

C139/14

"Native Opinion" Office
King William's Town
6 August 1887

My dear Mr Sherson,

This is to inform you that, a committee representing the natives of this colony, has called Sir H. Holland, notifying an appeal ^{to the Queen} against the Disfranchisement Bill. There has as yet, been no reply from the Secretary of State, but preparations for sending a deputation to London, & for getting signatures for a petition. The draft petition I shall forward to you next mail. I propose to forward it also to the leading London newspapers & to the Manchester Guardian. Opinion here can only be influenced by a movement in England.

We are indebted to Mr McArthur M.P. for the question he put in the House of Commons. Sir H. Holland's reply we consider as a mere expression of the ^{opinion of the} authorities of Cape Town. As to that portion of it that refers to the "tribal system" as to which the A.P.S. expressed an opinion that such natives should not be entitled to a vote, I may say that there is now no tribal system in

