

Letter to Robert Moffat 1, 15 February 1844

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[0001]

Mabotsa Feb^y 15 1844

My dear Sir

I am in very different circumstances now from those in which I expected to have addressed from our new station, the lions here are very numerous & very troublesome and besides having attacked us here & destroyed some of the cattle of our people one of them destroyed 9 sheep & goats in broad day light on a little eminence opposite our hut last wendnesday. The natives came screaming to us as we were engaged in the water course and as all operations were immediately suspended I very imprudently returned across the valley in order to encourage them to destroy him. This very nearly cost me my life for after he was wounded he rushed down bit Mabalwe badly on the thigh, another native on the shoulder & myself on the arm, the humerus is splintered & his teeth have produced deep wounds which may trouble me for a long time. Had it been directly in the way of duty I should not have cared for the pains, but I have not that consideration to compare myself by it was not so contrary to my regular rules of acting I dont know what induced me to go however I have great cause for thankfulness

[0002]

that I escaped with my life He shook me as a cat does a mouse & had the mercy of the Lord not prevented could easily have torn me to peices I am sorry this event has happened now for it gives our friends the Edwards trouble which various circumstances render them ill able to bear - If you are writing to the Directors Perhaps you might give them the substance of the above account I dont know what they will think of me after this but it seems to me we ought to tell them our misfortunes and the causes of them too, faithfully. -

Before I met with this misfortune I thought of requesting to purchase from you an adage, large handsaw, the one I have is very small, a common axe or two, with any other tools either smithy or carpenters you have spare I think I may still request them for it is fortunately the left arm that is injured so I shall be able to work with the right while that is still weak.

You know I have a brother in America; he is partly dependent on me & as in the transmission of small arms frequent failures

[0003]

through the dishonesty of the American Post office have taken place, If you are acquainted with any safe mode of transmission and would send him £10 of the enclosed £20 you would release my mind of a great deal [of] anxiety and I think do good for I ~~think~~ believe the chief desire of the poor young fellow is to spread the knowledge of the Redeemer among men, His address is Charles Livingston student Oberlin College Lorain County, Ohio, U.S. Please excuse my returning thus to trouble you.

[...] The other ten pounds please let remain in your hands for tools & any thing else you may send. If you are about to send for beads a lot of any kind would much oblige me Have you seen that box for me which is marked "beads" perhaps it was a mistake

Please present my christian regards to Mrs M. Mary, Ann &c & I believe me yours

Affectionately

DLivingston

The reason I have requested you to write the Directors is inability on my part & I dont wish them to hear from a less authentic source

[0004]

Rev^d R. Moffat
Kuruman