

1217

Mafeking June 5, 1885

My dear Mr. Cherrill

I got your letter in which you enquire about the movements of the Transvaal Boers northwards, & what truth there is in the current reports about another "trek". There are Boers in the Transvaal who are in a very "bad way" as to money matters - often thro' their own fault - & they are quite ready to go anywhere or engage in anything against Be- of w Chuanas or other mixed natives where there is the chance of land & nor much severe fighting.

They have been <sup>prevented</sup> ~~debarred~~ from entering his country by Khamel for several years now, because that Chief saw that what they were now bent on, was no longer game or hunting according to their professions, but a new country, which



which they hoped to be able to  
take from him. For many  
years the Boers of the Transvaal  
have had Mashonaland before  
their eyes. Some hunters were in-  
discreet enough to "claim" certain  
portions in Mashonaland - & their  
Matabele guides overheard  
them & reported it to Lopingole  
who at once debarred them  
from entering his country. At  
the present time therefore the  
Transvaal Boers are debarred  
by both Lopingole & Khame from  
hunting in this country, & have  
therefore to overflow in some  
other direction. Happy time  
for South Africa & for the Boer  
himself when there will be no  
direction in which he can  
turn when he will not put  
the control of a Central



Government. He will then  
be think him of his long ne-  
glected farm, & remember  
that he is a Boer (farmer) & ought  
to live upon his farm.  
Mr Watkies the superintendent  
of the Wesleyan Missions & another  
missionary are here just now.  
A scheme has been mooted for the  
settlement of the farm of Rooi  
Grond, which was brought before  
Mr Watkies by Sir C. Warren &  
the thing is now under conside-  
ration. Of course every thing is  
at present conditional & tentative;  
but the idea is that Rooi Grond  
should become a European village  
clustered round the Wesleyan  
Church, & <sup>the boarding</sup> Day Schools taught  
by them. Sir C. when the time comes  
is ready to sanction the grant of as  
many irrigable freehold sites as

apicau que



may be necessary for this purpose.  
Among the applicants for farms  
are a great many farmers' sons  
& farmers' brothers from the East-  
ern Province of the Cape Colony,  
a goodly proportion of whom  
are Wesleyans. When the land  
question is gone into, under  
Imperial auspices, as I hope  
& pray may be the case, it might  
be possible to grant some of these  
people farms in some part  
of Bechuanaland sufficiently  
near for them to send their children  
to the Wesleyan Boarding School  
& come themselves occasionally to  
Church. Sir Charles is broad-  
minded, & is willing to give the  
Wesleyans the first offer, as they  
are in the field here. Watkins  
lunches with the General to-day  
& something may come of it



C 141/217a

The telegraph will long ago have told you of what has taken place in North Borneo - my old pupil Khame leading the way. I am sending you - if I can get it ready copy of a map showing the recent grants of land to the English Government - on the part of Borneo Chiefs who ask for our protection in return. I think the aspect of affairs in Borneo at present is well worth the attention of those friends with whom you are accustomed to converse - & fact on South African questions. The English Government ought to be encouraged to meet an offer like that of Khame in a manner becoming the English people who occupy so high a place in that Chief's thoughts. I have been much encouraged by reading some of the leading Home papers - or rather clippings from them. But I feel that a question like this needs



steady & thoughtful support from  
those who interest themselves in South  
African questions year out & year  
in. A great prospect opens up  
in England in South Africa as the  
result of recent events in North  
Rheinland. English supremacy  
will be assured: & if Germany  
& the Transvaal had a little plan  
& a surprise for England & for Europe  
as to South African politics, it cannot  
now come off: for we have got  
<sup>might</sup> up between them - very awkwardly  
for anti-English politicians.

Then Lopingole is our friend  
as was his father Moselkater  
& I hope it will be easy to get  
his sanction to pass - not thro  
Matabele Land (for they are much op-  
posed to that) - but to pass between  
the Transvaal & Matabele Land  
to Mashona Land: & obtain



Copied old sanction to the working  
of the very extensive gold mine  
which are well-known to be  
in Mashana Land. I feel that  
without unduly influencing our  
minds with such considerations  
these Commercial considerations  
ought to occupy the attention of friends  
of the native races in order that they  
may intelligently & effectually befriend  
them. Under England Bechuana-  
land would make rapid pro-  
gress: & the native races would fall in  
with the march of events. Mining  
operations would produce a local  
market for Country produce; <sup>but</sup> with-  
out them the English seller will always  
be able to live comfortably on his  
free soil - altho he may not be able  
to make his fortune.

