

Original
Confidential

No. 1.

C143/232

Raffia Sale of women in Natal

The degradation of the Raffia women in Natal is unspeakable. They are so degraded that they do not know their own degradation. I, a woman, cannot give before men the facts, the Customs - supported by our Law, for that is the curse - which show what that depth of degradation is. Unchastity is there that of animals: but its consequences in bearing children are deliberately avoided, so that the innocence of animals is exchanged for the art of the savage.

If the sale of women for cows

could be made illegal, that is
unsupported by legislation,
then it would be unsupported
by public opinion - for of all
peoples, ^{Kafirs} are most
subject to law. How otherwise
could a population of 20000
Whites exist among a population
of 300000 Kafirs?

Once the legislation making
women saleable slaves were
done away with - once there
were an easier law of exemption
or naturalization - once Kafirs
saw that 'exemption' was
considered by us, their masters,
a good thing: & their barbarous
customs would fall away of
themselves. But, as long as
our legislation supports the
selling of women, they think

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it 'all right.' Now indeed
can they do otherwise? They
think that we think that their
native law is the 'proper thing'
for them. Can anything be
more demoralizing? For, as soon
as a Kaffir knows a thing
is law, he is inclined to obey it.
These people, so capable of
intellectual development & of
intelligent obedience, would
make a first-rate working
population. The Makolwa ^{tribe}
leads a higher life than the
White Christian.

What would be the thing
needful for the Natal Kaffir is
- 1. to do away with woman killing
legislation: 2. to extend to Kaffirs
a simple Naturalization law:
If he wishes to be naturalized,
let him apply to the Magistrate,

certain
Answers, questions - the Magistrate
has to take care to verify his
statements: - pay a small fee
- take the oath of allegiance
- possibly have a month or
two's probation - and it is all
settled.

Give these two things to the Raffia
- give them social - not political
rights. And you will make,
out of these women slave traders,
one of the finest peasantries
in the world.

F.N.

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Raffia women selling }
in Natal:

C143/233

The Raffia women are so degraded that they do not know their own degradation. And their degradation is supported by our law. This is the cause.

If the sale of women were unsupported by our legislation, then it would be unsupported by Raffia public opinion: for of all people Raffia in Natal are most subject to law.

Once the Raffias saw that 'exemption' was considered by us, their practice, a good thing: instead of seeing that we think their native law the 'proper thing' for them - their barbarous customs would fall away of themselves.

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Might we suggest that two things are needful for the Natab Kaffir -

1. to do away with woman selling legislation
2. to extend to Kaffir some such simple Naturalization law as: an application to the Magistrate: answering certain questions: the Magistrate to verify the statements: payment of a small fee: possibly three months' probation: And this to be all.

Might it not be that, if these two things were given to the Kaffirs, together with education - out of these degraded women, sellers might be made what they

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Have every capability for -
a first-rate working population
& one of the finest peasantries
in the world?

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