

^{F. W. W. W.}
Apata Raal
Awaji board
Jan 24th 1885.

F. W. Cheson Esq

Dear Sir,

For a long time it has been
my intention to send you a few lines, if
only again to thank you for your kindness
to me at home, and for supplying me
with letters of introduction. But till now
however it has been only an intention,
as I have thought your hands are
always full, and your time thoroughly
occupied in working for the great
cause which you uphold.

You will doubtless have heard
long ere this from my Father, and
especially in reference to certain acts
of gross injustice done to Nations
living inside Transvaal Territory.

by the recognized Government
Artist Commissioners. I related those
two incidents, not from any wish to
join myself to the number of those who
for furthering their own ends, desire to
see the Transvaal again become British
territory, and who employ sympathy born
both the natives' merely as the material
by means of which they may purchase
bridge the waters of Boer regime; I
did it simply in pursuance of my
long formed determination to bring
to light more instances, & further proof
of the unjust, cruel treatment of the
natives by those people to whom
we have handed them over.

It is no easy matter, - as the
actual oppression & tyranny is not
usually apparent, but takes form
in an endless number & variety of
little acts of injustice, aye & of down-
right cruelty too, - the real cause

of which it is often very hard to arrive
at. And then frequently inquiry
is made difficult owing to the natural
reluctance of the natives themselves on the
subject of their individual grievances.
This reluctance I firmly believe is
born of distrust & despair. They do not
know what to believe, so tossed about
have they been upon the waters of
British & Boer Governments. Ingrained are
in the nature of the Kaffir, whether
Zulu, Swazi, Tonga, Pondos, Usutu,
or Botswana, is a sincere liking for
respect for the British, & their form of
Government, so far as relates to themselves.
And just as sincerely do they
hate the Boer. But to what end?
Cui bono? are these separate feelings?
The native is such a pure matter of
fact individual, that he cannot
help looking at results, and he sees
that he might as well be

under a Bon form of Government
as a Patriot, - if he is to be treated
by the latter as he was in 1881.

It is not plea that such cases as the
two I have referred to, come before public
notice. In my accounts of the affair,
I did not enter, in the one case, into
any question upon the former acts of
the headman "Inhlizyo," further than
to say that I myself have always
found him honest & hospitable, and
besides, I think that if, as some maintain,
he is an old hand at cattle stealing, it
is strange that such a zealous (?) Nat.
Commissioner as Mr Erasmus has not
before this brought him to justice.

Neither in Jones case have I per-
mitted any previous offence, or any
misconduct whatever to weigh in the
matter, for no matter how great a
criminal a man may be, (and we
will admit that neither Inhlizyo nor

Some are perfect). he is always
entitled to justice.

But Erasmus & his clique have always
had a grudge against Kaffirs in the
Lydenburg district, especially out
towards the Gold fields, where they
are more independent, & more all but
opposed to our rule, & have frequently
plainly intimated this same to Erasmus
himself. How long this state of
things may last it is hard to say.
It cannot be for long, for even now,
gild it over as we may, there lies the
bare fact, that the position of the Transvaal
is a very awkward one. They will
never, never keep a constitution!

Look at Bechuanaland, no one
supposes for a moment that the
Transvaal is guiltless of being at
least an accessory to the disturbances
there. Had they so willed they
could have stopped it altogether, &
far as the Transvaal was concerned,

but they did not choose so to do.
And why should they? They said
by what was passing in Zululana
that it was most likely the Goosmans
would lay inactive; - that, after
plunging the country into as wicked
unnecessary a war as ever was waged
between white & black, & ruining a
fine good country & people, physically
& socially, they could complacently
leave two thirds of the people to "stew
in their own juice" as Bismarck said,
and merely "protect the Reserve". Naturally
then they thought that they could
surprisingly assist the Stellalanders,
also, while England looked on in horror
at the breaking of a solemn Convention,
and that after a while, when matters
were a little quiet, more Boers could
sneakly cross over, and so advance
step by step till the whole of Mortsion's
territory was swallowed up in
Boer Janus

We can

scarcely blame the Boers for acting
thus but we must blame the
policy of the Government that has
permitted such action on their part,
as first, the annexation of Zululand
a country which, if ever there was
a country that deserved to be
aided and assisted from England only;
secondly, the occupation of Bechuanaland.

In this part everything is quiet.
There has been a sad dearth of food
for some weeks, but all that is now
past. The feast of the first fruits was
held on Dec^r 29th, and all are
rejoicing in an abundant crop
of Maize, kaffir corn, &c. &c.

Trusting my dear Sir, that I
have not intruded too much upon
your valuable time, and with sincere
good wishes for the cause,

I remain yours very truly
Fred. W. Kirby

over

I would suggest that if at anytime
you have anything to communicate
it should go thro' my Father, as all
my letters have to pass through the
House and are subject to examination
if too being suspicious. For that reason
I enclose this to my Father, who will
forward to you.
J. V. K.