

T. N. Chesson Esq.

Durban, Natal, 27 May 1877.

Sec. Abor. Prot. Society;

C146/105

17 King William St. Strand.

My dear Sir, You some time ago were kind enough to say you would be glad if I would write to you and keep you advised of what was going on. This I have endeavored to do by sending you from time to time the Colonist, when it contained anything which I thought would be of special interest or use to you. Now writing I have but little time beyond what my duties as editor impose. The state of the Zulu country and other matters connected therewith and the opportunity of sending you, for private and confidential use, copies of letters & other documents, the originals of which are in my hands, render it incumbent on me to add a few words from myself. In making use of these documents I must impress upon you a caution which is constantly being urged upon me - not in any way to involve the missionaries, whose lives and those of their families may be endangered if it should transpire that they have furnished the information. The documents of which I now send copies refer chiefly to the case of a British subject, a Natal trader, lately murdered in the Zulu country & whose daughter is detained there as forfeited with his other property to the King. The case as you will see by document No. 1 was officially brought to the knowledge of the Govt. in my person of the acting Secy. for Native Affairs, Mr. John Shepstone, whose model reply No. 2 I would specially direct attention to. Avoiding altogether the real question at issue he attempts to shelve the enquiry altogether by giving Mr. Jackson's denial to a point altogether unimportant to the main issue, - a point on which as Mr. Leam states evidence directly contradicting Mr. J. is available. Yet Mr. J's denial of this by-issue is accepted as conclusive & the enquiry to all appearances is buried. At least now, more than two months have elapsed without the Govt's so much as saying it will be enquired into. Some further particulars, which do not appear in the correspondence accompanying this, are given in my leader of 22 inst. some slips of which, in addition to the paper, I have sent by post. These further details I have in a letter now before me which however I do not consider it necessary to transcribe. I have also a mass of letters from missionaries & traders in the Zulu country before me describing the condition of the country as most deplorable and have conversed with travellers who have traversed the country in every direction, & it is on information such as this that my articles, of which you have had copies, are based. Copies of some of these (to be used with the utmost discretion) I may send hereafter, but the main facts are given in my leaders.

The state of things disclosed in the papers now sent shows an entire native system to be thoroughly rotten. Our locations were a device of Mr. (now Sir T.) Shepstone for conserving barbarism. In the reports of the Location Commissioners he was to some extent overruled by his colleagues, but in the carrying out of the scheme, he not merely set

(may have been) he was at least a settler in Natal. I do not include. Allow me again to impress upon you the necessity of not disclosing the names of any

2)
their recommendations as to the number, extent & interposition
the locations with room for white settlers between, but as he stated in reply to a
question I put to him in the Leg. Council in 1862, he pledged the Queen's
faith to the permanency of these locations in direct defiance of
the express injunctions received by him. The locations were to embrace
six or eight of 6000 to 10000 acres each: as a matter of fact they
include over 3000000 (three millions) of acres, and we have an un-
interrupted chain of them reaching from within a few miles (6 or 8)
of Durban up to the Tzella & thence on to within 20 miles of
Ladismith - or say roughly 150 miles long (I write without maps or
figures before me). His timidity & temporizing brought on the Langalibalele
and Fouta troubles; his whole policy it was solemnly announced was
to be reversed; yet to all appearance he now guides Mr. Carnarvon, not in
Native but in all matters. He is left to make or mar the promised in-
forms, and the new Native Administration Law shows that it is in making not
making he is beat upon. He is promoted to greater honors & positions of
trust. His brother, Mr. John, severely condemned with him, in one of Lord
Carnarvon's despatches as having lowered English rule in the eyes of the Na-
tives by measures opposed to the morality of a civilized administration
& who should if such a censure were worth the paper it was written
on have been dismissed the service, is made (practically) the
sole arbiter of the lives & fortunes of our 100000 natives, in whose
eyes his falsehood and treachery are rewarded by the most liberal
rewards. Makonga - the proud perjurer and braggart who figured
so contemptibly as a chief witness against Langalibalele, has been
promoted to be an Adressor in the Native High Court, and our sole
representative in the Zulu King's dominions, is paid £200 a year
nominally to help us to get labor, but in effect to give him greater
facilities in supplying the Zulus with guns through Delagoa Bay
in direct defiance of our policy. Our Govts. are well aware that he is the
chief agent in supplying the Zulus with guns. He is the King's adviser & agent
(I suspected one thing) and through Delagoa Bay, where the trade is practically
free he imports guns by the thousand. When at Lourenço Marques in August
1875 I suspect spoke to a party of Natives who told me John Drum had sent
them down to bring up a parcel of 500 guns. 1500 more were suspected
shortly after. I lately asked an English merchant resident there to make
enquiries as to the extent of the gun trade, & after careful enquiry he
informed me that about 10,000 guns were imported every year, of which
about a half, he had reason to believe, went into the Zulu country. John Drum
is the chief though perhaps not sole importer there. The King some time ago issued
an order that every man must have a gun, & now travellers assure me
every boy & many women even have them. A depot has even been
established on the Natal border, on the Buffalo River, & our natives go
in & buy guns & smuggle them back into Natal. There are two Basutos
constantly employed making gunpowder at the King's breast; the

