

(139/32

" Native Opinion Office
King's Windsor
Cape Colony
17 July 89

My dear Mr. Chasson,

I have
this mail to inform you
that the Native Disfranchise-
ment Bill has passed thro' the
both Houses of the Local Par-
liament. It has been carried in
through all the various stages
by large majorities, composed
of Dutch members who are
bitterly opposed to the natives' possession
of equal privileges with the
rest of the Colonists. The
minority consists of all the
leading citizens of British

Extraction, and the representatives of British justice & intelligence in the House.

That the Bill will not be reserved for Her Majesty's assent can be gathered from the following letter of H.C. Sir H. Robinson in reply to mine. What I wrote to ascertain was whether in the event of the Disfranchisement Bill passing our people would have time between its passing and its promulgation to petition the Governor & the Queen. This is the copy of the Governor's reply:—

"Dear Sir

Receipt which the Gov

inforce

to Min

through

and

Excell

Law of

is una

requir

has

prosec

the

not

Government House
Cape Town

Thursday, 7th July, 1857.

Dear Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., which I have laid before His Excellency the Governor.

In reply I am desired to inform you that until the Bill to which you refer has passed through both Houses of Parliament and has been submitted to His Excellency, with the Report of the Directors of the Crown, His Excellency is unable to state whether it will require to be reserved or not; I may however, to add that at present His Excellency is under the impression that it will not require to be reserved.

I beg to remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully

(Signed) F. J. Newton
Agent Secy

This confirms the statement
I sent to you a fortnight ago
that the authorities on this
side of the water are bent upon
hushing the matter up, although
it is a gross infraction of the
Constitution & ought to be ^{reversed} ~~reversed~~ ^{for the same}
reasons. You will, I hope,

observe that there is no time, but
the Secy of State should be interviewed
at once, so that he may instruct
the Governor to reverse the Bill. The
natives have commenced action. At
Port Elizabeth a mass meeting of
natives has resolved to send a Deputa-
tion to England to plead their cause
before the Secy of State. The Governor
is to be petitioned.

The English Bm in the Colony
is encouraging the natives in this
course. I trust you will do all
you can for the Deputation when
it comes.

I send you the Copy ^{of the}
an account of the close of the
Debat on the measure in the
Lower House.

13/12/20
The Cape Times, as you may
probably be aware, is not im-
pende to the Prime Ministry,
but "it describes the measure as
a "disgrace" one and a
disgrace to the Statute Book."

The Parliament was not elected
to tamper with reform, and
it should be dissolved & the temper
of the country tested before such
a measure is passed.

Thanking you in anticipa-
tion for the measure of as-
sistance you are likely to render
I believe me, my dear Mr. Fenwick,

a loyal & faithful ally

L. Tongo-fa-bairu

F. W. Chesson Esq.