

Letter to John Kirk 2

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[0001]

Newstead Abbey

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My Dear Kirk

D^r Peters might as well come down gracefully and to help him you might say that on employing a native whose language I knew as well as any Portuguese knows the dialects of Tette, to enquire the name of a mountain he replied "They call it Kaia or as D^e Peters spells it caiia - and I put that down as the name of the mountain referred to.

[0002]

It is no disgrace to a man to make a mistake of the kind. M^r Moffat has been collecting words in the Sechuana language for the last 43 years - and finds new ones every week. In eight years I had upwards of seven thousand and I rejected many hundreds either as uncouth or to me quite useless.

Who but a mad philologist would collect at least a score for the different parts or modes of walking as erect - stooping

leaning backwards

[0003]

- sideways - from side to
- side - wriggling- lifting
the feet high - or very
straight - slouching
swaggering. I think
there were eleven
names for a lion -
and no end of words
meaning different
shades of fools. D^r
Peters ' vocabularies
are wonderful on
account of their gross
inaccuracies and
the ability displayed
by D^r Bleek in making
so good a use of such
a jumble as they con-
tain. here is scarcely a
page but contains as gross

[0004]

mistakes as this and one sees the
mistakes are
made by the
Portuguese element
employed

The D^r makes a bad
shot with pēnu, seeing
it is never pronounced
painoo - and does not
mean (except inferentially)
"I don 't know." he e is
the same as in our word
hen - and the word is
used as we do the words
perhaps - it may be -
possibly - Is this the
way, or is this right,
panic - perhaps it is -
inferentially of course
it is, I don 't know - The majority of Tette
fouls live in the huts
of the people & not on perches .

[0005]

I cannot recollect two
aa's in any native
word but penu, they [may] exist .

You will see whether
it has been a misprint
by consulting Bleek 's
book.

M^r Webb gave me yours
to answer about the
words - and you may
quote me if you like -

I remember the hill
very well - I say a
conical hill from which
a large piece had peeled
off granitic fashion
like a portion of the
flake of an onion - but
I don 't know the proper

[0006]
word for flake .

Mosambique won 't
do but Bambatook
bay would I think -
and as soon as I hear
from Sir Roderick
will write to Lord
Russell and make
use of Col . Playfair 's
absence as an argument .
I think you had better
write to Dalhousie too .

Thanks for your
thoughts about Tom
I send D^r Loudon 's
letter and write a note
today to D^r Watson .