

## Letter to Robert Moffat 1, 27 October 1846

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[0001]

Chonuane 27 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1846

My dear Father

As M<sup>r</sup> Cumming leaves

tomorrow morning I must write you a note  
But I have but little inclination to [be]  
writing at present. Robert has been  
very ill for three days past of  
Bronchitis or inflammation of the lining  
membrane of the air tubes of the  
lungs. How induced we dont know  
A great many Bakwena suffer  
from colds & dysentery. perhaps it  
arises from the intense heat &  
occasional disposition to showers  
the damp air comes from the  
parts where rain has fallen  
& that too often in the evenings.-  
- very pleasant but pernicious after  
the hot sunshine

[0002]

He could scarcely breathe for one day - the  
mucus collected so abundantly in the air  
tubes. The sound was like the cooing  
of wood pigeons in his breast. That  
has been removed but no medicine has  
any effect on the complaint. He has  
constant heat of skin - loses flesh &  
is much troubled with his cough  
Remedies which usually produce a  
speedy change do nothing in his case  
the cough gradually sounds worse &  
worse. I am sorry I cannot  
speak of the favourable symptoms  
I can only hope they will soon  
appear. His cheerfulness is quite gone

M<sup>r</sup> Cumming has kindly favoured us  
with an adze so there is no need for  
that which went to Kuruman. We hope

Mamary & party arrived safe. M<sup>r</sup> C will give all our news.

[0003]

I have been shortening the bands of the waggon succeeded well with those of the "naves" except making one rather too little. Three of the large bands fitted well But one did not touch the wood ^ at the weld & when trying to send it in (when cold) I broke it although the weld was one of the best made. I take it slowly welding one side then the other. What is the proper distance to place the band from the hole of the bellows? ought the centre of the band or the lower edge to be opposite the hole? I placed the band sometimes two sometimes three inches from the hole but could not get a heat over the whole part to be welded. It either went over the upper or lower edge My friends here say you put pieces of stone under the band to bring it into a proper position What that is I cant ascertain - this sort of work has suffered a few days['] interruption School is finished - only one small

[0004]

shower of rain yet. Olive grows briskly Waggon tent suffered a severe fracture all along back bone - Ribs all shivered We shall patch it up & go Eastward as soon as Robert recovers - Corn crop best this year - long ago you have heard of the departure of Baba to the land of the blessed. He worked hard for us - ploughing &c. I could not reckon with him being engaged with Vardon & Oswel But said in parting I shall add ten dollars to the amount for carriage & reckon again with you. He said although I gave nothing for the work it did not matter. He worked to assist [of no use] us. In their confusion after the accident they sent a man on horseback to Mabotsa

& a man on foot here - the latter  
arrived late in the afternoon & Mebaloe &  
I immediately set off keeping up a gallop  
till it was dark. The moon arose  
about one oclock and a rhinoceros at  
the same time disputed our path

[0005]

standing snorting at us. We went off at right  
angles with the path & our minds being  
impressed with the accident concieved every  
big dark bush after that a real burile  
moving & making towards us, Directing  
our course to a fire in the distance we  
found it at ^ a cattle post of Bakhatla who  
gave the melancholy intelligence that  
the spirit of Baba had departed just  
about the time we left home. Had the  
man on horseback come here we might have  
[...]witnessed his dying moments & it would have  
been satisfactory to our feelings to have  
shewn respect to him though we could  
do little else. We returned in the morning  
with sorrowful hearts

If an opportunity should occur  
we shall feel obliged by your sending  
some alphabets & first spelling books  
We recieved by some Wanketze  
a parcel & (we supposed) letters  
addressed to Mrs M. After letting them

[0006]

lie some time We concluded we might  
open & it in order to take our share  
& trusted you would take our word  
that we had not read any but  
our own But after opening the  
envelope we felt what appeared  
only one letter so we return it  
in nearly the same state it left  
you

We send if M<sup>r</sup> C. will take it  
a Macaca root hoping you will [...]   
enclose it for D<sup>r</sup> Buchanan, in  
the Box. If you think it will  
do mischief it can be left out  
Intend as soon as the present brush

of work is over to collect some of  
the rarer bulbs for your botanic  
garden I know one Mocaca as  
big as a small water vatchy - this  
upper portion (stems leaves) &c. is  
used as a vegetable by nati[...][ves]