

## Letter to William Thompson, 12 October 1852

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Kuruman 12.<sup>th</sup> October 1852

Rev<sup>d</sup> W.Thompson Copied

My dear Sir

Enclosed you will receive two documents which I doubt not will interest you and may be of use to you in your forthcoming work "History of the Cape Colony during the last ten years". Put down my name as a subscriber for five copies. In the mean time however you may publish Viljoen's letter in the Mail or Advertiser. It is pretty fair from one who has been an extensive dealer in gunpowder among the natives and who I have no doubt had a load of the same article, then, in his waggon for sale. This is the same individual too who bought several boys at the Lake in 1851. I shall copy one of Sechele's letters for you before I close this and if you thought proper you might send it on to the Directors. I have sent a copy of Sechele's letter and also one of Viljoen's to the British Resident M<sup>r</sup> Green. And a letter explanatory of the documents as violations of the provisions of the treaty of the Commissioners. It is somewhat in the same strain as that sent through you to

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the Lieutenant Governor which I hope you received, but I conclude in the following manner "In the hope that the communication of these facts may lead to the cessation of the violation ^ of the provisions &c of the treaty. And compensation for losses sustained by such violation" I am &c &c DL. Now I have not the smallest expectation of any com[-]pensation but I thought I ought to make the losses known to the proper authorities so that they may have no excuse if they pay no attention to them. And as the British Resident has two brothers now on a trading expedition to Sebitoane's country and they having lost considerable property in the plundering of my house and burning of Sechele's town - Their relays of cattle too were taken away - All which property is

believed to belong to the British Resident himself. It is not unlikely but that he may claim compensation and should he get it I may come in for a share. At any rate it will look better for him to make a noise about my property than about his brothers' alias his own. The Boers are on the watch for his brothers and Webb who are in the country beyond the Bamangwato. Indeed we heard by some hunters who came two days ago that the boers are waiting for the English gentlemen somewhere between the Bamangwato and the Zouga with laudable intention

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of plundering them. I don't want the English gentlemen to be killed but I am inclined to pray that they may be stripped to the buffs and come out like those bashful blades who were told to tarry at Jericho. I am quite glad they have lost a good deal at Kolobeng, I am only afraid they don't get insulted enough to make them speak out when they come to the colony. I being one of the "Rebel maakers" and a fanatic withal. The only comfort that will be bestowed on me will be "served him right" But if some of the Devil's children be hustled then we shall have a decentish boohoo. I added a private note to the British Resident giving the news so far as we have heard then of his brothers, their losses. The success of their trading at Sebitoane's and the probable plunder of all they have got &c making the picture quite plain. He wont need spectacles to see the boers hauling out the big tusks out of his brothers' waggon, will he? And if he says nothing sharp to the Boer Republic, it will be because M<sup>r</sup> Commissioner Owen lays an embargo on everthing likely to disturb his country. So - the mighty fuss about punishing Kreli has turned out a windbag. Well done Kreli! and you ye Fingoes remember Botha - vebum sat. sap. The world is becoming worse I fear. The Pope at home and Sandillah and General Uithaalder abroad what next?

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Will you come to the dinner to Uithaalder? Of course he will get a dinner as well as Pretorius. The Peit Scholtz who was feasted at Natal with Pretorius was Commandant at the Kolobeng! He did not bury all the dead of his own party. And they are all now dreadfully exasperated at me. They say I taught Sechele to shoot Boers and they will have my head

yet. As I have still a little use for my head I am still on the look out here watching to see the path clear a head. And what think you is the drama in front. A party of boers waiting beyond the Bamangwato to plunder & perhaps kill a few Englishmen and at the same time two parties of natives on the look out to kill them. It will be a wonder if a boer escapes. When the path is clear then I shall have run for it. All is peace beyond. Some Griqua hunters have approached the outposts of Mosilikatse and He sends a message to M<sup>r</sup> Moffat "Why dont you come and see me, Be sure and come and bring a chair for me. All you told me (about the boers) & fighting & killing is true He wants to make peace with the Grikwas &c. O how I wish I were away in my own country. Swampy boggy though to be.. The reasons which make me doubt whether I ought to draw anything for Mebaloe are the following and as you are fond

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you may take it as part of the Bakwain mission. I mentioned to you that after three years consistent conduct and profession of faith in Christ I baptized Sechele on the first Sabbath of October 1848 In March or April 1849 it was discovered that he had had connection with one of his former wives whom in consequence of having a young child and no parents he had found impossible to send away with the others. He at once confessed his sin and added as an excuse that having been accustomed to her he had not at the time felt as if he were sinning by going to another man's wife. He professed much penitence entreating me not to cast him off "as he hoped to stand along with me before the throne of Jesus". I cut him off from fellowship and as he entreated to be allowed to remain as a spectator only at the ordinance and I felt that I must not count him as an enemy, I acceded to his request. He sat back from the spot where the few believers communicated on two or three occasions which occurred subsequently to his fall and his manner being no ways changed from what it had been

