

Rev. P. W. Bartlett
E. London, S. Africa.
May 14, 1880.

C125/95

Dear Papa,

From a reference in
a Colonial paper which I saw y'day
gather that some letter of mine
sent to England, touching on the
Native Question, has appeared in the
Aborigines' Friend. I imagine it is one ad-
dressed to you (of date Feb. 10.); if so, I shall
be glad that any words of mine have
helped to draw attention to Urozi's
affair. The only answer volunteered by
parties challenged with the misconduct is
an admission by an army-surgeon
that he possessed himself of the head
of the chief 'for scientific purposes'. A

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ague denial was at the same time offered by the officer in command; which is contradicted in terms by the above admission. I have heard from several parties that during the late war a trade was carried on in Kafir skulls, 15/- being the current price for them.

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It is well in this matter ^{of the Native Question} to distinguish between the feeling of individuals and colonists, ~~and~~ even the ~~general~~ feeling of the colony as a whole, and the measures and acts of the Cape Government.

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As farm-labourers, I believe the natives are in many cases better off than a similar class at home; as house-servants, they meet with as good treatment in most houses as those of the same station

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Hence
in the old country. Anything urged against
the method in which the Government deals
with natives as a whole is apt to be con-
strued into an aspersion ^{cast} upon ^{the} personal
character of people in the colony. The
two things may very well ^{be} for the present
purpose, ought to be kept quite apart.
There are many ^{here, I believe,} who are dissatisfied
with the action of Government in the matter,
and who yet do not see any way in
which to exert their influence in order to
secure a better state of things, except ^{the} ~~and~~ the
personal way. The political way is neither so
accessible nor so effectual as it seems to one
accustomed to the course of politics in Eng. with a
land; there is no regularly ^{constituted} opposition
in Parliament; and, again, individual
Members are less elected upon broad
issues than to represent ~~partly~~ local

interests. There are many more who agree with the Government in power, but whose personal attitude to the natives is ~~more~~ ^{both} more just and gentle than the policy pursued by the Ministers. The enclosed article speaks for itself; I can vouch for the accuracy of the facts referred to, as they have come under my personal observation. This law limiting the time of natives carrying passes and requiring their revision at every point of the journey; this Disarmament Act, which abolishes the distinction between good and bad, loyal and disloyal, right and wrong, and putting a premium upon past misconduct and upon present disobedience (Ingos, who fought for us in 3 wars losing arms given as rewards by the authorities, while ^{disorderly} Jamboosies refuse to surrender them); the Branding Act

for a week by the
not think it is
which proposes to stamp the cattle
of each kraal - as sage and prac-
ticable a device as marking sovereigns
would be at home, since they are
the chief article of exchange; - all these
taken together seem to me to be
the best thing we can do to shake the
last foundation of the idea of British
justice in the minds of the natives;
to open the way for endless irritation
on the part of those ill-disposed to-
wards them; to foster the bitter
feelings left by war; and to write
Fringos and Kaffirs, all natives, good
bad and indifferent, in a common
bond of distrust, discontentment and
disaffection.

I trust and believe that the late
change of affairs in England will

some account of Natal, we have been delayed here
detestation of our sham at Port Elizabeth, but we

your aff-
son.
Rev. Barth
- 12
Charlotte
to very well
sends her
dearest love

not occasion any hasty alteration
of our policy towards South Africa,
such as has in the Past only too often
awakened in the minds of Colonists
a sense of interference and grievance
and in the minds of natives a sense

of instability. ^{on ours} There is room enough
for the wholesome and effective in-
fluence of English opinion, both in-
directly and by means of Mr Ma-
jesty's representative at the Cape,
without prejudice to the Responsible
Government of the Colony, in securing
the ends of equity and peace.

~~Security~~. One may agree with the
Farmers as to the injury done by
the permission of indiscriminate va-
grancy, and sympathise with the
general community in its fear of the

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effects of a promiscuous Armament
among Natives, without proceeding to
such extremes as the transgression of
justice and friendliness between man
^{in order to avert these dangers.}
and man. If the old system of passes
were retained and a heavy license laid
upon arms, the requirements of necess-
ity would be provided for, while
a check was put upon excess. A
Native would not long care to poss-
ess so costly an article as a fire-
arm would then become, unless
the security of his stock depended
upon the possession of it. As for the
Branding Act, I cannot see any
substitute for so inimitable a piece
of closet-legislation; it should be con-
signed to what the Greeks called "inextin-"