devoted labours the missionaries and Divine favour, the Bechuanas have been the subjects. And I am not at sorry that I have refrained so long, for in gradually conversant with their condition, some things and others falling within my expectations probably have swayed my judgement & prevented coming to a calm conclusion, had I written sooner this point. Untill lately too, I was not aware of the proper point from which to the improvement which has been effected, must not only be conversant with the present of the Bechuana converts. We must intimately acquainted with others sunk low in same depths of degradation, from which have been raised, before we can appreciate magnitude of the change. To me lately from England the condition of the presented many features of pleasing . But not untill after I had visited the in the Interior which may be called the of what the converts were, was I to see, in all their greatness, the wonderful works the Lord. This contrast between what they

[0002] , and have now become is most striking, and it on my mind with greater power than ever the , that the gospel has lost none of its pristine . It is still, thanks be to the Lord, the power God unto salvation, and the evidences of its power I here witness will I believe make me cherish ideas than ever of the efficacy of the instrument which entrusted for turning the nation to God.

The number of those who give good evidence of a change of heart, when compared with the amount population on the station, is very large, and we delighted to behold from time to time large additions to it. Many of these too, are such as we scarcely have expected to see made trophies grace. These accessions are constituted of not only young and vigorous, But the old and grey whose hearts had been subjected to a long of induration, come forward as will, and their determination to devote even their hour to the service of Him who died them. The Lord is indeed doing great amongst us, and our hearts rejoice works of ~~this~~[His] hands, I can the more hear testimony to the mighty effects which have do still follow the faithful and devoted labours my elder bretheren in this place, as my has in no way contributed to the . And from my knowledge of the character (M^{esrs}) Hamilton and Edwards, I believe in communication to the Directors they must always kept considerably within what they have told of the progress of the cause of

Christ through their instrumentality -

One of the most pleasant features of the mission the progress made by the children in the infant under M^{rs} Edwards. Founded and (with only

[0003] occassional assistance from one of the natives) carried from its commencement entirely by herself, it shews what amount of influence may be exerted over a country by [^][the devotedness of] a individual. The parents form a mighty contrast with fellow country men

still in darkness, and it is nearly great between them and their children, indeed the expression of countenance visible even to strangers their amount of knowledge, would almost lead to fancy they belonged to another species, and I have hesitation in asserting that if the efficient tuition their instructress is in the arrangement of Providence to them, there will be as much difference between intellectual development of children and parents, as see between the physical development of our agricul[-]

-tural and town population in England - I look to infant school with particular satisfaction for it me with the hope that many with hearts with piety and minds capable of being with knowledge will spring up from it an[...] [d] forth to make known in distant regions the unsearch[-]riches of Christ.

It is with much pleasure I can thus bear my humble to the efficiency of the bretheren who have me in this part of the missionary field, and I magnify the grace manifested both in and by , I pray to be enabled to walk with humility and zeal their footsteps. May the same power which supported them uphold and cause me to be faithful -

The church is in a most flourishing condition, and though are still some points in the character of the converts require the exercise of charity and forbearance in , a visible improvement is going on. It is not a still church. It is making headway against the , and in several instances the truth is beginning prevail over their selfish national character, the per-son who conducted my waggon into the Interior in one my journies is an instance, for when I paid

[0004] eighteen dollars as wages he immediately laid down twelve his subscription to the Auxiliary Missionary society. May holy spirit be poured out on us more abundantly, so that spirit of benevolence may be increased, and all the places of the Interior soon feel its blessed effects.

I am Dear Sir

Affectionately yours

David Livingston

P.S. I wrote the Directors on the 3^dmst. and told them some of my journey in the Interior. No instructions in the mean time arrived I intend in a short to proceed thither again and with the Divine permission there several months - Visit the tribes north of the and while making it a preaching tour, will to make as much progress in the acquisition of dialects as the time will allow.

~~Care of Revd Dr Phillips~~~~Cape Town~~

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