

## Letter to Robert Moffat 1, 5 September 1845

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[0001]

Maboka 5 Sept 1845

My Dear Father

The present note must be as hurried as any of yours. Mebaloe goes out on Monday in order to bring home his wife before he is required for thatching and as I have returned here on horseback and go again tomorrow there is no time for corresponding Everything you sent so far as we have been able to ascertain has come safely and we thank you heartily for the whole I heard at Chonuane that Mary had headache & when the Griqua messenger came I did not require any pressing to accept the invitation she was better before I came but I mean to purchase a horse so as to come here oftener. The walls are three feet high, this is to be the level of the floor, the outside to be raised for some distance around the house in order to avoid damp. We are 19 in all & hope soon to get up our tabernacle. The heifer which came from Obonyeñ & any others you can conveniently procure shall be glad of by Mebaloe. M<sup>r</sup>Milligan promised to bring me a dozen

[0002]

the children here come to be taught by Mary at the house. Sechele acquired a perfect knowledge of the alphabet, large small & mixed in two days. I try to get breakfast before sun-rise & keep school in the Kotla as soon after as possible so as to have all set agoing in good time in the morning. I am extremely sorry at having involved you in the unpleasant affair with Edwards. It was entirely by a mistake on my part. The appearance of the man & his communication produced a sort of bewilderment and as we were on the power of starting for Sechele's I was willing to give him a frank statement

before we did so & in doing so wrote with  
more hurry than such a matter required  
I read over yours hurriedly & thought that  
the paper was official and it was not  
till a &c perusal of yours convinced me  
I was wrong that I knew the error I  
had made. He however takes it  
for granted that you have informed me  
of everything for he begins his note by  
"you have been informed that I applied &c"  
but he has not the engenuity to allow anything  
[0003]

If he can make a peg of it on which to hang  
an accusation, and by the way I may mention  
that I have nothing to do with his application  
for advice. The form in which he now  
puts his absence from the ordinances & station  
we left this as he informed me in his note  
in order to submit the affairs to a committee  
of the bretheren. I do not feeling willing  
to allow him to make turn rounds as he has  
done in the affair. The charges as he now  
puts them are false Not one of them  
has he put in a plain straightforward way  
so I dont see what I can do except  
give a fair straightforward narration of  
all that I know on the subject. It  
will be prolix but these "charges" dontcon  
tain a tithe of the differences . . there is  
not a word about the "dishonest dishonour  
able mischievous conduct". "The going to  
natives" in the garden. The employing Mebaloe  
privately &c &c and by the way you need  
not suspect the Directors will imagine  
my declining to have Mokoteri in on  
your account. My declining to employ  
not only one but everyone I shall  
[0004]

attribute to one of the proper causes viz.  
that there is not the least probability of my  
recieving that cooperation without which  
my single efforts would be futile. Send  
Paul to Poe and whatever your motives  
may be in reality. Before twelve months  
pass over you may have as I have  
had from my beloved coadjutor all  
manner of motives kindly laid at your  
door. Unfortunately my letters for England  
are at Sechele. I shall leave that for  
the Directors open. Please peruse it &  
tell me what you think of it, I thought

at one time that I ought not to say a word about M<sup>r</sup>E. untill the committee had decided. And that has made me delay Mokoteri's affair longer than I intended or wished. The subject of my leaving & of Mebaloe & of others are so connected dovetailed I found I could not write without taking them in. I hope your promise to present my former letters does not apply to this. If it does you may stop that till you think proper

[0005]

2<sup>d</sup> sheet. M<sup>r</sup> Lemue seems rather sulky in his answers to what I wrote - does not wish to say anything more on the subject. I did not wish him to begin. " M<sup>r</sup> Langa thinks the ideas of M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup>E are very much exaggerated & that they dont seem to percieve[<sup>^</sup>][to] what their conduct will lead."

We are very happy to hear that Robert tries to improve. What he does is very commendable but he seems to want a guide in his studies, his letter indicates considerable mental activity. We thank you for the perusal. Many of his thoughts would vanish as many of ours have as soon as he breathed this pure atmosphere. the lack of the material for mechanical operations he does not know. But nothing is like the preaching of the word. Dogged perserverance at this is infinitely prefer[r]able to doctoring tinkering or anything else. You have but a small quantity of iron in the Kuruman district, none at all I imagine in Griqua land. Copper has been worked very extensively at Chonuane, enormous amounts the labours of extraction have been. There is abundance of iron ore here but would Robert like to be M<sup>r</sup>E's mechanic

[0006]

If he came out as an artizan I for one should bitterly regret it and then who is to support him in his journies? and his wife too! But it is unfair to criticise. they are the dreams - amiable speculations of one who seems quite on the right side Let us pray that he may be guided into the right path for the Redeemers glory. And that he may yet become instrumental in more good to Africa than his young heart has yet[~~et~~][ever]concieved

Poor little Helen. We dont think your decision

wrong in her affair But we cant keep wishing  
what was beyond all our powers to effect  
that she had fallen into other connections  
We thank you for all you have sent and that  
most heartily thank you for the consolation  
in the barren cow case. Dont forget the  
noting down the gem locks & everything else  
requiring payment. If you do I shall give  
you a return of as strong consolation for  
I dont keep note. If there are anythings in  
the barrels which you M<sup>r</sup> Ashton or Hamilton  
need dont spare them Take what you  
want. I have not a moments leisure  
to answer theirs which I recieved and for  
which thank them through you  
[0007]

In regard to the head chest at Philipolis you have said  
& done enough. We must now leave it to time  
which effects such mighty changes in our  
world. Inglis may chuckle but to me it  
is now mystery how he got information. When  
we were sitting in committee a report was made  
to Hume regularly of our proceedings could that  
tongue keep a secret? We have our justification  
we are all willing that proper subjects be  
engaged. The Mokoteri was not a proper subject  
at that time Can we be blamed for taking  
time [to] ascertain the latter fact more fully by  
our bretheren taking silent observations of  
him without his knowing it?

We shall feel obliged if you furnish our  
accounts at your convenience. We wish it  
lest we run too deep into the mind ere we  
are aware. We must excercise the bump  
of caution in order that it may grow bigger  
Mary says if you come do so in December  
I put it down from her mouth, I dont  
know her reasons. The vine cuttings &c  
are very acceptable. Our peaches are in  
blossom, but the figs, it was too much  
for their constitution - many have died  
[0008]

I mean to plant (How did the dried figs in the jar do)  
a hedge of hackey down, but dont need the shears  
O I mean to do many things but time so difficult  
to be killed by some. expires always sooner  
then I want it. M<sup>r</sup> Oswal says all the  
features of the Bamangwato country are  
Indian the bushes trees &c. are exactly  
similar. Mahatla hackey dorn Rose or

as he calls it black wood & wood apple  
that which I brought out are plentiful  
in India. ( M<sup>r</sup>E has taken a specimen of  
Rose wood to Graham's Town) they saw  
& measured Hume's big tree 51 feet in  
circumference Cumming is gone to the  
range of hills EEN of the Bakaa. I did  
not hear of the "long white man" We have  
heard that Charles recieved the ten pounds  
safely. The previous Five I sent by  
another route are not mentioned. My  
Fathers family are all in a state of  
poor health. My sister's constitution  
seems broken up the Typhus Fever. Not  
the one you saw but she too has suffered  
from the same cause & has palpitations of  
the heart. Charles's college term expired  
last month to country or something else comes next