

Monte 24 Feb 1843

Dear Mother

I was very much gratified
by the reception of the kind favour you
sent by Mr. Bennie & I am just about
to cross the boundary of comparative civility at
the moment. I regret the interior is shared by
so many who do I not give you a word in
passing by way of acknowledgment.
An answer it cannot be for I have
unfortunately left your letter at Kew
and I hope you will receive it such
as it is with forbearance.
Yours very truly
J. M. Heath

I am most happy to hear the heart
 embracing accounts of the state of your
 missions among the Barbas, you
 have been very highly favoured. May the
 Lord grant that you be blessed still
 more that you may not only become
 the benefactors of these people among
 whom you at present are but that
 of them you may become
 to many beyond you in the
 interior. Many being raised up appears
 instrumentally to spread the knowledge

of the everlasting gospel. Mr L has no
doubt given you an account of the state
of affairs here at K. The aspect of
the mission not so much as one might
expect but still the change which has been
effected in a portion of our people is very
great indeed. It is not such as would
strike a visitor from Europe or Am. Island
with any thing but disappointment, particularly
if he had heard the accounts of it which
good Christians in England by usually
do but after one sees the depths from
which they have been elevated exemplified
in the interior tribes there is considerable
cause for thanksgiving. By the way when
I think of the degradation of these people I shall
be glad if you ~~let~~ let me know if you
believe they are really so very far sunk
as has been represented. I heard Mr Moffat
say in England that the Bechuanas had
nearly no conscience until Jesus came
by the missionaries. Now although the
statement excited my noble family a
little at the time thinking it was only a
poetical figure expressive of the wonderful
creative powers of our sentiments. The same
statement nearly appearing in his book

as I understood melius we now believe
that it was meant as plain prose. What
do you say as to their belief? I mean of the
Orekhmanash in relation to God, & eternity &c.
Besides other fragments of knowledge which
have been among them they seem to have
had the idea of the future existence clearly
For instance what else than this idea can we
deduce from the fable of the Camelion &
dark legend. I heard Orokhmana in an
address reason thus, "Is it not a fact that
we Oromenas of old believed that we should
not perish entirely at death. I don't speak
of the knowledge the white man has brought
speaks of the knowledge we had of old. God
sent the Camelion with a message to man
saying you must not do wickedly, you must
reform & so when you die you will
come again. You will not "myela beta"
But the black legend (Katoane) was sent
by the devil (Barim) & as it runs fast it
soon preceded the Camelion & said to man
You may live as you like, there is no
God, when you die you are gone
forever. Another messenger is coming &
he will tell you lies. He will say you
will be judged for your deeds but don't
believe him. So spoke the Katoane

Now this ~~missionary~~ after appealing to his audience
of this were not real Bechuana beliefs & told
himself & said, these
men are the cameroon. The devil's messengers
came before them & has destroyed both
us & our fathers. But now I beseech you
listen to the message of the cameroon. I see
the same individual repeated also in his
advent to the Bechuana idea of the soul &
reasoned with his countrymen most power-
fully, arguing that our doctrine was
not seen even to the people he was ad-
dressing. I was much pleased another
day when from Mr. [unclear] that the
word the made use of to express "soul"
is the same as the Bechuana namely
Mwute or shade, not "musa" which
which as been adopted by the missionaries.
He went so far as to describe the
of souls in the other world, namely
common flies died in the same way
as is usually done with locusts & I have
since found that these other points
were really the common belief of the
If you can give me any information
respecting these authors creed please send it.