

C146/103

"Natal Colonist" Office,  
WEST STEEET (W.), DURBAN.

1 December 1875.

F. W. Chesson Esq.

Secretary of the Aborigines' Protection Society.

Sir,

In acknowledging receipt of a copy of the Colonial Intelligencer for November 1875, I beg to draw your attention to the fact of its having been addressed to Maritzburg instead of Durban, thereby occasioning delay in the delivery.

May I venture to take advantage of this opportunity to mention, what may perhaps seem to you too much of a complaint of a personal grievance, and for which, in any case, you <sup>probably</sup> are in nowise responsible. In the article on the Cape and Natal in the C. J., the Natal Mercury and the Natal Witness are quoted by name, while the Colonist, although quoted, is so only in the form 'A Natal writer satirically although not unjustly remarks, &c. If this were a solitary case I should attach no importance, and should not dream of making any remark upon it. But it has long struck me as a very singular thing that, with the very rarest exceptions, the only Natal journals referred to are those which have been the means of making the Natal press and the Natal public appear, in the eyes of the world, as, to a man, almost, banded together to oppress the Natives. As I feel this to be unjust to the Colony, as well as to myself individually and the journal which I have from the beginning (Jan'y-1871) edited, you will, I trust, excuse me if I mention that while the Mercury and the Witness and the Times of Natal were engaged in hounding on Sir B. Pine and Mr. Shepstone to measures of the utmost severity against Langalibalele's and Putini's tribes, it was through the Colonist that the intelligence of the operations against these people was first made known at the Cape and in

England; that the mischievous and ridiculous affectation of taking the  
field by Sir B. Pine, as actual Commander-in-Chief, was exposed; that  
within a fortnight of the 'Pass' affair the Colonist denounced (Nov. 18 and 21)  
the infamous Cane business and the apparent sanction given by the authorities to  
the 'horrid butcheries,' and the hunting of men, women, and children like rabbits  
out of their warren, which were going on. While refraining from publishing the  
details of these brutalities I did my best to awaken the Government to a sense  
of their true character, and, in consequence, several petitions, bearing many  
hundred signatures were addressed to Sir B. Pine, sympathizing with him  
denouncing the Colonist; and a league to suppress my journal was attempted to be  
formed. Fortunately there was too much sense of right and fair play in the Colony for the  
attempt to succeed, in spite of every effort of the supporters of Sir B. Pine and W. Shepstone.  
While the 'Trial' of Cangelibalele was in progress I kept up a running commentary on that  
chameleonic farce, and at this time the Bishop of Natal entered the field, (about 20th Jan  
1874), and thenceforth received the chief share of the vituperation which has never since  
ceased, & which perhaps culminated in the public meeting here, 1st. Apr. 1874, when our 'Black-  
hearted treachery' was denounced amid loud cheers. During this period of 25 months the Colonist  
has done its best to obtain justice for the illused tribes, to place the facts truly before the world,  
and to expose the sham which is being palmed off upon Lord Carnarvon and the world as a reformed  
Native policy. I have not forgot the Galle for praise, but I do think that the fact that one out of  
the four colonial journals has striven, amid every discouragement for right and justice, and to  
make the good intentions of the Home Govt a reality, instead of allowing W. Shepstone to secure the  
confirmation of his past system of lawless misrule, and that at least a respectable minority  
of the Colony have consistently opposed the injustice and lawlessness of Sir B. Pine and W.  
Shepstone, should not be overlooked as it appears hitherto to have been.

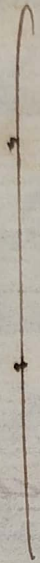
You are at liberty to make what use you please of this letter, and  
I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant  
John Sanderson, Editor of the Colonist

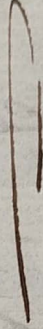
John Davidson

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 1875



As to the Colonial

Intelligence



Colonial  
WEST STREET (W.) DURBAN