

## Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 13 May 1841

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Port Elizabeth 13<sup>th</sup> May  
1841

My Dear Friend

this is my third but I have not yet received the first I suppose you have written - I am sorry for it for we start from this place in a day or so, & there is no probability now of my receiving it or any one else for 2 months hence - Please after this to address me, "Care of Dr Philip Cape Town" & not as I last advised you - they will be much cheaper coming through the Dr's hands and I have very different opinions of him & Mrs P, now from what I had in England - - they are lovely devoted Christians & no dominating spirit was ever manifested during the period of my residence under their roof - Everything in their power was done to oblige us & this is their character from all the missionaries whose word is worth anything - Although I did not receive a letter direct from England by port. I was most agreeably surprised after landing here when I for the first time opened the box you kindly presented me on leaving, & found a letter with a such a lot of valuable articles it brought me right home again - All the articles are very excellent & some very opportunely. I had no workbox nor slate nor table cloth but what did you mean by the paper pens wax &c? Was this a sly hint not to forget writing? - You need not have done that for I shall always consider it a privilege when my other duties will allow - I have shewn you proof of this by writing you even in this short space of time more frequently than any other except my parents - However you perhaps did not mean to distrust me - And then the baby clothes Mrs W. Phillip was present when I opened it & on receiving there failed not to exert her of supple tongue in quizzing, which me on my celibacy. We had frequent skirmishes before but this gave her the advantage for a time - I ought to tell you that we recognised in each other old acquaintances and truly glad we were to meet in this distant land - I gave mother the baby clothes by way of "placebo" as we say in medicine [...] our design could not be entrusted to better but for a moment suppose that I feel your kindness in supplying me a whit the less the because through Mr M., I have not reaped the benefit you intended I feel your kindness as much

as ever I also always wear this as a memorial of it - I would  
purchase or wear any other  
Give my kind regards to M<sup>r</sup> Parlees - I hope to have time  
to write him before long and accept of my affection yourself[...]  
with all the young write  
yours very affectionately  
D. L.

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hands - Good will be done by them & this is what you wanted - With  
her husband & M<sup>r</sup> E. Williams of Hankey I made my first essay  
in South African travelling. Hankey is only about 9 or 10 hours from  
this on horseback. think of the nature of the roads when it to  
us 4 days in a waggon not very heavily laden & drawn by 12  
oxen, to reach it - One day however we lost by sticking fast in  
a river. I wont detail there things for you have them  
in every book of travels in S.A. I felt quite at home for  
the scenery greatly resembled Scotland - M<sup>rs</sup> P brought back  
many associations to my mind, talking of things & persons we  
both knew and in the Scotch language - Amongst the wild  
mountain scenery she sung some songs - in the genuine accent  
while at some parts unearthly ones were uttered by ugly labour  
in the rocks above, in derision, I suppose, of the cries of our  
people to the oxen & many other things too trivial to mention  
gave our trip a sufficient degree of novelty to render it very [...]   
interesting to ourselves - I enjoyed my first attempt very much  
felt very little of that strangeness which I expected to feel in it  
We were all willing to please & be pleased. M<sup>r</sup> Williams is a most  
excellent young Welshman & has done great good in Hankey but  
has been obliged ~~from~~ by an affection of his throat to leave his  
charge for the season & retire to the Cape - A sea voyage being  
recommended he came round to Algoa Bay & feeling much  
better resolved to visit his people - the affection shewn him  
by the latter was most interesting, I had no idea that the  
Hottentots were so far advanced as I find them - As we approached  
the romantic but unhealthily situated spot where the village stands  
a discharge of musketry from the first houses made the inhabitants  
aware of our approach - this was answered by some discharge  
from the opposite side & immediately men women & children  
young & old were seen running from all quarters to the path  
winds down into the valley where the village is situated  
Joy beamed in every face as each pressed forward to grasp the  
hand of him whom it was easy to perceive they esteemed a beloved  
friend - It was not however a boisterous joy - It was chastened  
& sober - a hymn was started by the women & their beautiful  
clear voices resounded through the whole valley as the waggon  
approached nearer the houses - the expression of gladness  
might have been more disorderly - more like what we should  
expect from a people lately rescued from comparative barbarity

