

C123/68

Portburg Natal

Decr 2 1875

J. W. Chesson Esq
London

Dear Sir

On the supposition that I have
to thank you for transmission of a
copy of the "Colonial Intelligence"
received by this mail; I beg to apprise
you of the despatch this day to
your address of the Natal Mercury of
Nov. 4; in which you will see my
address in the L. Council on the proposed
Native Bill.

It would appear that we have been
discussing the subject here concurrently in
date with its discussion before your
Society. At present the Bill is

J. W. Sherman

Dec. 2nd 1875

Western Administration
Bill

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in select Committee of which I am
a member & has been much changed.
There are two principal points however
which we shall fail to carry & which
some of us propose to appeal upon to the
Queen.

They are chiefly connected with the woman
traffic, designated Polygamy. We propose
an amendment in the Bill that the new Courts
to be created under the new Regime should
not be made use of to recover ukulobola
i.e. - Cattle paid for women - in respect of
any future transactions. Also that no second
marriage in the future should have legal force.

We lost both but shall press them again in the
Council. - Mr. Shepstone opposes these ^{changes through} ^{Indisposition}

7-11 ~~Change~~ if the object really is to improve the Natives.

The degraded character of the women lies at the root of
all the other difficulties. -

I am
Yours faithfully

Joseph A. Mearns