

[123/59

Adamshurst

Natal

6 May 1878

My dear Sir I see by the papers, that a deputation from your Society, waited on Sir M. Hills Beach. His reply would be very satisfactory, if the present laws under which the Natives in Natal live, were at all in consonance with those of civilized communities, but as it is under the present Code (still unwritten) they will never come out of barbarism, they will never be brought into "the state of civilization in which the Colonists" are. Sir Michael deprecated the "debasement" being superseded in such a manner as to excite their (the natives) apprehensions.

and defeat any attempt to draw the
natives on to "civilization". We colonists
should like to know what attempts
either the Home Government ~~or~~ or its
Deputies here, have made to civilize
the Kafirs? Those in power at home
either cannot see, or do not want
to see the necessity for an immediate
change in Kafir policy in Natal,
we who live among them are constantly
framed by seeing the efforts of those
willing to live in conformity with the
teachings of Christianity, frustrated
by the abominable Kafir laws, and
by Law 28. 1865 the hands of those
who wish to benefit them are tied.
This law bears especially hard
on unmarried girls, if they wish
to petition they are stopped by Sec 33.
Can you do nothing for them in this
matter, we Colonists have no power.

In spite of the difficulties & obstacles
~~and~~ Kafir men still petition and

are still exempted in small number
whenever the Executive Council meets,
once in three months.

I do not propose
to trouble you with a long letter
this time I enclose copy of a
letter received by Mr. Jibbes, it
needs no comments, beside this
I have received considerable encouragement
from my fellow Colonists, though some
from the Government, and I should
find it very useful to have a
few copies of the pamphlet your
Society has printed on affairs in
Natal to distribute.

You would find the
people of Natal your best helpers
in securing justice where needed,
the Officials are bound to be

✓
against you since all their interest
lies in opposing Reform, for it
would do away with many of
their emoluments and much
of their power.

There are some people
who misrepresent your Society
to Colonists, and us to you,
so that in cases which legitimately
call for your interference, we are
afraid to invoke it.

I have much to say
about a grant for the School
here but will not enter into
the subject now.

Accept our thanks for
your Society's action so far.

I remain

My dear Sir

Yours truly

J. Adams

To
F. W. Chesson Esq.

Secy. Abol. Pro. Sociey
17 King William Street
Strand