

Private and  
confidential

"Witness" <sup>F.R. Statham</sup>  
Office

Leamington

15<sup>th</sup> July, 1882

C148/5

My dear Mr Chesson,

I was very glad  
to get your letter of the 7<sup>th</sup>

June, though I am grieved of  
having sent you the paper to  
which you refer.

You will have heard  
by telegraph that the  
legislative Council have  
refused to renew their  
protest against Cretzschmar's return  
to Zululand. You find

Mr Saunders brought the  
matter forward, but had  
very little real support. Two  
amendments were brought  
forward; one simply declining  
to renew the protest. This  
was with drawn, and the  
following adopted: -

"That, having regard to the protests already recorded by this Council in relation to the return of CETYWAYO, this Council feels bound, in the interests of the colony it represents, to express its opinion that no such restoration can be accomplished with safety to Natal, or with advantage to the Zulu people, which is not preceded and accompanied by measures devised ~~with the view of providing for the future of the native population of Natal, and for the permanent and effective influence of Her Majesty's Government in the domestic affairs of Zululand.~~"

The words crossed through  
were struck out of the

request of several members -  
There was no division taken,  
but I am told (in fact I know)  
that if the Council had  
divided, the amendment  
~~would~~<sup>might</sup> have been lost, the  
five Executive members  
having voted for Sir Henry  
Bulwer to vote against any-  
thing seeming to hint at  
a possibility of Petrozov's  
return - of this more  
and -

You will at once see  
from this resolution that  
public feeling in Natal

has undergone a great  
change in respect of the  
Zulu question & I enclose  
the leader that appeared in  
the Times the moment <sup>at</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>moment</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>war</sup>  
with England was decided  
on (June 27/82) and another  
written a fortnight later, in  
which I have ventured to  
allude to your letter to me &  
I may say without hesitation  
that the leader of the 27<sup>th</sup>  
has struck the key note of  
the position & although  
some members of the Council  
feel bound to express their

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strong disapproval of Crompton's return, the public conviction is that the return is inevitable & I have taken particular pains to quash public feeling in every direction, and I find that the opposition to Crompton's return is dead & efforts have been made in Dublin to set up an agitation on the subject, but have completely failed & the general feeling is this - that care must be taken that by Crompton's return the Colony is not involved in any fresh

risk & this, able all that  
was passed, you cannot  
understand it as can the  
Government desire that  
such risk should be created.  
If you ask me to account  
for this change of feeling,  
I may say that it is to be  
accounted for on two grounds  
in the first place, the lapse of  
time has carried people  
further away from the  
alarm and excitement of the  
Zulu war & in the next place,  
any student sees that the  
present settlement cannot

work & It was intended by Sir  
James Worsley to be a  
settlement à la Kilkenny,  
and from such a prospect  
wey admit, to do them justice,  
revolts &

Now that things are  
going more to your liking, I  
hope you will be more disposed  
to acknowledge the wisdom of the  
course I have taken & I have  
always held (and hold still) that  
there is risk ~~in~~ connected with  
any settlement of Zululand &  
There were, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> are, arguments in  
favour of establishing British  
authority in Zululand, and

arguments in favour of Cetywago's  
return & I have made it con-  
stantly my endeavour to put this  
view forward & but I have  
always leaned to the anti-Cety-  
wago side on this season & that  
if I had seemed to lean in the  
least degree to the other side, I  
should have lost all power of  
being heard. To have got people  
<sup>in Natal</sup> to see that there are two sides to  
this question is to have accom-  
plished a great deal & we have  
got rid of the local inflamma-  
tion simply by leaving it alone &  
people now discuss the subject  
on its merits, in the humour  
of people determined to make

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the best of a condition of things  
 which they don't like & this is a  
 fact which I would wish par-  
 ticularly to impress on your  
 supporters in the House of Com-  
 mons & how things are in the  
 present <sup>unfavourable</sup> condition, don't let them  
make the mistake of abusing  
Natal colonists & their true policy  
 is exactly the other way & a few  
 reasonable words in praise of  
 the moderate and sensible  
 attitude of colonists in Natal  
 will set all your wheels in a  
 manner which will please and  
 perhaps surprise you &

Now as regards what  
 will have to be done in Zulul-  
 land & there are rocks to be

avoided, and your supporters  
must not run the risk of  
having it imputed to them  
that they have caused, even  
indirectly, bloodshed and disorder.  
Mr. Durr will have to be  
dealt <sup>with</sup>. He can't stay in the  
country after the part he has  
taken. It must be made  
easy for him to go out

Then there is the question of  
the King's private property -  
cattle and so on - about  
which he is very sore, and  
naturally so. That will have  
to be arranged. Every care,  
must be taken that the