Do not imagine that I men-  
tion these things for the purpose of directi-  
ng



soon your attention always to something  
step ahead. Not so: I am in no haste:  
but I had that our friends ought  
to be the first to know of the actual  
resources & therefore the probable his-  
tory of a country - so that they may  
shape their course accordingly.  
In the Exhibition coming on in Port  
Elizabeth will be displayed Cotton - Cotton  
Thread, twisted by Masbana & Makalaka,  
& Cotton blankets & Sheredan cloths  
of native manufacture. I hope also  
there will be iron copper & gold from  
the same country. It would be very  
foolish if we acted as if these things  
did not exist. Here they are - easily  
within our reach - if we take time &  
act cautiously & wisely. The Bechuanaland  
Protectorate therefore must become  
the Bechuanaland Province; & the later days  
of South African history will certainly be  
happier than the earlier ones. So much  
for the future - & for the right course for  
us to take in these most valuable northern  
regions.

I wish now to refer to a subject  
which I know is near to your heart



Q 4  
C 41746  
I mean the condition of Zululand. I was  
glad to see a Cable message that a meeting  
had been held in the Mission House on  
this question. I do trust the Imperial  
press now in South Africa will not be  
in one haste to leave it South Africa.  
So long as it is in South Africa - the ob-  
ject will be obtained: but if you dis-  
pense it - or recall it soon, you do  
a great injury to the land in lands  
of the country, & indeed nullify &  
lose what the colours directs &  
the Exhibition.

The Crisis in Bohemia will  
be when the awards are given as to land:  
when here the black man is dis-ap-  
pointed; & here the white man. It  
will be then that a strong force will  
be necessary supplied to decisions  
of an impartial tribunal - for I  
take it for granted public opinion  
will abolish the Rhodes settlement.  
But be sure that this is so: don't be  
satisfied with generalities. There



is the utmost desire on the part of  
 Sir H. Robinson to see about their settle-  
 ment. I fear without public opinion  
 to show him the way Lord Derby would  
 make the very grave blunder of up-  
 holding these unexamined public  
 claims. It must only public opinion  
 be expressed - for the thing is to  
 be disapproved & the serious of ahead.

But even with a Land  
 Commission & due examination  
 that will be clear from the  
 & portion in the Beechwood  
 as I said to the Hon. Mr. Forster before leaving  
 England - The mess. has been made  
 there: & we must make the most  
 of it. I think the military should  
 remain - if you don't need them  
 now elsewhere: & then you can start  
 with a comparatively moderate Police  
 force. If you take away the Military  
 from the Police force would need to  
 be large.

But to use some of this force  
 towards the Settlement of Zealand  
 would not be taking them away



away - they would still be close to the  
 Transvaal, which is all that is needed. The  
 result of the Expedition is most valuable  
 all these South Africa-men reaching the  
 Transvaal itself; but I regard this as  
 only a passing emotion of the troops  
 are taken away from South Africa. The  
 annexation of Zululand to Natal seems  
 to be the favorite local remedy. I am  
 not sure that they are quite converting  
 the cost - especially that of those who  
 I see are going in for Responsible  
 Government also. The addition of  
 so many Boers as those of the new  
 Republic to the political life of Natal  
 & the consequent gift of Responsible  
 Government to be schemes which in  
 medical phrase, would be termed he-  
 noic practice. Continued as a Crown  
 Colony it might be the best plan to con-  
 solidate our position in S. E. Africa  
 by annexing to Natal both Zululand  
 & Griqualand East. I should have



have thought the creation of Cape Colony  
responsible for <sup>the</sup> would have been an  
apprecial warning & fatal - not one im-  
mediate on that question. No doubt it is  
what all English Colonists aspire to;  
but a great many things in South Africa  
have been <sup>the</sup> obeyed all who have to do with it  
precipitately, but to await a little.

