

Letter to Robert Moffat 1, 11 March 1846

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[0001]

Chonuane 11 March 146

My dear Father

Having written so fully by
Boy I have nothing more to trouble you
with now that it is appointed for
Hendrick to accompany him. Paul
expected the conveyance of my waggon
for Isaac but the intention of
sending it having been relinquished
he now sends his own. They
have some hankering after Francina
but having dissuaded the father from
sending for her I hope he will refrain
The house has at length got a
coat of clay on its top. This was
accomplished today. The kitchen
and bed room with the vorhuis
are furnished. Two inside walls
alone remain to be raised a few
feet. We go to Mabotsa on

[0002]

friday (this is Wednesday Evening) to remove
our duds &c. The white ants are already
in possession here - a theme on which
to try our inventive powers for extermination

M^r Cumming left a good deal of
powder under my care with liberty to
assist any of the people with it for
karosses whom I thought fit. Fortun[-]
-ately my engagements prevented my
using that power with one exception
Sechele is now apprehensive of
an attack and looked very queer
when told that I should place M^r
Cumming's powder back again
into the hands of its owners. And
never mend a gun while there
was any probability of its being

used in shedding blood - strange
to say he goes on reading and listens
to preaching with as much attention
as ever. He quotes Malura's advice
in justification of his late deed

[0003]

& declares he will stand everything but a
direct attack on his town if from a
nation not his subjects. Says his reason
for not telling us was I would have
gone before or with them and spoiled
all. For they persevere in plaguing
him because they know he has
a teacher to hinder him from attacking
them. The fellow does not want arguments
he would beat many who look with con[-]
[-]tempt on savages as void of sophistry
"unsophisticated children of nature" say they
A funny mother and stranger children
verily. Had M^r Ross been the first
who got Malura to consent to hear
the gospel he would not ^ have found it
so easy as entering on other men's
labours. Had I been to the committee
meeting I suspect this pill might
have been given to the Translator of
the Flower gathered. This last was
denounced by Edwards in no meas[-]
-ured terms at this time

[0004]

and a building line finds its way out
among the sticks of the tent? this brings
to my recollection the other tent. Paul
brought it and said it was to be left with
us, we supposed till an opportunity of
returning it occurred. A short time
afterwards he required it again as a shelter
for his family till their house was
finished. Knowing you would have
no objection to this I let him have it
and he has used it ever since. I have
just been out to enquire if he could
not send it with Hendrick. But he
says he does not understand how it
is. Whether he is to buy it or give it

to me to be sent back. I think it
better to let it remain till you inform
him. He seems to like it. I am
very glad of the "Lancets" I thank you
heartily for ordering them. I shall pay
2^{ds} price or the whole if you allow
me to keep them. Hope this is not covetous ness

[0005]

I am very thankful for the promise of old iron
my smithifying has been at a stand for
some time partly because of the house &
partly because I was afraid of running
through my stock. I often thrashed at it
till I was fairly done up. You did not
tell me how to temper cold chisels
I shall need mine tempered soon for
I must cut through a band of one
fore wheel A piece of diseased wood
as large as that you cured exists
which I must rectify. Please remember
the tempering in your next

The Captain at Philipolis sent a note
informing me of an addition to
my stud in the shape of a filley
and asking if I wished means to
be used for what George Buchanan
calls in the Psalms "Another of the same"
I had not time nor dutch enough
to tell him that the proposition was

[0006]

agreable. If you send for your
horses Will you be kind enough to
thank the Captain for me & request
him to do the proper sort of thing
If not convenient never mind
my not sending for the annual will
be understood as wishing it to remain
the horse of M^r Oswal strayed and
he having given it to me provided
it was not found till after M^r
Cumming had passed. I find it
has be found by the Barolongs
of Taoane. Mahura laid a claim
to it but the saddle was too
good for them to believe it his

I have apprised Taoane of its
being my property but have seen
no one from his place since
I dont know how to come by it

[0007]

but as it was the best M^r O had if there
~~were~~was any way of communication
I would make an effort. Is there
any intercourse between Kuruman
& Taoane?

We each enjoy by the kind favour
of our Heavenly Father a fair
measure of health & strength. Mary sends
her love to Mother sisters, John M^r
Hamilton and yourself

Paul has just now entered to inform
me that he had spoken to his wife on the
subject of today['s] conversation concerning
Francina. He mentioned the ~~motives~~ reasons
we have against her coming But these
the mother overrules by saying the people
here will not take her unless she
is boyalified. Paul believe[s] this
and wishes me to inform ~~you~~
M^r Ashton that should she be exceedingly
anxious to come. So anxious as

[0008]

that in the event of becoming ill the
a disease might be aggravated. he might
let her go in peace. Hendrick is
instructed to say nothing about it to her
we hope she will be induced to stop
where she is. We dont concieve the
Bakwains such sticklers for loyalism
I should have given Paul's message
to M^r A if time permitted. He is to be judge
whether it will be against Francina's
future fatness to see Hendrick coming
away alone without her

Rev^d R Moffat
V. 2, Kuruman