

## Letter to Robert Moffat 2, 28 April 1845

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[0001]

[5-6-9] Mabotsa 28 April 1845 [MS 8/1]

My Dear Brother in the Lord,

Your welcome notes  
came safely to hand and like everything from home  
partook of the nature of cold water to a thirsty  
soul, they were really very good (but shall  
I tell their faults[t]s) they were really very short  
When you write a brother parching in a dry  
& thirsty land ~~for water~~ to out again only  
dip in the tip of your finger But try &  
give a refreshing draught and then though  
I thank you now for the little I shall be  
much more cordial in my acknowledgements  
for the more.

All things work together for good. Can  
anything be better than that? this affliction  
you refer to I think has, one soon becomes  
inured to danger. When I left you I am sure  
the hair on my head would have stood  
on end at the sight of a serpent in my  
path But as residence among such  
dangers takes away the dread. We become  
familiar with what would have shocked  
us before - (may I never become so with sin)  
Well I had experienced so many instances  
of merciful preservation, such as escaping  
from dangerous animals although no

[0002]  
means had been taken for preservation I became  
heedless and when the people became dispersed by  
the frequent attacks of lions and the belie[er]f that  
they were delivered into the power of those animals  
by witch[craft] & always left off [^] [the] work which  
I was superintending at the time as soon as the  
news came of distruction at any of their  
cattle posts. I went with them accross the  
valley to encourage them to kill two which  
had that morning killed 9 sheep belonging  
to them. A few of the Kuruman people  
were formost & having guns were put in the  
advance by the Bakhatla. I saw the animal

ascend behind some rocks towards our people  
 & was as near to them as you at your desk  
 are to Mr. Arundel at his. I ran forward to  
 be within reach of call & warn them of their  
 eminent danger, the animal did them  
 no harm I then rushed to draw them away  
 home & in doing so came round by the end  
 of the hill close to the wounded animal. the  
 chief & one of the Kuruman people were  
 between me & it the former ran behind a tree  
 & the latter fell into a hole. It was the work  
 of a moment, Melealoe our good native  
 as[...] instant was close by where the lion was  
 tearing me. He advanced close up to him  
 & tried to fire but his gun missed fire &  
 the animal sprung from me upon him  
 & Mokhatla tried to rescue him & was also  
 torn but another finished the business by  
 [0003]  
 by as that time pitching his spear into the monsters  
 heart. this was the fifth they had killed within  
 a short time. I walked home without assistance  
 the natives cut were carried. The excessive discharge  
 however soon reduced me to a skeleton & there  
 is a little native hut I spent many a weary night  
 dreaming that I saw Dr Bennet putting up my  
 arm with proper splints in London, But  
 the Lord has had compassion on me Bless  
 his name O my soul & all that is within me &c.

I have recently built a large good house  
 though my arm gave me pain all the time  
 We cannot delay here, we have no [...] hands. [...] [But] few porters & [...] [we] must be p[...] at the head tail & middle of every oper[...] if something goes wrong. We must [...] from preaching the gospel to mending [...] or giving an emetic. But we shall[...] ple[...] y of time to rest. In that re[...] glorious rest may we meet together.[...] hope for everything though him th[...] us and gave himself for us. that[...] warms your hearts at home. It re[...] ours here. It never grows old. It[...] find its way into the hearts of the Bakh[...] it will it must.

I have written to you very hurriedly[...] understand it is strictly private. I do not like notoriety. it creates envy. Will you kindly jog Mr Arundel's memory for me

relative to my watch sent home by Mr  
Birt. Perhaps you will take it for me  
to Mr Yonge. I ask this because I know  
[0004]

multiplicity of Mr A's engagements. I know too you  
will be able to tell Mr. Yonge the watch was a  
thorough bad one & not wound his feelings. Ind[...]  
I am sick of it But would give something more  
cheerfully if it would not be a plague to me anymore  
if it is as the old guns of the Bakhalta are  
"dead" then half price for it to be sent out in  
medicines will suffice. A good watch is very  
valuable however. We must try & make something [of it]

I have written Mr Arundell by same opportunity

[...]  
Care of Rev. D<sup>r</sup> Philip. Cape Town  
An Original letter of Dr. Livingston's

Presented by  
Mr Rev<sup>d</sup> (: H. Bateman  
[...]  
[...]  
Mission House  
Bloomfield St  
[single] London

If you find time to write again write a long one  
and it will be all the more acceptable to.

your affectionate brother in the faith  
& hope of the gospel

D Livingstone