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previously I indulged the hope that if he continued

to walk uprightly for two or three years we might again receive him. Immediately after his fall I wrote to the Directors about it knowing that they would sympathize with me in my sorrow, and I mentioned to them subsequently the fact of his walking consistently. I thought this was sufficient unless I had restored him again. But as soon as I heard of his conduct in the case of M<sup>r</sup> Moyle as it seemed widely different from consistency, I wrote to the Directors a detailed account of the circumstances and stated that I now considered him an entire backslider though not an apostate. I was the more careful to give the facts of his case because they had in some speeches made reference to his conversion, and some who did not of course know what I had written thought that I must still be holding up Sechele to the Board as a convert Well eight or ten months after Sechele was cut off a worse affair came to light amongst the young people belonging to the families of the two native teachers Mebaloe and Paul viz. excessive impunity and when I began to make enquiry I found out that the teachers must have known

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of it and kept me in ignorance. This is a peculiarity among Bechuana believers. They never will make known the sins of their fellow believers and when anything comes to light, then they quietly remark "O we knew all about it long ago" The wives of the teachers too had been using enchantments. I felt very much vexed to think I had been administering the ordinance to them as consistent believers, and the whole town knowing all the while what their conduct had been. Their number being only seven I cut the whole off having ^ had no ordinance at all since. None of them even asked why they were kept so, they seemed determined to act as if they had never been guilty or as if they believed that I knew nothing about it. Paul's family being notoriously bad I requested him to leave but he did not go Mebaloe however confessed to me before I went to the Cape that they had done great harm to the cause in fact, said he, we have spoiled the teaching at Kolobeng. The Boers now have cleared out the whole of them. I did not pay them anything from the time I discovered their inconsistency but Mebaloe having confessed his sin and also carried on the school up to the time of the Boers' attack I may perhaps without impropriety draw a years salary

for him. I have not yet however made up my mind

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There are always two sides to a story. Well the other side is this. Ashton loquitur - "Livingston cut off the whole of the believers at Kolobeng because he had not moral courage to cut off Sechele." And he receives the delinquents into Kuruman church without asking a note of demission according to the universal custom of the churches here Then again he proposed to M<sup>r</sup> Moffat to write a joint letter to the Directors denouncing my falsehood in holding up Sechele to the Directors as a convert all the while knowing that he is an apostate". M<sup>r</sup> M. of course declined this. Now I am in a fix if I haul him up for his remarks it will be another quarrel such as took place nine years ago when Edwards and Inglis took it into their heads to say I quarrelled with them and which quarrel the Directors tell me now, still exists. If I let him alone and say nothing then he will be sure that his remark about my want of moral courage is correct. Shall I brave the row, or the imputation. I feel inclined to do the latter as requiring more courage than the former. This will be "Jouk & let the jaw gang by" But I am giving you letters equal in length to the Times Newspaper and you give me ½ sheets. Take care my friend. Old John Wylde is nothing to me if I open out on you. Tell me some of your trials (omitting the Brit. Quar one) And how you manage to overcome

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It is something to overcome oneself. I would not mention names above but to put down a blank would not be treating you with any confidence and I cannot help believing that you possess a great deal more prudence than I ever did or ever will get hold of. In proof of want of prudence I intend to begin tomorrow another spell for the British Quarterly on the Caffre war. It is high time that we speak out. We must pitch into them it is infamous to see our Cape Government scraping and bowing to the mobocracy of that cesspool called Grammar. Graham's Town - I have sketched out a grammar but done nothing else except collecting words and making notes (a very few on natural history) when I think of it, it grows on me and seems a work of a life time. And I suspect mine will not be

a long one. I cannot get over the idea that complaining of one's ailments is old wifish yet a pain in my chest I never felt before when I exert myself to speak as loudly as I used to do in preaching warns me that my days are few In preaching in Sichuana which I do occasionally I feel at home and speak much more loudly and quickly than when gasping for words as much as for breath & voice in Union Chapel. Will you present my kind remembrances to D<sup>E</sup> Abercrombie

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and ask him what he would recommend for a pain apparently confined to the middle & upper lobes of the left lung. I feel it only when I preach loudly It continues half a day afterwards. I use sponging the whole body. The chest in particular with cold water but have not much inclination to use medicines unless recommended by a judicious old practitioner as he. The throat I am sorry to say is not so much benefitted as I expected There is no symptom of any disease whatever in the lung. I feel nothing but the pain & a feeling of weakness -

Yet that you may not think me entirely destitute of prudence I may mention that I have remained here more than a month after my wheel was repaired waiting till the boers have got out of my way. They intend it is reported as soon as they hear of my passing to send a party on horseback after me and if I will not come back they must kill me. I intend to lighten the waggons of as much food as possible and everything else except bare necessaries and then we shall have a run. I shall travel mostly at night, keep well to the west and if I get to Sekhomi's he will take care that they

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dont bring me back - (O diabolos you work hard for your own). I feel a little ashamed at lingering here now that I have no incumbrance but what can be expected ~~now~~ since ~~that~~ I have become a worshipper of the goddess prudence Tell Ralph that the miserable white poney is become fat again and carries me about finely, he would not know it now.

16<sup>th</sup> Have just heard that the Boers have stripped

Mosheu the Koranna of everything. See M<sup>r</sup> Moffat's book for an account of Mosheu- The Boers are reported to be quarrelling among themselves. The widows of those killed at Sechele's wont receive their share of the plunder and curse Pretorius bitterly because he pretended to be sick while he sent their husbands on commando. Last Sunday I preached 3 times and did not feel the pain I have had for some time so you need not think anything more about it Ludorf is at Motito having fled from his people. They too are flying. Philipolis Griquas are said to be stabbing each other through brandy of course. I shall write to Directors by next opportunity

Ever yours of course

D Livingston