

Copy of Letter from
J. Akermann
18, Colles Street
Carlyle
Oct 5-76
Cavendish Square
London Oct 5. 1876
Wm. J. E. Carlyle. C123/80

My dear Sir

I have just perused your long letter in the "Times" of this day with very much pain and regret. From my present official position here as well as on account of the personal complication such a procedure might involve I restrain myself at present from giving that public contradiction to some of its statements which perhaps it is my duty to do. I think you will agree with me that commendation or flattery of public men can be regarded as lawful only when resting on the solid basis of

fact as a foundation for the
tinselled superstructure. Now
I put it to you whether or
not from the facts your
short residence in Africa
has enabled you to collect
you can, as a Christian
Minister and on reflection,
justly eulogise Mr. Shepstone's
Native policy as you do to-day
in the Times. — Are you
not aware of the statement
made publicly in the Legisla-
tive Council of Natal by a
Clergyman, and only last
November himself too a
Minister of the Government,
when discussing the Native
Bill, that a Christian
Native woman ~~married~~ ^{married} by
himself had been compelled
to declare all her offspring

though born in wedlock
bastards in order to retain
them at all. - Are you not
aware of the despatch of a
Kaffer ~~and~~ ^{to} the Matabela Country
by Mr. Shepstone and the
massacre it occasioned? Has
not Mr. Shepstone's policy been
one altogether of segregation,
and isolation of the Kaffer,
and rendered less mischievous
from time to time than it
otherwise would have been,
just in proportion as that
policy has been frustrated or
amended by opposition and
agitation or influence of
commercial contact. Would it
not be the testimony of five
sixths of the Missionaries of
Natal were they but free to
speak which you know they

are not that the Shepstonian
Traffic policy has been in the
past and is now eminently an
Anti-Christian one? I could put
these questions in greater
numbers and force even than
this. The late Mr. Allison one
of the oldest and best of
missionaries in S. Africa has
repeatedly lamented to me
the ill-effect produced on the
Native mind by the Sheps-
tonian policy and declared it
to be both within and with-
out the Colony the greatest
bar to religion amongst the
Natives. After a residence
there of 26 years I concur
very much with his opinions.
You will recollect that Mr.
Allison sent many Native
Evangelists to the interior.

C123/80a

Again do you really believe that the Natal Native Department which is so timorous of its own subjects that it hesitates to impose a necessary and enacted dog-tax, and fears to exact rent from Kaffir squatters on crown lands both of which facts are within your knowledge and known likewise to betwags; has any real, ^{personal} influence on this Chief? I am sure that such is not the case, while the tin-pot coronation of betwags is laughed at every-where, except where the farce has been used to make capital of. That from Natal as a healthy centre ought to radiate forth the christianising agencies necessary for Central Africa I cordially

admit, & herein you and I
concur; but to render this
operative, Natal as a British
Colony & type should be exam-
plary which she is not under
her present vicious Native
Government, and never,
never will become so, so
long as the fashion remains
to eulogise those functionaries
who have mainly contributed
to building up the exciting
state of things, or to support
their action.

It grieves me to write
thus strongly in condemna-
tion to one with whom I
have more than once
co-operated in public with
pleasure; but I cannot
avoid, in view of your letter
so injurious to the ^{true} interests

of South Africa, & having
the well being of the Colony
at heart penning this short
remonstrance.

I am

My dear Sir

Yours faithfully

(Signed) John W. Anderson