

Copy of letter written to the Right Honble Earl Carnarvon

Transvaal Republic, South Africa

April 5<sup>th</sup> 1876

To the Right Honble Earl Carnarvon

(125/69)

My Lord

Having heard that

you are soon to meet in conference upon South African affairs Mr President Brand of the Orange Free State (an honest man and Gentleman) and Mr President Burgers of the South African Republic of which Republic for the last 8 years I have been a resident of, therefore the reason of my writing to you being very much disgusted with the Govt and people generally for their dishonesty and wrong done the natives which is a disgrace to a people calling themselves and considered by such Gentlemen as Campbell Johnston<sup>Esq</sup> Major Nicholson and Mr Hildebrand as Christians, neither the former or even the latter Gent<sup>l</sup> however far sighted he may be into the character of men can form the slightest opinion without he stayed a year instead of weeks <sup>among of them</sup> what a false hypocritical Psalm singing lot of rogues the people generally and Govt are, as they will assert any thing however false, and swear any way to serve their own purposes.

I have heard that when the English Govt granted the Dutch Boers liberty to form a Republic here, it was upon the express understanding that they did not injure molest or enslave the Natives, all of which considerations they have entirely set at naught for they have shamefully used the Natives by forcing them off the land they and their fore fathers have

occupied for generations before the Dutch came  
the Country, thereby causing thousands upon thousands  
of them to remove far into the interior  
and if this has not been done in all cases by  
force of arms, (Guns & powder) it has been accom-  
plished by a systematic plan by first asking  
the natives permission to hunt over their ground  
or Country and when obtaining such permission  
Beacons or Survey the lands for farms which  
the Govt has readily granted Title deeds for  
to the people individually, they composing  
the Govt from President to his Grooves.  
after which when it either suited the Govt  
people and they wished to occupy such farms  
or land if not driving the natives off with  
Guns they made off so suppleant they could  
not remain, so by degrees the Govt which  
is the people have robbed the natives of millions  
of acres, This is how so many insolent  
Speculators have secured land by the Govt  
hundred thousand acres individually which  
has not cost them a half penny per acre  
indeed in many cases only a few shillings  
to the Govt for the paper the Title deed is  
written upon, but as such as comprise the  
Govt have secured their farms equally cheaply  
they dare not deny private individuals the  
same privileges, and again the Govt reap  
a benefit by receiving a quit rent of a  
few shillings yearly upon the farms so  
robbed from Natives and given to their  
people and friends. See European Mail  
of Oct 25<sup>th</sup> - 1875 of a well known individual  
in Natal who advertise Two hundred thousand  
acres for sale: and undoubtedly the Govt  
can deposit with you the English Govt or  
any other Government Title deeds for  
millions of acres of land so obtained

to make  
through  
Govt or  
their money  
a people  
the land  
is a ques  
longer  
Puggen  
Republic  
right  
may oc  
undown  
are the  
class  
they w  
natur  
of the  
affor  
they  
a  
is a  
of  
the  
bet  
of  
M  
at  
fr  
no  
la  
a

1125/189a  
to make Railways from Helagoa Bay all  
through and round the Republic of any  
Govt or Capitalists are fools enough to lend  
their money upon such or any security such  
a people and Govt may promise: As to getting  
the land in case the Govt fail to pay interest  
is a question of long waiting probably much  
longer than even the grand time Mr President  
Buggers spoke of when in Holland that this  
Republic would eclipse the Father Land and have  
eight Millions of inhabitants, which I judge  
may occur a few years before the end of the work,  
undoubtedly then of eight millions of inhabitants  
are ~~these~~ people ~~etc~~ of the same honourable  
class as the present occupiers of the Country  
they will be enabled to exterminate the  
natives and hold the land robbed from them.

I wish to give a further account  
of this religious christian people and Govt.  
after robbing the natives of their land  
they think it right to make them pay  
a hut tax of  $\frac{3}{4}$  each but, here again  
is a great injustice with the exception  
of such natives as live upon land near  
the Towns in the Republic such could  
better afford to pay three pounds than  
others can  $\frac{3}{4}$  who live far away from  
Markets or European people who consider  
it right to pay others for what they  
produce, with Dutch people here it is  
not the case, if natives live upon their  
land or such land, <sup>of the natives</sup> as the Govt has granted  
a title to, they consider what a native now

is their, except barely sufficient to keep  
life & soul in the natives, so they can give  
their work & services to these noble white  
men, and this again at a nominal  
rate about a fifth of what natives receive  
in the Cape Colony or Natal, for in the  
latter Colony the natives have the privilege  
of selling their produce to whom they please  
& receiving an excellent price  
for every thing produced by them,  
also are protected by the Government  
to work for whom they please and when  
they please at enormous wages getting  
two or three times as much wages as  
English labourers for one third of the  
work done, this owing to the scarcity  
of labour and independence of the  
natives in the Colony, therefore the natives  
in the Colony under the English Govt can  
all better afford to pay four pounds  
per each ~~per~~ hut than natives in the Republic  
can do with the exception of such as live  
near the Towns, Although I am necessar-  
-ted to bring under your notice the wrong  
done the natives in the Republic, I cannot  
speak much in favour of the Kafirs  
called natives in Natal for from my  
long knowledge of them and residence  
in Natal they now get upon an  
average four times more wages  
each than formerly and generally  
do about half as much work & day  
as formerly. that is when employed  
upon the farm or land, also they are

