

^{F. V. Kirby}
Datab' mth'ld
Lower Saabi
July 22nd 1885.

H. W. Chaceon Esq.

My dear Sir

I fear that I have laid myself open to a charge of great neglect, in that I have permitted so long a time to elapse before writing to thank you, as I now do, very sincerely for your kind letters of introduction, each of all of which I duly delivered upon my arrival in this country.

Although I am many miles away from the scene of the labours of those to whom you introduced me, still we have one bond in common, a sincere desire to do what we can to measure

justice for those who after all are
the rightful owners of the soil, but
who are bound to fall back before
the tide of civilization. I have
heard occasionally from Grant.

You must indeed have been deeply
grieved to hear of the sad loss to the
Colmes family. True, friends
the natives never had, for they held
on to their purpose firmly & truly
no matter how the tide of public
opinion might set against them,
and surely a great reward will
be theirs hereafter.

Zuluana from all accounts is
in a deplorable state; - deplorable
in that it can no longer be called
Zuluana with any degree of truth.

Comparative quiet reigns there,
but what is the nature of that quiet?

It has been brought about by
force of arms, by trickery, by

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deceit and sooner or later the whole fabric must fall to the ground. The same trickery and manipulation is going on in Swaziland. In open defiance of the terms of the last Convention, the Boss are doing their utmost to talk the King over to their side. Mithosobandini has remained firm, but who can say for how long it will be? I heard about a week ago that Erasmus and Dubsbit were making preparations for a start to Swaziland, their object being twofold, - to apply pressure upon the King to force him to hand over certain portions (all?) of his country, - and the defining of the boundary line from Maudaga Point to the Lebombo. It was there that one of Erasmus' police was assailed last year when he was down collecting taxes

upon the border. I myself was
very shortly going up to the King's
tent. I expected to have left
tomorrow in fact, but shall now have
to delay a few days. I sent boys
away to Krug's Post, to ascertain
the truth of the report that Draxman
& party are en route for Sragie-land,
but they have returned without finding
out anything definite.

In the absence of any tangible
facts & proofs I restrain from stating
any reports or suppositions which
could only work harm to myself
without advancing in any way
the cause which we advocate.

Anything that I have to send of
importance shall always go through
the previous source.

Personally, I am of opinion that
anything which may now tend
to stir up strife & animosity should

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be religiously kept in the background,
for a time will come soon, or
later when all and any information
will help, & not as now, hinder,
the cause.

Sir Charles Warren has been
doing good work in Bechuana-
land, none the less good because
peacefully & firmly done.

Of course you heard that
Erasmus was acquitted, notwith-
standing he was proved to have
committed a cold blooded murder
during that wretched Mapoch
affair. By the way a very large
number of Mapoch's (Diabel's)
people, all in fact who were not
put out to service after the Campaign
have gone into Swazi land, &
claimed the protection of the King,
Mauapara as you doubtless know
was a true Swazi.

I have thought that perhaps the reported visit of the Boro to Swaziland had some reference to this Exodus of a people whom they certainly look upon as their rightful property.

It is my intention during the coming summer to make an application to the Transvaal Government for some acknowledged position of authority in the Native portions of their State.

I think it not unlikely that it may be granted, as I am well known amongst the Natives within the borders, and I may then have it in my power to do them a good turn here & there, if only by securing for them an honest & fair system of taxation. At present it

is that taxation business, mynety,
carried out, which annoys &
irritates them. I know of one
instance at least where a white
man boasted to me that upon
the arrival of the Boss to collect
taxes he would speak to them
I would have a certain kaffir
double taxed "for his impudence"
& should he "have any more jaw"
he should be "kicked out of the
location". I have every reason
to believe in that man's power
to bring this about, as in his
will to do so. And such an
act would certainly not be justice.

Well, my dear Sir, I am
afraid I have lengthened out my
letter to a point which your
valuable time will scarce permit
you to follow me to, - So I must

I draw to a close.

I need scarcely say that you and the Society you represent have my very warmest sympathies and my heartiest good wishes. I trust that the time may come when I shall be able to give some substantial assistance to your noble cause, - and in the meanwhile

I beg to remain, dear Sir
Yours very truly

Geo. V. Kirby.