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but M<sup>r</sup> W. since he parted with them had lost a fine little boy by death, and they seemed anxious to shew their sympathy with him for the men had each a little bit of crepe around their hats & the women black handkerchief round the head - It was affecting to see one poor woman who had nursed his boy come forward to shake hands, her breast heaving with emotion - burst into tears & turn away from the crowd to weep - As soon as the women had to be possible after our arrival, the people invited us to an entertainment. Coffee in the morning & tea in the afternoon - Several speeches were made which seemed eloquent. The purport of them was telling us how happy they were to meet us & that the entertainment was an expression of respect for to us

You kindly offered to do any little thing for me I might forget, I shall ask a favour of you but it is not a small one for it will cost a good deal of trouble - I should have asked M<sup>r</sup> Moore to do it as would have been less for him but I am afraid that before this will has reached England he will be off to his parents to pay his last visit - I wish to send £20 to my parents this year, this is not sufficient to enable them to emigrate but having to supply myself with stores of different kinds for some years I cant send more at present I am sorry I cant, but they will I daresay wait with patience till another year - this sum will serve two purposes, it will free [...] from a small money debt I owe a kind friend & it will assist [...] them through the winter & make them feel that though far separated I am not unmindful of their comfort - I have written them about it. Will M<sup>r</sup> Pyne kindly draw it at the Mission House & transmit it to them - M<sup>rs</sup> Phillip will draw out a bill in his name which will prevent any of the Directors wondering why I send home money so early. It will be endorsed with M<sup>r</sup>Pyne's name & drawn out in his favour - I shall send this letter to M<sup>rs</sup> Phillip & you may expect a letter from her with the bill at the same time. - After this I am ashamed to make another request viz. Tell my Dear Brother M<sup>r</sup> Moore if he has plenty of money to bring (or send) a thermometer - the plainer the better - I append this frame will do better than any thing finer if it is for experiments - I broke mine in coming out while and calculating to ascertaining some facts with regard to the temp. of cold blooded animals - He will get one of this sort for 2/ in "Macreed" I think at 34 Aldgate, London. I dont mean you to do this, you have done too much for me - Many thanks for all the articles they were all extremely acceptable - Your kind letter & book & tea soap candles. I cant name them all but you have my sincere gratitude for all the baby clothes - M<sup>rs</sup> Pyne has written on the book. She has an excellent hand. It is a great pity he does

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know it. Persuade him to give me another specimen on the pages of foolscap - No short letters - I have given you a good example with regard to quantity concerning the quality I shall be silent

I mean to write M<sup>r</sup> Moore as soon as possible but in case I am unable please also tell him also, that if he can bring a quadrant, made to act as a sextant, (having telescope tubes, double shades &c. I shall teach him how to use it. And afterwards pay him the full value for it. I hope he will come to Africa - He may get this instrument for £4 or 4 at "Macrals" - I remember what you did in the care of the watch & your great kindness then makes me a little afraid lest you should think that I am in need of the above instrument Dont think that. I have a quadrant, an excellent one too, purchased from the above named maker - I mention it to m<sup>r</sup> Moore in order that if he felt inclined to astronomize a little, it would be better to get a quadrant fitted up as a sextant or a second hand sextant at once Many things can be done by the latter which cant be done by a simple quadrant - this [...] instrument will assist my watch a good deal. I am sorry your kindness has, by my trusting to the conscience of M<sup>r</sup> Yonge, Strand - the person who supplied the most been almost lost. I have got a bad watch though were it not not go during the voyage. I had to pay 12/ to get some life into it at the Cape - M<sup>r</sup> Moore must not get his watch at Yonge's. A quadrant will do him more good, the sun needs no repairs & never stops

*May 13 41*

~~Care of Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr Phillip Cape Town~~

Paid 1/3

Benjamin Pyne Esq<sup>re</sup>

Wildingtree, Ongar

single sheet Essex, S.B.