

Letter to [Elizabeth?] Pyne

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[0001]

I wrote M^r (P.) some time ago and
will send him no more than kind regards until see his
own handwriting. My love to his children

about these great ones for it was quite a treat to meet them in this
wilderness b[...] ut they felt it to be the same. For they sitting with us on stones
and handing round the sugarless coffee threw off all reserve. They had their

Kuruman5 (Oct^r) 1843

My Dear friend

On returning about three days from the
Interior I saw with joy your welcome handwriting But O
what heavy tidings it brought. Three of my friends gone
and all of them much younger than I. How solemnly
this voice speaks O that my heart were not so familiar[-]
ized with death. As it is however I feel these events
in providence more than I have done others for a long
time past. May I have grace to improve by them. Teach me
to remember my own days. That I may apply my heart unto
wisdom. Miss Marshall is gone before and we are
really following in the path which leads to the mansion
she ~~has~~ has found prepared her with regions of the
blessed. She is arrived at home. How she wonders she
ever looked at this earth as her home. May we die the
death of the righteous and may our last end be like hers. It
seems as if the portion of our existence is the
most important we shall ever spend. On it hangs an
eternity. It is then of more importance how we live and
act here than it can be at any future period of our being
I wish this truth for truth it seems to me were ever
before my eyes. You must have felt a strange want
in your house after she left you, a gap which will
never be filled up till you are all transplanted into the
celestial paradise. Think of the dear children, will they
all be taken up there? O with what earnestness should
we not pray for their conversion for they possessing
the same natures as others need to be converted and if
not must – but I endure the idea I was about
to express. How does Mary feel now? And but I forget
his name is it Moreland and - My head is filled with
names of Bechuanas I am sorry I have forgot

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their images are however still on my heart. May
 the Lord lift up on them the light of his countenance
 and bless them & turn them to himself. Poor Radford
 my brother and Salome whose turn will it be next?
 He sends I now learn a box of medicines to me and ere
 They arrive the hands that prepared them and the heart
 that beat warmly in sealing up that box lie cold
 in the Tomb But he is where sorrow is forever
 ceased What can be compared to obtaining an inheritance
 there. The way is open blessed be God. Let us strive
 to enter in. M^r (Tho^s) Cecil must under the circumst-
 ances in which it felt the loss of their Salome
 severely. Young & full of life But it is in vain to write
 You can understand it all. How comforting she is
 enjoying happiness greater than she ever felt
 here. Poor little Emily I shall never forget her
 though I had forgot her name until your letters
 reminded me of what I often in vain tried
 to recall. The Lord bless you all. I hope your little boy
 is better. You mentioned Miss (M.)'s illness indeed but
 this time had elapsed ere I your former
 letter induced me to believe she must have long
 before its arrival quite recovered. It is the Lord[']s
 doing and he does all things well.

I have just returned from the country of the
 Bakhatla after haveing in conjunction with M^rEd[-]
 wards of this station erected a hut for shelter
 during the warm season now just setting in

Indian servants with them but we being better acquainted with the country
 got on better than they. I am not yet quite sure whether Mahotsa
 will be my station. I like M^r & M^{rs} Edwards very much

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we are to be formed into a committee and that committee is to decide where
 each is to be situated some other may go there and should that be the case
 one of the younger missionaries, perhaps M^r Nighs will be my companion

We may be said fairly to have commenced missionary
 operations in the Interior. The Bakhatta professed to be
 very glad at our arrival to live amongst them. We
 bought a piece of ground perhaps as large as M^r (T)
 for a gun beads and some ammunition. You
 may think this cheap but it is far beyond to value
 they attach to it. Indeed land may be said in this
 country to be of no value. Every one sows as he
 likes and no one asks another as to where he can
 fix his garden. Had we given nothing & begun to
 plant in the best portion fo the country we should
 not [^][have]been esteemed intruders. This is the land of liberty
 in another sense than the Yankees apply the words

to their country. We however thought it best to make a regular bargain stipulating that no one [^][should] have authority over us or the land specified. I wrote an agreement before them read it in Sie[^][tch]uana and then had the chief & his principal men to sign it by affixing their marks. I believe it is the first thing of the sort that has been done in the Bechuana country M^r Moffat bought Kuruman for beads but I dont know he had any deed. I take a copy of this and [^][will] send you [in the box] the original that you may see I am no lawyer when sitting under a tree surrounded by a crowd of chattering Bechuanas I remember Mary was drawing the last time I was in your house. If she could see our fine valley it would inspire her so. She would instantly take a drawing of it & perhaps myself aping the lawyer in the

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midst of it. We are surrounded with mountains - woods to the summits. Many ever greens & others gr[...] all trees. There is a stream on each side of the spot with many little waterfalls in the course of one of them At one part of the valley the trees are exactly as in gentleman's park at home. Some of them are four feet in diameter. A party of Indian gentlemen who had come for the purpose of hunting & getting health restored made this same remark on beholding it. One would have taken a drawing of it for us had time permitted. They were very agreeable and kindly supplied us with meat during the time we were hunting. One is a Scotchman and though not in a lucrative pas situation compared to others in India has £800 per annum. He is first cousin to Lord Breadalbane. Another is Captain Steele of the Cold Stream Guards A. D. to the Guns of Madras. He and I became so friendly he promises to do many things for me but I fear he will forget. He has often hunted at Dugar & will return to England after he has served 4 years longer in India. He obliged me much in several respects particularly in taking a little money to Cape Town where he says being well acquainted with the Governor he will open a channel whereby I shall be able to transit a little occasionally to my brother in Oberlin. He promises to write me soon and gives me his address. But alas he is not pious. I could tell you much more

I have however been permitted [to] be instrumental in commencing the first station in the Interior and though I love it much I must hold myself in readiness to do what is best for the cause May the Lord direct us

Ever Affectionately Yours
D.L. David Livingstone