

Transvaal Republic, South Africa
Apr 5th 1876

J W Coleson Esq

Secretary to the Aborigines Protection Society

Sir

I beg to forward you a copy of a letter posted the same time as this to the Right Honble Earl Carnarvon. I also enclose herewith Correspondence taken from Natal Colonial Newspapers which will go far to confirm what I have written to him, likewise if you will refer to the Natal witness newspapers of March 11th 1876 you will see a letter written to that paper by a Farmer in the Republic also testifying to what a lot of swindlers the people composing this Govt are. I do not doubt you represent a very good and honourable lot of Gentlemen who desire to see justice done all men whether white or black but yet if you had been like myself upwards of a quarter of a century in this Country as an employer of Kafirs and engaged amongst them you would know from experience they could not be governed as men who had had for generations advantages of Civilization, I regret to say as far as the Kafirs in Natal are concerned, at the present day they are far greater rogues than when I first came into the Country. Yet upon an average they are paid 4 times more wages a month than they for which they do about half the work upon a farm daily as they did then, therefore at the present day they are paid for the same amt of work done as a Norfolk or Suffolk labourer about double the wages, therefore they are now very wealthy and still so wickedly disposed that at any time that any opportunity offers, they are ready

to rebel against the Government and destroy
all the whites in the Colony. You may wonder
what can be the cause of this which is easily
explained, in the first place you must under-
stand these men are only savages and will
not be for many generations are very wicked
at least, and do not understand ~~kindness~~
when doing wrong. ^{Kindness showing them} Your Society is continually
urging upon the Government kindness &
leniency being shown the Natives and the
Govt in their turn are continually urging
forbearance and leniency to their Magistrates.
Therefore the Natives misconstrue such kindness
to fear of them, which will end in another
outbreak when they will get shot down as
does, for don't believe me Englishmen and
other Europeans came here to be destroyed
after treating the Natives kindly & justly, and
I can say with truth that the Magistrates in
Natal to an individual are equal in honor
and kindness of heart to any occupying the
same position in England, but although
knowing they are acting to the injury of
Natives or Kafirs by their leniency in ^{not} punishing
when doing wrong they are constrained to
act as they do by the Govt through your
Society, therefore in the end you will be
enemies of the Kafirs instead of friends as far
as Natal is concerned, But in the Transvaal
Republic it is very different, here the people
are the Govt and a worse lot of unprincipled
men you cannot meet with, therefore if you
can urge upon the English Govt through Earl
Parnell to appoint a Commission to enquire
whether or not the people & Govt have appropriated
millions of acres of land belonging to the Natives
you will find they have and this will expose
their systematic plan of oppression as
stated in my letter to the Earl.

I remain Sir
Your Obedt Servt
Saml E Atkinson

S. E. Atkinson

April 5 - 1876

Copy of letter written to the Right Honble Earl Carnarvon

Transvaal Republic, South Africa

April 5th 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^{Esq} Major Nicholson and Mr Hende as Christians, neither the former or even the latter Gent^l however far sighted he may be into the character of men can form the slightest opinion without he stayed a year instead of weeks ^{among of them} 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