3) Charcoal being made in the Country, & the saltpetre & Sulphur
imported through Natal. The quality is so good that traders stop
themselves with it there, instead of bringing in this Colony.

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I feel sure you will agree with me as to the disgrace to our
English Govt. pretending to civilize & Christianize the Natives
who can maintain as their sole prerogative among the Zulus
such a man as John Druin, who openly thwarts their policy &
sets such an example as he does. Every one acquainted with
Zululand will tell you he has a score or more of wives.
It is said he lately sent or went to Ketsimayo to ask leave to put
one to death & got for answer - 'I put my wives to death when
I like - you do the same?' His keeping a harem which is accepted
as a notorious fact may not be a reason for dismissing him
from his appointment, but surely his persistent impostation of
Zulus for the Zulus contrary to the policy of the Govt. ought
to be. You cannot say he breaks the law for the Govt. do not
pass through our Colony, but he gets them by a cheaper route;
that is instead of £1 duty he pays a mere trifle at Delagoa
Bay.

28th May - This morning I am in possession of another
letter nearly the whole of which I have copied for you. I dare not
give you the writer's name, but you may rely upon the facts.
As soon as I have the opportunity of seeing the person whom he has
furnished with a letter to me I shall send you all the information
I can get, but meantime send this. There have been frequent
references in our papers to Sevenhuizen's murder, but I have
seen no account of later transactions relating to it. Sevenhuizen
was, I believe, one of a number of Hollanders living at New
Amsterdam in this Colony & went trading into the Zululand
where he was killed. If not a British subject (I do not know, he
may have been) he was at least a settler in Natal. I must for
the present conclude. Allow me again to impress upon
you the necessity of not divulging the names of any of my
correspondents several of whom are living at the mercy of
Ketsimayo & his savages; others not in an independent position.
My own name you are free to use if it is of any use to you
in vouching for the truthfulness of any correspondents.
I cannot touch upon Dransvaal affairs. My views of them
you will find in leaders in the papers following on the Annua-
tion. - Believe me, very faithfully yours,
John Sanderson

disrupted chain of them ... from within a few miles (6 or 8) of
Durham up to the Inglea & thence on to within 20 miles of
Edinburgh - or say roughly 150 miles long (I write without maps on
this ... this ... & temporary ... on the ...)

P.S. I have to apologize for the blotched appearance
of my letter. It is the first time I have used the Copying
Ink pencil & have no directions for its use.

By ~~post~~ Bookpost herewith I send you the copies
of correspondence herein referred to and sundry slips
of leaders. The copies consist of

- 1 - J. Sean to Secy. Native Affairs, 22 March 1877
- 2 - Reply April 1877.
- 3 - J. Sean to Secy. Native Affairs 20 April 1877
- 4 - J. Sean to R. Jamerson, 22 May 1877.
- 5 - Rev. C.C. Oflero to J. Sean 17 May 1877.
- 6 - J. Sean to R. Jamerson, 25 May 1877
- 7 - Rev. C.C. Oflero to John Sanderson 10 May 1877
- 8 - Extract letter to J. Sanderson, Zululand 22 May 1877

John Sanderson
May 17-1877