

Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 13 May 1841

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My Dear Friends

this is my third but I have not yet received the first I suppose you have written. I am sorry for it for we start from this place in a day or so & there is no probability now of my receiving it or any one else for 2 months hence - Please after this address me "Care of Dr Philip Cape Town" & not as I last ordered you. they will be much cheaper coming through the Dr's hands and I have very different opinions of him & Mrs P now from what I had in England. they are lovely devoted Christians & no demencing spirit was ever manifested during the period of my residence under their roof. Everything in their power was done to oblige us & this is their character from all the missionaries whose word is worth anything - although I did not receive a letter from England by post. I was most agreeably surprised after landing here when I for the first time opened the box you kindly presented me on leaving, & found a letter with a such a lot of valuable articles it brought me right home again - all the articles are very excellent & some very opportunely. I had no workbox nor slate nor table cloth but what did you mean by the paper, pens was &c? Was this a sly hint not to forget writing - you need not have done that for I shall always consider it a privilege when my other duties will allow. I have shewn you proof of this by writing you even in this short space of time more frequently than any other except my parents - However you perhaps did not mean to distrust me. And then the baby clothes Mrs W. Phillip was present when we opened it & on receiving there failed not to exert her of[supple tongue in] quizzing, which me on my celibacy. We had frequent skurmishes before but this gave her the advantage for a time. I ought to tell you we recognised in each other old acquaintances and truly glad we were to meet in this distant land - I gave mother the baby clothes by way of "placebo" as we say in medicine [...] our design could not be entrusted to better

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hands. Good will be done by them & this is what you wanted. With

her husband & M^r E. Williams of Hankey I made my first essay in South African travelling. Hankey is only about 9 to 10 hours for this on horseback. think of the nature up the roads when it to us 4 days in a waggon not very heavily laden & drawn by 12 oxen, to reach it. One day however we lost by sticking fast in a river. I wont detail there things for you have them in every book of travels in S.A. I felt quite at home for the scenery greatly resembled Scotland. M^{rs} P brought back many associations to my mind, talking of things & persons we both knew and in the Scotch language - Amongst the wild mountain scenery sung some songs in the genuine accent while at some parts unearthly ones were uttered by ugly taboo in the rocks above, in denision, I suppose, of the ones of our people to the oxen & many other things too trivial to mention gave our trip a sufficient degree of novelty to render it very ~~inter~~ interesting to ourselves - I enjoyed my first attempt very much felt very little of that strangeness which I expected to feel in it. We were all willing to please & [be] pleased. M^r Williams is a most excellent young Welshman & has done great good in Hankey but has been obliged ~~from~~ by an affliction of the throat to leave his charge for the season & retire to the Cape - A sea voyage being recommended he came round to Algoa Bay & feeling much better resolved to visit his people. the affection shwen him by the latter was most interesting. I had no idea that the Hottentots were so far advanced as I find them. As we approached the romantic but unhealthy situated spot where the village stands a discharge of musketry from the first houses made the inhabitants aware of our approach. this was answered by some discharges from the opposite side & immediately men women & children young & old were seen running from all quarters to the path winds down into the valley where the village is situated joy beamed in every pace as each pressed forward to grasp the hand of him whom it was easy to perceive they esteemed a beloved friend - It was not however a boisterous joy. It was chastened & sober. A hymn was started by the women & their beautiful clear voices resounded through the whole valley as the waggon approached nearer the houses. the expression of gladness might have been more disorderly - more like what we should expect from a people lately rescued from comparative barbarity [0003]

but M^r W. since he pacted with them had lost a fine little boy by death, and they seemed anxious to shew their sympathy with him for the men had each a little but of crape around their hats & the women black handkerchief round the head - It was affecting to see one poor woman who had nursed the boy come forward to shake hands, her breast heaving with emotion - burst into tears & turn away from the crowd to weep - As soon as [the women had to bake] as possible after our arrival, the people invited us to an entertainment. Coffee in the morning & tea in the afternoon. Several speeches were made which seemed eloquent. the purpose of them was telling us how happy they were to meet us & that the entertainment was an

expression of respect for us

You kindly offered to do any little thing I might forget. I shall ask a favour of you but it is not a small one for it will cost a good deal of trouble. I should have asked M^r Moore to do it as would have been less for him but I am afraid that before this ~~will~~[has] reached England he will be off to his parents [to] pay his last visit. I wish to send £20 to my parents this year, this is not sufficient to enable them to emigrate but having to supply myself with stores of different kinds for some years I cant send more at present I am sorry I cant, but they will I daresay wait with patience till another year - this sum will serve two purposes, it will free from a small money debt I owe a kind friend & it will see them through the winter & make them feel that though far separated I am not unmindful of their comfort. I have written them about it. Will M^r Pyne kindly draw it at the Mission House & transmit it to them. M^{rs} Phillip will draw out a bill in his name which will prevent any of the Directors wondering why I send home money so early. It will be endorsed with M^rPyne's name & drawn out in his favour. I shall send this letter to M^{rs} Phillip & you may expect a letter from her with the bill at the same time. - After this I am ashamed to make another request viz. Tell my Dear Brother M^r Moore if he has plenty of money to bring (or send) a thermometer. the plainer the better I append this frame will do better than any finer if it is for experiments I broke mine in coming out while [and calculating] ascertaining some facts with the temp of cold blooded animals. He will get one of this sort for 2/6 in "Macreed" I think at 34 Aldgate, London. I dont mean you to do this, you have done too much for me. Many thanks for all the articles they were all extremely acceptable. Your kind letter & book & tea soap candles. I cant name them all but you have my sincere gratitude for all the baby clothes. M^{rs} Pyne has written on the book. She has an excellent hand. It is a great pity he does [0004] know it. Persuade him to give me another specimen on the pages of foolscap - No short letters. I have given you a good example with regard to quantity concerning the quality I shall be silent.

I mean to write M^r Moore as soon as possible but in case I am unable please ~~also~~ tell him also. that if he can bring a quadrant, made to act as a sextant, (having telescope tubes, double shades &c. I shall teach him how to use it. And afterwards pay him the full value for it. I hope he will come to Africa. He may get this instrument for £4 at "Macrals" - I remember what you did in the care of watch & your great kindness then makes me a little afraid lest you should think that fools in need of the above instrument Dont think that. I have a quadrant, an excellent one too, purchased from the above named maker. I mention it to m^r Moore in order that if he felt inclined to astronomize a little it would be better to get a quadrant fitted up as a sextant or a second hand sextant at once Many things can be done by the latter which cant be done by a

simple quadrant - this instrument will assist my work a
good deal. I am sorry your kindness has, by my trusting to the
conscience of M^r Young, Strand the person who supplied us them
been almost lost. I have got a bad watch though were it not
not go during the voyage. I had to pay 12/ to get some
life into it at the Cape. M^r Moore must not get his watch at Yonge's. A quadrant will do him
more good, the sun needs no repairs never stops
not for a moment suppose that I feel your kindness in supplying me a wiff the lesso
because though M

Care of Rev^d D^r Phillip Cape Town
Benjamin Pyne Esq^{re}
Wildingtree, Ongar
single sheet Essex, S.B.