

## Letter to George Drummond, 20 June 1843

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Kuruman 20<sup>th</sup> June 1843

My Dear Friend

I recieved your most welcome & long expected letter a few days ago, and I assure you my heart was made white by its perusal. I am glad you have at length arrived at a sphere of labour & that there is a prospect of your labour being crowned with success. May you have an unction from the Holy one that magny sinners may through your instrumentality be baptized with the Holy Ghost sent down from Heaven But while I am glad to hear of your prospects I feel sorry that you have some [...] pain in that you are not enjoying the full cooperation of your dear partner in life. The debility of which you spoke I hope however is by this time removed and you may now be both vigourously prosecuting the great work for which we have been sent to the Heathen. I am not going to give you medical advice at such a distance but you could easily manufacture a shower bath which if used when you are not sensible of either chill or fatigue I have no doubt would benefit you both. You must present my Christian Love to M<sup>rs</sup> D & her little Jean. I mention it now lest as I am still this old batchelor I should forget it at the end. Ingles is married & now on his way up here, so is Moore & now on his way to your quarter. Prentice is married to Catrine & has a child I believe he got her because he intended to be a missionary now he is stuck up in his fathers counting house at Stowmarket & John Hay is expected home to be noosed to Lucy. Thus you see the world goes on and all my good example is lost upon it. O Tempores O mores! You thought I should turn foolish at the Cape What nonsense man Do you think I would take a thing in hand & not carry it through But I suppose I must give in directly for I shall get a few of the wise sayings of Magregor before long.

I am happy to hear you are succeeding with the language. I had to speak long before I knew what to say. Colics came in by dozens & sore bellies by the score & if I did not help them they were sure to help me. I then set off N left all European Society, went far north & beyond every other white man in order to learn the different dialects of the language, the latter I partially effected & now I can speak so as to be understood by any of them. The language of the other tribe however is that in which I am most expert, I can preach

in it with nearly the same ease as I can speak English But still I have something to learn, I can not apply all the words I know at the exact time when I wish to use ~~have~~ them. By the above course I have been made acquainted with the customs & modes of thinking

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of the people better than if I had remained as one station, and there being but a very slender assistance to be to be derived from the language used in the testament the above course was absolutely necessary. During my first visit to the Interior I went as far as North East as far as Lat 22<sup>o</sup> S. Long 29<sup>o</sup> E. & visited many tribes who had never before seen a white face. By means of native teachers with me I was enabled in a poor [...]/> way to proclaim the message of mercy. That tour lasted 4 months & now I am just returned from another of a like duration, But this is a weary wide wide country & the people are scattered over it at immense distances from each other. I could give you many anecdotes of wild beasts if you were a lover of such stuff but as I know you are not I would fain give you something more profitable. I have not been allowed to attempt anything of a permanent nature in consequence of an interdict of the Directors, they forbade information of any new station untill the whole mission should be organized, this organization was to take place after the arrival of M<sup>r</sup> Moffat & the other bretheren & means simply, a committee is to be got up by M<sup>r</sup> M. in opposition to the former state of things by D<sup>r</sup> Phillip. A committee it is to be alias a presbetry. this is as much against the grain with me as the bishoprick is. But if it will advance the cause I wont spend time quarelling. I have not the least confidence in the wisdom either collective or individual of our S. African bretheren. There has been too much jarring & now a committee the result of a jar It does not bode well. I shall give it the go by if I see nonsense springing up. O that none of my life may be spent in vain jangling after I have had such an opportunity of devoting it to him who died to save me.

This mission has been pretty successful among the Bechuanas, But a stranger coming here would not know it. Indeed he would feel disappointment if he had read the accounts published respecting it They are far below the Hottentots in point of civiliz[-] -ation & general information as well as morality Of a church composed of more than 300 I dont know half a dozen of whom I could say with confidence

the man appears to have consecrated himself to  
the Redeemer. But notwithstanding [this] the change

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among them upon the whole has been wonderful. the  
difference which exists between professed believers &  
the professed heathen is such as to make one feel there  
there must be something more than outward conformity notwit-  
hstanding all the darkness & perversity with which it is  
associated. the pure heathen are as degraded in soul  
body & spirit as its it is possible to conceive the human[-]  
-ity ~~mind~~ to be & nothing but the Holy Spirit can produce any  
the least change in such characters. Very soon I  
expect to depart for the Interior & assist in the form[-]  
-ation of a station at the Bakhatla tribe. they are the  
iron smelters of whom M<sup>r</sup> Campbell heard but  
was not permitted to see & they are situated very  
near the spot where he faced round to go away  
home. It is also near the spot where Mosilkatse  
was seen by M<sup>r</sup> Moffat. You will read an  
account of him in M<sup>r</sup> M's book. You will  
see numerals in that book, for instance the  
immense armies of Mosilikatse, cut off a few  
cyphers always then you will have the truth  
I do not wish to say a word against M<sup>r</sup> M but  
in his love for the good cause he sometimes [mistates].  
He always calls thousands what others who were with  
him call hundreds. I hope he will be still mo[...][re]  
useful than he has been. Indeed I have no doubt  
he will if he has not been spoiled in England  
Is it true that Good M<sup>r</sup> Williams was spoiled by the  
people in E? We fear for M<sup>r</sup> M. It is not every[-]  
one who can drink of the cup of flattery & not get  
"top heavy"

I have heard from the Pyne's frequently, also  
from M<sup>rs</sup> Cecil & other friends whom you know  
Wee Thomas [...] wrote this shabby thing had no  
time to write to any one but Catrine. Is he a mission[-]  
-ary as she expected? Birt lost his wife a few  
weeks ago by the overturning of his waggon,  
mine was overturnd twice during my late journey  
& yet I am spared, may my spared life be devoted  
to Him who spares it. Fairbrother is still at  
Springhill & is expected to go out to Benares, Parker  
is at Homerton & Jock Bradford is at the scalpel  
Poor dear Moore my heart is sore when I think  
of him. He wished to come out here & I groaned  
for it But it was selfishness on my part he

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will be more useful where he is young. Blessings upon the head of Joseph & on the crown of the head of him who is separated from his bretheren. I shall write you again before long & you you must do the same to me, then we shall have a letter in adva[nce] & there wont be such a long gap in our corresp[on]dence. By the Bye, I have thought of you, then you will not be unwilling to give some mission information to a projected Welsh periodical which is to be chiefly devoted to missionary matters. Tell me & I shall give your name to the Editor. If you will supply a letter occasionally it will be translated & published & may advance the cause of our blessed savi[our]  
Care of Rev<sup>d</sup> D<sup>r</sup> Phillip Cape Town

Rev<sup>d</sup> George Drummond  
Island of Savaii  
South Seas

Salome Cecil is very ill of some complaint of the Liver  
You have probably heard of M<sup>r</sup> Wright's death, I mean M<sup>r</sup> Wright of Ongar. M<sup>r</sup> Wright of Griqua Town is also dead. He was an able & efficient missionary, & his place will not soon be filled up May we who are spared be enabled to work while we are able & glorify Our Father in Heaven. My very kind regards to M<sup>rs</sup> D. & believe me ever yours most affectionately  
I shall be content if you address me [as] just D Livingston  
as I write there without any time & [...] to the care of D<sup>r</sup> Phillip Cape Town.