In my opinion the commission of  
High Commissioners & presence of the  
Cape Colony have been conclusively shown  
to be incompatible; & the attention of  
thoughtful people needs only to be di-  
rected to the subject, & convince them  
that this conjunction of offices is one of  
those things that should not go on. Give  
Sir H. R. his Cape Colony & his Ministry;  
but give South Africa an Imperial Of-  
ficer & an Imperial Legal Adviser  
to take charge of Imperial or Central  
Government Affairs in South Africa.  
I don't think this ought to be put off.  
Most people were convinced theoretically  
you will remember some time ago on this  
subject; but there was no adequate

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practical proof. The thing would sound  
in argument: but it fell thro' chiefly  
because Sir H. Robinson was against  
it. Now enough practical proof  
has been given - & more than is plea-  
sant - in the history of the High  
Commissioner's work. Let us have no  
more Mr. Whittington's queries for the  
guidance of Sir C. Wray, or any  
other Imperial officer. In my opinion  
the appointment of a High Comm-  
or someone similar would be very  
heartily welcomed in both the Colonies,  
& would be a decided step towards  
the pacification of the Country, as a whole. Also  
I remember discussing this subject with  
with you when in England. I if I re-  
member aright you thought pecuniarily of  
it. If the Liberal for France to do a  
workman like thing in S. Africa, they  
will appoint such an officer without  
delay. I remember also writing  
Mr. Foster on this subject. Perhaps  
you would kindly let him see this  
me



also, as time is occupied this evening  
I've wound see that Mr. Baden Powell  
performed the journey as far as Sherbony  
He is doubtly interested in Bichuanaland  
It is now on his way home here & etc.  
He is strongly against joining it to Cape  
Colony at least for years. He has  
drawn up a report on its future & go-  
vernment ~~under~~ as a Province in  
Crown Colony. Sir Charles is  
present busy with his own report  
on the same subject written by re-  
quest of Secy of State. Sir Charles  
has asked me to contribute a description  
& historical statement which however  
I have not yet begun.

Yours & the Mrs. just to hand.  
as also copy of Daily News. Many thanks.  
Address "Bichuanaland via ~~to~~  
West Baitly" - will always reach  
me. The "Rondibosch" ones reached me  
re-addressed.

I sent the Mr. S. C. Leger of the  
Cape Times a number of copies  
of a supplement to that paper  
in which Mr. Rhodes settlement



(16/11/21)

& my own were considered. I  
 thought the statement brought out  
 very clearly the fatal mistake  
 made by the Hercules in sending  
 these men up without instructions  
 - <sup>men</sup> who in effect sacrificed the  
 nature interests in Stollaland, &  
 were unwise as I was to do  
 any business in for her. I trust  
 my action in sending these studs  
 home will meet with your approva-  
 tion: I that you will forgive me  
 for just sending them without ac-  
 companying letters. In case you  
 have been to see them in view-  
 lating them which you do not  
 think you see it ought to be for my  
 I shall be glad to mail it, & also  
 remain indebted to you. The  
 enclosed letters bear on the same  
 topics. Mr. Morrison sent his  
 son Madala with enclosed letter  
 from Yarrow & Mafeking



so that by means of the letter &  
his son's personal explanation  
Manklowane might be able to lay  
his case before the Special Com.  
This was when we were writing the  
message, Sir C. at once acquain-  
ted the High Comm. in cipher with  
the receipt of the letter & its nature,  
but has received no reply: it is prob-  
ably below anything - so long as the  
Shreds of Rhodes' settlement are  
not taken out of the way. As the  
letters are now official docu-  
ments, you will please not to pub-  
lish them: the information which  
they give & which I see explained  
now you are free to use.

The appearance of the statement  
as to the two settlements has been  
followed by the <sup>proprietor</sup> president  
silence on the <sup>in the other side</sup> subject. I have  
been anxious to get several  
letters from Cape friends of



a cheerful tone: & transparency by  
thought of writing to me from  
reading those remarks. I do  
trust the whole Rhoades settle-  
ment will be swept out of  
the way by Mr. Morison's foot  
As Sir H. R. & Rhodes are  
intimate personal friends this  
will require the support  
& insists on your side.

With kindest regards  
I am ever yours sincerely

John MacKenzie



