

Letter to William Thompson, 11, 17 October 1853

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11th October 1853 - Linyanti

My dear Man

I sent you a few days ago a long letter per a M^r Francis Thompson who came up as far as the chobe in company with a trader M^r Chapman and since I sent off the packet I find I have had time to transcribe the enclosed paper which I have taken the liberty to believe you will not object to read. It contains the marrow of a much longer one carefully written for the same destination but it was penned on our way here and though it contains a much fuller view than this. Many points are now out of date and will be much more so before reaching Dr Vaughan I had given up the idea of sending it at all, till the idea of an abbreviation struck my mind and now I fear that the haste evident in its composition & writing will render it unfit for the pages of a Review. However I send it and my object in enclosing it to you is to request you to note any passages you may see to be out of date by the time you get it and signify the same to the D^r. Is this too much to ask? Well, I shall not send you the next but will just tell you it is much better than this indeed if it were not my own child I would say it is a very good one. So good I may perhaps keep it to myself altogether. It is on missions. The privilege of being allowed to engage in them. Their future &c &c. I wrote it in the weary way across the desert and if it never does aught else it has comforted my own mind.

The second paper about which I told you and which Mr Cameron ~~told you~~ said would be published will not trouble you. I meant it to be a continuation of the same subject believing the one would not be complete without the

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the other. This it seems is not admissable in a Review. Much of the article will be otherwise employed, and as doing good was my object I am quite satisfied. I think I have the same object in the present article. It is a misfortune to be so far from proofsheets, one could make the composition

so much more smooth and perhaps telling. If I ever send that I have by me at present it will be my last. As I am on the subject of literature I may say you are a very fine Editor. The only letter of any pretensions in your report has "what is the result of these effects"? and about ½ a dozen "admitting's" spanned onto one trektow of a sentence like African oxen. You will shelter yourself by saying you promised to give the manuscripts to the printer. Ah very well. 11 October 1853

[Your friend Anderson has reached the Lake This will be a useful path for traders to this Lake. But all our southern coast ^ viz of Sebituane's country is infested by tsetse except one small strip and a better path than to Walwich Bay must be made I have lost eight oxen by my people allowing the cattle to wander once. I find the watch given me by the Geo. an excellent one and have corrected several errors in Longitude by its means, but send my observations to M^r Maclear for verification before publishing them. It is probable the Lake is wrong as we never attempted or could attempt to establish its Longitude. We never had watches worth anything you very kindly say you fear for the result of my going in here alone. I hope I am in the way of duty my own conviction that such is the case has never wavered. I am doing something for God. I have preached the gospel in many a spot where the name of Christ has never been heard, and would work still more in the way of reducing the Barotsé language - if

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I had not suffered severely from fever. Exhaustion produced vertigo, causing me if I looked suddenly up to almost to lose consciousness - this made me give up some of my sedentary work. But I hope God will accept of what I can do. The temperature in the shade is about 100° Fahr. during the day & often 90° at 9 o'clock at night. But a merry heart doeth good like a medicine. If I allowed my mind to dwell constantly on the miserable degradation - wickedness & sad prospects of the people here I might become melancholy and soon die. But we have a fair world and all the wonderful works of our father in it and I believe we ought to allow our minds to dwell on the beautiful more than on the evil. I am never low spirited. It might be different if I had a crusty companion. I have experience in the matter. And my thoughts never torn with any longing except for my family. I think we are immortal till our work is done not on this platform ^ only but on the pestilential plains of the glorious Leeambye.]

Remember me to Miss Thompson & the young ones

I think this goes by Walwich Bay. If the packet should reach you by this route, a small bag of seeds for the Botanic garden accompanies it. They were collected in the way here. I contemplate going to Loanda as soon as the rains begin. They moderate the temperature. The dry dust with which the winds are now loaded produces fever. Your letters are miserably short. David Livingston

In my other paper I give a hint to M^r John Pears or Pearson who wrote a letter in the British Banner. "A number of church members proceeding to the funeral of a friend in the vicinity of Cradock observed the foot prints of eight Bechuanas who had travelled about 600 miles in search of employment a few years before and were now returning home with the fruits of their honest industry. After the funeral these Christians armed themselves

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and in the belief that these Bechuanas were Caffres followed their trail found them sitting quietly behind some bushes and shot down seven of them unchallenged & unresisting. The eig[...] was taken prisoner & it was then found they were peaceable labourers. This bloody affair was published in the Papers & no more notice taken of it These Boers pass uncensured to the table of the Lord. They eat & wipe their mouths & say we have done no wickedness. Can the Rev^d John Pears give us any further information on this subject" We suppose these people were Bakwains many of them having gone to work in that direction and never returned. Their wives are still waiting for them this would have been out of date now.

I have left a page for your remarks in D^r Vaughan's note. Although intended for colonists I cannot permit its publication in the colony. It is utterly useless to speak to them except through the press of Europe

The gentleman who takes
this M^r Chapman goes
by Walwich Bay
and will deliver the
letters to you without
the expense of postage
through the colony
He has not been success[-]
ful in trade - Various
causes prevented
The seeds will be delivered
either to you or to the
Botanic garden
This is the 17th October
rains made an attempt

to begin last night
Will you send Hoffmeyr's
letter to my old lodgings

Rev^d W. Thompson
Church Square
Cape Town