

C123/92

Mabung Natat

January 18 1878

J. H. M. M. M.
Jan 18. 1878

Dear Mr. Chesson.

Yours of the 12th ultimo to hand. The enclosed documents relating to Khele & your Society have been handed to the Times of Natat for publication ^{here} as you requested.

It affords me much gratification to learn that you in London are not forgetful of your duty to British honor & rule in Natat in respect of our Native laws. - I shall look with anxiety & interest for the debates in Parliament on this subject. - The Under Secy for the Colonies quite ^{misled} the "House" last session in replying to Mr. St. Arthur & will, I fear attempt the same thing again. - I wish I were on the spot to point out ^{his} inaccuracies. - Our compilation of Native laws not yet published. - By last mail I sent you some striking examples of the operation of these laws.

Pray let me in this letter administer a caution to your excellent Society with respect to what may seem premature interference with S. A. Belligerents. I can assure you that S Africa is on the verge of a political volcano. You will recollect that I have blamed Lord Carnarvon for having attempted ^{merely} to aid the ^{British} Colonial Ministers - of a political difficulty.

in Natal without attempting to remedy social evils, altho
these in reality underlie & support the political troubles, such
as Chieftainship & tribal organization & so the true cause of
war. - Concurrently with this blunder in Natal Lord C
(having the same object in view viz: relief from party responsibility)
pressed very hard for a Confederation of S A States under
one Governor general. - The object was probably a good one but
should not have been left to time & chance such as consent of
individuals or States, each with some self interest as a barrier
but should, like the annexation to the Cape of British Caffraria,
have been at once completed by Imperial Statute, failing an
early local agreement. - You will co-incide I think with the
stand near of this opinion when I relate the sequel. - The
Natives all through S Africa have heard of the proposed Confederation
(the object of which was mutual defence) & in many cases have
arrived at the conclusion that this Confederation meant a combi-
-nation of white versus black. Hence the unrest of the
whole of them. Now every moment of delay in effecting the
Confederation, if it is to become un fait accompli, just serves
to give these malcontents time to be operated upon by designing
white men & to foment a spirit of opposition to British
rule & extension. As a consequence there are signs now in
less, of upheaving from Graham's Town to the Trans Vaal &
Zulu Land. - For this emergency Lord C has not adequately
prepared himself. Especially with savages to be forearmed is

to prevent rebellion or resistance. The Commander in Chief has pointed out the inefficiency of the forces at his command in the Cape Colony. - The similar defect exists in the T. Vaal. - Were the Amazulu under Cetshwayo really to go to war they would cover not only a week. Much slaughter of the Whites & destruction of homesteads we know.

Under these circumstances I desire to speak to you of caution. Your Society can forgive me if this be deemed offensive, knowing my exertions for the benefit of the race. Anything that may seem like interference between the action of our governors & Colonists during a state of actual warfare; and especially during the lingering policy of Lord C and depiccing in British troops, will be construed by the Natives (whose ^{motto} ~~policy~~ is vigorous action) into a confession of division & weakness & the volcano may burst upon us all like a thunder-bolt.

At least 5000 more troops should be sent out at once. - Confessions should be forced through the Imperial Parliament. - It is not just to cast upon the Colonists the brunt of Lord C's policy so slow so unimpaired, but this has been done.

From the foregoing you will gather that I scarcely agree with you letter to Lord C about Khele. - Doubtless you have been misled partly in your estimate of the matter by not realising what devastation means, - when applied ^{only} to straw huts and barbarous habits.

I can assure you that the only way to strike terror into tribes like that of Khele is to lay waste their gardens &c &c & disperse the tribe. His behaviour to Sir B. Fynn has been most unjustifiable & the pretence that he could not control his people most untrue.

See what a few successes of his people have brought about.