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Kimberly, Diamond Fields, S. Africa.
March 5th 1878.

To the President

Aborigines Protection Society.

Sir,

I venture although not a member of your society to enlist your sympathies on behalf of natives living on the border of this Province of Griqualand West who in my opinion are not receiving the justice from the Administration of British Rule here which all true Englishmen desire shall be extended to those who are too weak to assert themselves.

I do not send you this letter for publication, indeed the publication of it would do more harm than good but knowing the vast means your society has of bringing influence to bear upon the colored races and on their behalf I desire to attract the attention of its directors to the natives upon our border who I think are being badly used by the government here.

It will be within your knowledge that the Province of Griqualand was created by the British Government after the discovery of numerous diamond mines in the territory of the Griquias. That territory was transferred to the British Government in 1871 by Capt. Nicholas Waterboers

and his councillors, Sir Henry Barkly, at that time being Her
Majesty's High Commissioner in South Africa and Governor
of the Cape Colony. His Excellency took over the country upon
certain conditions, some of which were fulfilled for six whole
years and all of which have not been fulfilled to this day.
I consider that Waterboer has been most shamefully used,
indeed I may say that the cruel treatment he has received
at the hands of the representatives of the Crown has completely
demoralized him but it is not of main importance that I desire
to address you. Should you hereafter desire that I should write
you an account of the treatment to which that Chief has
been subjected I shall be most ready to do so as I have
been in the country since the first discovery of diamonds
and have been mixed up in the public life of the Province
from its first settlement.

That is of most immediate concern now is the
treatment of the natives residing in the Pongwana, chiefly Butha Buthe's
Baralong and crosses between the people of Jantjes tribe
Koranas and the tribes I first mentioned. Pongwana is
about three days from this in a wagon, about two days on
horseback. The people there are not numerous - say
about 2000. They surround a petty Chief named Gasibone
and the Paramount Chief acknowledged by the
British Government is Mankoroane. Pongwana now given to
the Natives under the Kente award. Gasibone is
a most restless and untrustworthy man and his
character contrasts badly with that of Mankoroane
who is well behaved intelligent and well disposed

towards the British Crown. Gasbome has for a long time concluded that he ought to be the Paramount Chief and so unfortunately the boundary line between this country and that in which he resides has never been well defined. He has concluded that some farms given out by the British is in his territory. He has been in the habit of riding into this territory with an armed body of guards and demanding black mail of the subjects of Her Majesty's Majesty. I do not deny that it was desirable that this should be put a stop to and even his own people to whom he behaves badly would gladly see him punished. To do this I hold that it was impolitic and unjust for the administrator of this Province to proceed against him with an armed force of about 400 men as they did without the sanction of the Paramount Chief of the country which had and obtained.

Major Langton our administrator did this. He called for volunteers, took the mounted police and a large body of gulus and went out to make war upon Gasbome. I am much afraid that there was an idea on the part of the Major that he could acquire some distinction by this. However when the force which was commanded by Major Langton in person reached Poquane the agent of Gasbome came to meet him and said that Gasbome would come and see the Major and let matters set right. This offer was accepted by Major Langton who insisted upon going to Poquane and intimated that he

would only consent to meet and settle with Gasibone at his own place Poquane. With this indisposition to be conciliated Major Langton this 400 men rushed on but by the time they had arrived Gasibone had driven off all his own cattle and had also gone off himself leaving a number of his people and their cattle behind.

When Major Langton found that Gasibone had given him the ship he ordered the guls he had taken with him to drive in all the cattle they could find and about 600 head were driven in and 400 and odd were secured as spoil ostensibly to punish Gasibone. These cattle were burnt into the Draining Ponds and sold and the proceeds were placed into the Treasury.

I should here mention that Major Langton sent before leaving Humbly to Maankoroane asking that chief to meet him at Poquane. Maankoroane at once complied which shows how ready he is to be subservient to the representations of the British Crown.

When Major Langton first met Maankoroane the cattle had been already taken. Maankoroane's first words were "Why had you not done all this thing now". The Major having presented the Chief with a very handsome rifle and talked with him the Chief at last said so long as you don't take any cattle belonging to me I don't care. You must know that Maankoroane and Gasibone are enemies & have been since Gasibone repudiated Paramount Chief. Maankoroane would be therefore glad to have Gasibone punished and I must say that Gasibone

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deserved to be punished but he has not been. He had made off. The cattle
taken belonged to people (natives) whose only means of support
they were. These people have been living on milk for a long
time: through the dreadful drought that has visited the
country all their grain crops have failed them, and starve
they must unless something is done to assist them.

The Rev^d Mr. Bevan M. A. of St. Mark's Mission
Poquame and the Rev^d Mr. Ashton the excellent Secretary
of the London Missionary Society have been bringing all
the influence they can to bear upon Major Langson &
his government but the purpose of the government & the Major
now seems to be ~~that~~ to bring the public to believe that
these men are telling falsehoods and the Rev^d Mr.
Bevan has been treated as I consider most ungenerously
and unbecomingly for his manliness in speaking out for
these poor people. They are as innocent of all offences
as children.

I have said I think as much as is necessary to guide
you in that matter. I will by next post send you the
papers with all the correspondence on the subject which I
am unable to do now. and then I will give you another case
in which I consider a gross prostitution of law and injustice
is done to other natives. The natives in this part of
the world need the attention of those who believe in their
mission to watch over the welfare of the colored classes.

In order that you may ascertain that credence
is to be put in my statements & opinions, I beg to
refer you to Mr. James Anthony Froude, Col. Carpenter

or to Mr. Macdonald of Messrs. Macdonald & Co., 2
Suffolk Lane Cannon Street London.

May add that I am the Editor of the Standard
News and was a member of the Legislative Council prior
to its dissolution and have been requested to become one of
the Council again to be elected.

Yours truly
Your obed^t Serv.

Rich^d. M. Murray.

R. W. Murray
March 16, 1878
