

Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 28 January 1845

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Kuruman 25 January 1845

My very Dear Friend Acc. 1064

I have again the pleasure of announcing the safe arrival of two letters from you and to say they were welcome would be only saying that which you already know, M^r P's I shall answer by itself, and hope each will keep the other company accross the wide gulph which intervenes in the same summer yours did - How affecting the intelligence yours conveys, and how instructive The time is short - Let us work with our might while we are continued here. About the same I recieved a letter from M^r Williams and He too has departed. He has been the means of establishing a Welsh Missionary Magazine and his letter contained earnest entreaties for correspondence for it. I shall begin immediately & furnish the needful as far as my abilities go. I wish I were more able to furnish intelligence. I have been so busy of late I could not do anything and what was all the fuss about do you think only about being married. I am sorry I had not an opportunity of telling you before this for it was settled long ago & not long ago it only seemed long to me. It was a few months since & I had to build a house after I was engaged. Well I am hooked now & M^r Drummond will no longer have it in his power to accuse me of being a monk. By the way I am glad you have heard from him and & that our dear departed Miss Marshall heard to before she died. He says to me "revere her memory" & utters many affectionate things respecting her, who can speak otherwise respecting her. I never heard that to which you refer & am sure she never had any thoughts such as those presented to her by - As for myself I never thought myself good enough to aspire so high I may mention that my wife is in bodily appearance very much like her only a great deal stouter

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M^r [...] gives me a copy of a letter recieved from M^r Moore during the time he was writing to me. It runs thus Dear Chisholm, my hands are so full having to cook fetch water, sweep rooms &c &c that I have only time to say I hope you are enjoying the presence of our beloved saviour & prospering abundantly in your work. My hearts desire is that you may never labour in vain Here alas everything goes wrong - The French have deposed the queen & taken full poss[-]ession of the Island. Write me by Capⁿ Scott I am yours truly Joseph Moore. M^r D says you can draw your own inferences from it. It seems a flag of distress truly - the Union Jack upside down & no mistake But I must not crow over poor Joseph for I too am married I am at present at Kuruman but intend leaving a week or two for Mabotsa, this place begins to assume an air of prosperity and this chiefly by the residence of M^r Moffat. He has toiled manually ever since he came, building repairing thatching improving in everything & makes me see that a great deal can be done when one's heart is in this work, His excellencies make the differences of those who had the care of the station more apparent But I must not praise now that he is my father in law

At Mabotsa matters go on pretty well But I dont expect to remain there long. The sphere is too small for the missionaries, as I am the younger I propose to go to the Bakwains of either Bubi or Sechele. If I remained at Mabotsa the utmost I could hope for would be the part of introduction of the gospel to a tribe while by going to another it would be an introduction of the gospel wholly by my intrustrmentality the additional labour &c does not weigh anything in the calculations so I think I shall go as soon as poss

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M^r Inglis makes a very poor figure in the language While M^r Ashton preaches fluently & very correctly indeed He ^ M^r I visited us at Mabotsa But has taken no steps for forming a station or doing anything else. He remains at Griqua Town I wish he would devote himself to something when so much is needed - M^{rs} I. has been much troubled with ophalmia, & so has her little daughter. All blue eyes are in the country very subject to it. In this respect it resembled Egypt

M^r I's obtuseness in the language will be against his future usefulness for to be useful one has to excel in more respects than a minister at home. If a native excels a missionary in any work He does not listen as attentively to his instructions as he otherwise would

We had a party of English hunters up in the interior lately one the son of a clergyman and himself a candidate for holy orders offered to call on any of my friends in England & tell what he had seen of me. You may guess of what I thought his character made when I did not give him a single address, I have lately had a channel opened up for my transmitting parcels to the Cape. D^r Wallich the East India company's superintendent of Botanical gardens at Calcutta authorizes me to put any expenses I choose to his charge- This, for sending him the edible roots & fruits of the poor Bakalah[-] -ari of the desert, I shall avail myself of his kindness by sending something first to you. Give my kind regards to Mary and all your family Benjamin, Marland Bernard & the other who may have by this time come - (The Queen is going on at a dreadful rate). In these my Mary writes Ever Affectionately Yours D. Livingston

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P.S. I enclose the specimen for the album which you requested Give that which will suit her character. I did not intend to convey any reproof or ought else in that which I wrote for you formerly I never hint if a subject is worth talking about I talk out & never by a side wind so I did not mean you

Jany 1845

~~Care of Rev^d D^r Phillip Cape Town~~

Benjamin Pyne Esq^{re}

Wildingtree Ongar

Essex 2 sheets

Jany 28/45

when I spoke of the teeth of a saw writing
However since you draw my attention to it so I
must say I the application might be made
But I never would be made by such
a wretched hand as mine excuse me saying this
It is always really & truly most acceptable
– you must just write in the way you

can, most surely write often & long
long what from you & never fail
to answer yours & never will
Believe me yours affectionately