become  
wicked,  
to rebel  
all the  
and I  
does not  
policy  
bring  
an over  
they  
altho  
am  
adjo  
ben  
ever o  
just  
them,  
King  
I had  
only  
broke  
them  
him  
bel  
that  
ized  
is g  
line  
for  
a m  
at  
tha  
th  
the  
at  
300

becoming far more dishonest, idle, and  
wicked, and are ready at any opportunity  
to rebel against the Government and cut  
all the white peoples throats in the Country,  
and I do not hesitate saying if the Govt  
does not shortly alter their over lenient  
policy as administered at the present  
time by the Magistrates, there is safe to be  
an outbreak, and the end of it will be  
they will get shot down as dogs, and  
although from my many years residence  
amongst the Native in Natal and those  
adjourning tribes, <sup>I do not hesitate say 1875</sup> the only way to  
benefit them is to be very severe when  
ever offending, but still be strictly  
just and honest in all dealings with  
them, Years ago when I used to visit  
King Mupanda for trading purposes  
I have heard him say his people were  
only dogs, and if when they stole or  
broke the laws, if he did not punish  
them with death they would soon eat  
him up or kill him, and I firmly  
believe it, also the Govt or man  
that is over lenient or kind to an uncivil-  
ized Native or Native when doing wrong,  
is generally speaking the greatest  
Enemy he can have, Old King Mupanda  
for a Savage or uncivilized Black I found  
a most sensible and I believe just man,  
at least I found him so.

Before I conclude I must inform you  
that as the Dutch Boers dare not rob any  
other Tribes beyond what they have upon either  
the East, North or West Side of the Republic  
it is said about fifteen hundred are  
gone or going to the interior on the West

Coast where undoubtedly of them, or elsewhere they  
will adopt their previous practices first get  
permission to stay and hunt and when  
opportunities offers & that they find they  
are strong enough they will treat the  
natives as they have done in the Republic,  
not them of their land and home,  
report says also these people are going  
beyond the Zambesi, one of them that  
are going told me it was Hamara land  
on the West Coast however let it be when  
ever it may. I think myself and  
feel that every honest Englishman will  
Coincide with me that a powerful Nation  
like England ought to appoint a  
Commission to investigate what I have  
stated about the Boers in the Republic  
having so shamefully robbed the  
Natives, and <sup>I doubt not</sup> if found that the English  
Government is in earnest in making  
their investigation I doubt not plenty  
will be found to confirm what I  
have written. Gordon Cumming if living  
would confirm it as he used to hunt  
by permission of the natives. Dr Livingstone  
would also and probably Dr Moffat  
can all thing to he was when in South  
Africa located far to the west of the  
Republic.

If necessary I beg to give you the rights  
of making some enquiries as to whom I am  
who dare to write what I have, I have  
been a resident of this Republic and  
Natal upwards of 26 years, I was formerly

Resident  
Suff  
Nect  
war  
Sen  
the  
Cha  
and  
Suff  
the  
le  
the  
m  
de  
ow  
Ne  
he  
m  
le  
- by  
the  
h  
fo  
to  
de  
1  
a  
e  
7  
P.P.P.

Residing at Barsham Hall and Beedes in  
Suffolk. was known to the Rev<sup>d</sup> A. Suckling  
Rector of Barsham, Rev<sup>d</sup> S. Wilson (after  
wards known as Lord Berrers, & Gooch Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
son of Sir Tho Gooch Bart. any or all of  
the Court of living would give me a  
character for respectability and veracity  
and John Gardin Esq of Redisham Hall  
Suffolk who was High Sheriff at that  
time can confirm it, as I had when  
leaving his and their testimonials to  
this effect if I wanted to use them for  
my advancement I however never  
did use <sup>them</sup> preferring to get a position by my  
own labour unaided.

But at the same time which may  
never occur again I trust You as the  
head of the English Govt will enquire  
into the subject mentioned above, and  
see justice done the natives for undoubted  
rights through the English Govt allowing  
the Dutch Boers to form a Republic here  
has caused the wrong, and now is a  
favourable time to repair the injury and  
take back the Country, as the people  
are now greatly divided through  
the proceedings of Mr President Burgers  
who through it may not be President  
much longer.

I am aware for writing what  
I have altho' to strictly correct. If  
known to Mr President Burgers Govt  
I am liable to be imprisoned for life  
but I rely upon your and the English  
Govt's honor and love of justice if so impres-  
sioned to cause my liberation.

I remain  
My Lord  
Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Sam<sup>l</sup> James Atkinson

14  
I beg to say I have forwarded a copy of this  
to Mr F. W. Chesson Secretary to the Aborigine  
Protection Society, with other evidence  
which go far to substantiate all I have written.