

Letter to Mrs. Hamilton, on behalf of Robert Hamilton, 16 January 1851

David Livingstone

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org), 2017

[0001]

Kuruman 16th January 1851

M^{rs} Hamilton

Madam

In consequence of the total inability of M^r Hamilton to handle his pen - I write the following information at his dictation - He has been laid on a bed of sickness for more than twelve months and his bodily powers have during the greater portion of that time been completely prostrate - He was first affected by disease in the bowels. This produced extreme prostration and after being bedridden during many months the return of strength has been so very slow - the most he can do is to crawl to the church on Sundays by means of two crutches - His eyesight is so far impaired he cannot read the largest print, and but for the unwearied attentions of M^r and M^{rs} Moffat his situation would have been far from comfortable. He desires me to express his gratitude to them for their

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kind care & watchfulness over him both by day and by night - M^r Moffat could not have done more though he had been his own brother nor M^{rs} Moffat though she had been his sister. May God reward them. He adds that the union and separation of himself and M^{rs} Hamilton has been mysterious but ~~probably~~ perhaps it will appear well in the end

A pious American Captain called Holmes trades regularly to the Cape. It appears desirable that M^r Hamilton's son be made aware of the circumstance, for if he would introduce himself to the Captain the pious conversation of the latter might have a beneficial influence and this might be a convenient person to whose care M^r H's watch might be

intrusted - He intends to leave it to
his son. If you know your sons
address in New York please communicate
the above information -

He desires me to inform you that Mary Moffat
the wife of M^r Livingston is at present here

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she has three children. And her sister Ann Moffat
is married to the French missionary of Motito
Rev^d J. Fredoux - Old Majima is still alive
A queer old woman. M^r Hamilton presented her
with a cow lately, and it was with difficulty
she could be induced to thank him for it
she does not seem to care much for any one
else in the world except herself. If you saw
her she might interest you for however
the other members may fail her tongue is
as supple as ever. - All your other friends
are gone off to the Interior. And there it is
probable they will have enough to do - t[...][hey]
keep at peace with their neighbours and
enemies the Boers.

Although M^r H. cannot write you may - for
if spared he will always be happy
to hear from his friends
David Livingston
For Robert Hamilton

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Please give M^r Hamilton's daughter a perusal
of this and present his kind compliments
to her & her husband -

Care of Rev^d W. Thompson Cape Town
M^{rs} Hamilton
care of M^r Giffin-Sadler
Prepaid for Church St. Hackney
M^r Hamilton London