

## Letter to Alexander Brownlee, 17 July 1843

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Lattakoo 17<sup>th</sup> July 1843

My Dear Friend

Your kind & excellent letter reached me some months , and I felt it merited prompt acknowledgement But to answer has until now been beyond my power. Our Directors at the time we left England that M<sup>r</sup>Moffat would follow - instructed us to remain at this station, learn the &c, until,we should recieve the benefit of the local in choosing a location for a new mission finding the language by no means as difficult as they I have been during several long periods away from region of postages acquiring a local knowledge for myself different journies I have undertaken into the interior of the have been long & tedious this is not the region of . the heavy lumbering Dutch waggon drawn by or slow paced riding oxen are the only means of unless we choose our own lower extremeties are slower still. But with these imperfect I have gone very far into the interior. I have visited never before seen by Europeans & preached the beyond every other man's line of things. You perhaps be interested in something of these savage , everything about them is so degraded & impure the cannot dwell on the more prominent features of their I shall however give you a little & by that may perhaps be enabled to form some opinion on on which I shall be silent. The whole of the nation is sunk into a state of the lowest . It would be difficult to point to their infer-in the world. Human nature can go no lower in their case it has done. They are in point of the veriest cowards and yet if they can kill danger of being killed they will murder without and then make long incisions in their the scars of which are to be standing memorials their prowess. I have seen men with from 30 forty of these "scars of honour" (?) They pointed to them

[0002] triumph and were not ashamed to own that many of betokened the murder of helpless women & children sense of native duties will be understood when I tell the wives are the tillers of the ground, the builders of the houses the bearers of all heavy burdens. A man is not to say he is not able to carry a weight & his wife & he will go & call her for that purpose. I speak of but shame they have none. It is a matter of wonder me that have the word in their language they know so very of the thing. their knowledge of everything except what to their eating and drinking, oxen sheep and goats is most . A few fables contain all the knowledge they derive their forefathers and all the future is darkness. their are embittered with fears of being bewitched, nothing comes but by that agency & evils cannot be averted but that means. they seem to think that no one would die were he not killed by some witch, their notions medicine are all based on these suppositions, their pretend to suck out of the bodies of the sick of bones, skins of animals, ashes, goats dung &c &c being the articles supposed to be used by witches to their evil purposes. I was lately with the chief the Battens, his wife had been ill of an affection the heart for more than a month, her medical had extracted many wonderful substances from system by his skill. I proposed giving him an previous to his next operation lest he should been decieving himself the things of witchcraft out of his own body instead of that of the , but my professional brother did not like proposition. He slipped away unpercieved by me & having cupped her artfully separated the fibrine from blood. The white clots of that he now exhibited triumph. I don't know how he managed to wash the red particles from that contistiuent of the blood I instantly took a little blood from the arm of bystander, washed the clots with warm water and exhibited

[0003] same substance as he had done. During the day he an opportunity of having the village & he availed himself it. He had been deceiving them for more than a month they knew he must have put the things into his before before he pretended to suck them out of his patient they are so afraid of being bewitched by these doctors one had dared to mention his suspicions, sometimes I give a child medicine, if he makes any objections drink it the friends pour it on his head or drink themselves. If a man is found guilty of stealing give him an emetic in order to make him vomit [...] propensity. The chief of the Bakwains me a root which he sprinkled on his legs make him run fast. And the friends of another were very angry with me because they thought had given him medicine to change his heart instead that to cure his disease.

In all other points they are equally degraded, their hearts are darkened. the mind & conscience defiled. O how we need the prayers of the church the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Never did I the necessity for this enlightening power as . Nothing nothing that the most exalted intellect do will be of any avail without it. Nothing penetrate the thick crust of ignorance which their souls but the beams of the Sun Righteousness, the Redeemer mighty your almighty save. I ask you to remember us at the Throne Grace. We need the prayers of the Lord's people cannot face how much unless you were present the dark places of the earth. I might have told you the success of the gospel but I prefer giving you simple details in order to stir you up to more prayer on our behalf and that thus ~~thowe~~ we have greater cause to speak of successes than we have

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You will be pleased to hear the Directors have fully approved of our a new station in the interior. The spot is near the place Mr Campbell the traveller faced about to go home. the foundaries he heard of but was not permitted to see belong our intended sphere of labour. The reason they refused a sight of them was not that which influences the prop-of our secret works at home. It must have been same fear which is now in operation a fear lest by presence the iron should be betwitched. Bewitched iron will say what is that? It is simply the effect of a too application of the bellows it becomes burned to a they then take these out exclaiming behold the effects witchcraft. The fact is so as the evidence being before clear eyes no one ever disputes it. they then apply a portion of their prophylactic medicines to the ore & commence the process anew. To prevent the iron thus spoiled they use a great many precautions won't allow anyone who has had intercourse with other sex since the commencement of the period for it to approach the furnaces & the men at it always sleep in the enclosures for the during the whole of the smelting season. Their tools as rude as those of old Tubal Cain but my my space 't allow me to particularize. I can only mention their are a piece of the bark of a tree folded on itself, the a stone & the anvil another & yet they manage to make neat work with their antediluvian implements these people M<sup>r</sup> Edwards who is older than you & I soon to make a beginning. May the Lord smile on endeavour to carry his name into that dark region is also about 30 miles beyond the spot where the Mosilikatze was visited by M<sup>r</sup> Moffat I lately walked the site of his town & the place where he suffered a defeat by the Boers but a very few human bones the only remains of all that belonged to the tyrant

Please present my very kind regards to M<sup>rs</sup> Brownlee & the family. Also to D<sup>r</sup> Rankin &c I never hear anything the young James I always forget to remember in my letters some information which may be interesting to you. I shall enclose it on a slip of paper

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I need not say I shall be glad to hear from you as often as you can find it to write. Every thing is interesting that come from home you can be at no loss as what to say

Yours Affectionately

D. Livingstone

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The information to which I refer is a new way of Prurigo. I shall be glad if you do not need it lest you do I send it. It has the recomm-of both British & Foreign medical journals I think it must be of value. It is as follows by dipping a bit of rag in aromatic vinegar , or acetic acid undiluted and touch pimples with it untill it causes smarting much as the patient can bear. Next apply a solution of the nitrate of silver & proceed to apply it for two or three days running the acetic acid again untill the affliction is . If you purchase a sixpence worth of of silver commonly called lunar caustic & dissolve it in a wine glass of rain water will do without the acid. The latter is however . Touching the pimples freely with lunar caustic is very good. This you do by putting a piece of the caustic in the end a quill. Mixing the part with a little water & touching them with the solid medicine drop or two of nitric acid added to the solution prevent it being decomposed. hope however you have no need of this advice so I shall be glad to hear that you have need to know this is in the fire

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