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appointed chiefs in no way  
of suffer & it must be made  
easy for them to appear as  
welcoming [?] back again &  
then the King must be accom-  
panied into the country by an 4/  
escort of imperial troops -  
say, if possible, two or three  
hundred cavalry - to show that  
he has the moral support and  
approval of England & I am  
glad to find that the  
General (hereafter Smyth) quite  
shares this opinion, though don't  
mention his name as coming  
through me & as for the Resident  
- and there must be a

Resident — he must be paid  
enough to make the place  
worth the acceptance of a  
better man than Osborn & I  
think it quite possible that  
Notal colonists may be induced  
to undertake the burden of the  
expenditure in this direction, if  
the matter is generally dealt  
with, and not no hint thrown  
out of expecting them to do so at  
the outset & they are very  
rare about the manner in  
which the present Residents may  
be paid, and they can be, if you  
and your friends will believe it,  
much more easily led than  
driven &

and now let me warn

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you that the greatest obstacle in  
the way of any settlement of  
Zululand on the basis of Petyou's  
return will be Sir Henry Bond's  
He is unfaible and honest man  
in many ways; but he is, in respect  
of ~~the~~ Zululand, under the supreme  
domination of his two ~~own~~ besetting  
weaknesses — indecision and  
stoutness. He is persuaded that  
there is nothing like keeping things  
in Zululand in a state of  
balance — keeping up the position  
of the Kilkenny cats, only desiring  
to believe that the cats have either  
teeth or claws. He will raise  
difficulty after difficulty, and  
wight on delay after delay, and  
will sanction nothing that goes against  
his own view, except under strong pressure

on demand, ... as a

He has done nothing since he  
came towards getting at the real  
truth of things in Zululand, and  
persistently ignores the <sup>opinion</sup> ~~multitude~~ of  
those who know most about the  
country & every one expected that,  
holding a special commission  
with regard to Zululand, he would  
have visited that country long ago  
but he cannot make up his  
mind, apparently, what to do &  
his sources of information are  
both limited and prejudiced &  
Osborn, the Zulu Resident, is not  
independent enough to say what  
he thinks, and John Shepstone,  
the Acting Secretary for Native Affairs  
here, is a nonentity & yet upon these  
two channels of information Sir  
Henry Bulwer depends, and both,



As regards our constitutional  
reform in Natal, Mr. Escombe  
is going home as soon as the  
Session of the Legislature is  
over, and you will do well not  
only to see him, but to induce  
your supporters to pay great  
attention to what he may say to  
them wherever he may meet them.  
It is to his cautious and  
moderating influence in the  
Council that the refusal to  
renew a protest against Cetywayo's  
return is mainly owing, and  
I may say, in confidence, that  
his private convictions have  
always been in favour of  
Cetywayo's return. I will let you

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know when he is leaving &  
suppose you quite understand  
the principle of the constitutional  
reform we want & that there  
must be a removable Ministry  
every one is agreed & the present  
executive can do nothing & but  
we must, for a time at least,  
have some force of Imperial  
troops left in the colony, not  
on defence, but as a symbol to  
the native population that  
the Queen's authority is not  
withdrawn & To secure this  
the colony offers three distinct  
concessions & first, seven  
members nominated by the

to Crown in a legislative Council  
of 30, there seven being  
practically ~~not~~ representatives of  
native interests. Next, the  
right of the Crown to nominate  
to the Executive Council as  
many members as there are  
in the Ministry of the day. And  
third, the proviso that measures  
relating to native affairs shall  
originate in the Executive.  
If you consider these arrangements,  
you will find that no measure  
relating to natives could be  
introduced without the consent  
of the Crown, and that it would  
require a majority of at least  
two thirds of the 23 elective  
members of the legislative

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to carry any resolution in the  
letter of the seven nominees &  
This is a practical way of  
meeting a great difficulty,  
and a way which, I think,  
your supporters must approve,  
because it prevents the playing  
with native interests for party  
purposes. The Colonial Office  
may appear to dislike this plan;  
but Courtney, whom I think you  
have chiefly to thank for the  
more reasonable Zulu policy,  
will approve of it. And Courtney  
means rather more than  
Courtney.

I believe Sir George Campbell

takes considerable interest in  
affairs out here, and you are  
quite welcome to show him this  
letter, and to show it to any  
other of your supporters who  
will understand that I don't  
want to be named as ~~the~~ an  
in authority. There is a great chance  
of putting things here on a sane  
and reasonable basis, if only  
care is taken not to stir up  
prejudices.

Yours

Yours truly

Richard D. Webb

F. W. Chesson Esq.

I enclose another article on  
the defence question. The view taken is  
one you should consider.