

1891.  
Carter  
Africa  
no 1 -





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begun at.

Majorna Mabele. 2 2/2 miles  
from Vryburg. Bechuanaland  
Sunday ~~11th~~ March 7<sup>th</sup> 1891  
. 1891.

My Eighth Chronicle  
To Zimbabwe in Mashonaland

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Tues. Feb March 10<sup>th</sup> 1891. Setli Koola  
Bechuanaland

We left England Jan. 38<sup>th</sup> that is to  
say Theodore + Mr. Robert Swan + I  
bound for Mashonaland + Mr. Graham  
who was going to accompany us as  
far as Kimberley.

The Garth Castle was a comfortable  
ship + with no adventures we reached  
Capetown Thursday Feb 19<sup>th</sup> We landed  
in diston but not at Madeira. It  
was rather rough. We had the usual



entertainments, concerts, athletic sports, a play in which I took part, + a lecture by Theodore.

We stayed in Cape Town till Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>. At the Royal Hotel - a real pot house where one had to pass through the bar to reach one's bedroom. While there we went to tea with Lady Sprigg + with Lady Loch and lunched

with Mr. & Mrs. Merriman + went to Simonstown + several of the lovely suburbs + <sup>on Feb 25<sup>th</sup></sup> started by train to Worcester which we reached at 3 + there staid + I may say wasted 2 1/2 hours, then on to Matjiesfontein 9 o'p.m. These were only villages but the former very large. The latter only 6 houses. We saw Miss Olive Schreiner the authoress of the Story of an African Farm. + started at 8 on the 26<sup>th</sup> for Kimberley which we reached next morning. The train goes very

slowly + stops a good time outside each station + any time else that the driver pleases. Once it went off to soon without us but kindly came back.

Between Worcester + Matjiesfontein we had permission to travel on the Cowcatcher over the Hex Pass. It was a delightful break in the monotony of the journey over the Karoo desert but we did not think it the finest scenery we had ever seen. We were at 3 hours. Under the seats of the train are large bags with 2 mattresses + in the nettings are hammocks which make 'top berths' so we were very well off as two Carriages had been reserved for Mr. Beut. Our companion retired to their room at night but I spent the day with us.

27 Feb. On reaching Kimberley we found that Dr. Harris had engaged rooms for us at the Queen's Hotel. It belongs to



the British South Africa Co + had been kindly buying our waggons + having them fitted up, also 36 oxen + provisions for four people for 6 months, about which I had written from Eng in Dec.

We were naturally curious to see the waggons in which we are to live for so long a time. They are 18 feet long. One has a tilt all over + is boarded over too + in the middle is supported a spring wire mattress + at both ends + all under is quantities of baggage. We sit on the bed by day. The other has only a tilt over the hind 6 ft. + a spring bed very high up for Mr. Swan + many packing cases. All over both is a great sail dipped in tallow + when we are all shut in in the dark when it rains it is stuffy enough. All down both sides of ours are canvas pockets for our clothes. One can't hang much up on account of the violent shaking.

We went down the <sup>de Beers</sup> diamond mine 800 feet. dirty + disappointing + also went into the Compound where black people live for 4 months, only going to the mines - That was more interesting. Most men were dressed in blankets + they certainly seemed to have any amount of trousers but they were nearly all spread out on the ground or hung up.

All the store of diamonds was very wonderful to behold. Very few comparatively were white + + many looked like lumps of gum arabic.

We went to lunch one day at Mr. Currie's. He is an official of the de Beers mine. The house was very nice indeed. On Sunday, having seen Mr. Graham off to Johannesburg we went to St. Ciprianus iron Church very nice.

On Tuesday we left Kimberley for Fryburg. The waggons were on the train



+ the oxen + all the provisions so we took up 10 trucks.

We travelled more slowly than ever. One could hear the grasshoppers above the noise of the train.

We stopped at the Vyburg Hotel where the overcharges were something tremendous. Vyburg is a long village with a wide street + some corrugated iron general stores. We stayed two nights + on Friday afternoon March 6<sup>th</sup> our wagons came to the door + we set out in our Carriages + 18.

We had not gone 3 miles when Mr Swan's wagon stuck in the mud. The load was much the heaviest + that team which is composed of all varieties of Colours not nearly so good as the other which is all brown. The three were all curled up on the bed. For

the first of many times the brown team had to go to the assistance of the others. The chain broke 6 times + away went the brown team with a few of the others + round again. It took fully an hour, so we stayed there + supped as well as we could of course not knowing where anything was to be found.

We started abt 4 again + went on till 9. Oh! the shaking, rattling, jolting, jarring, creaking + banging + tossing up in the air accompanied by loud shouts + yells of the drivers! + only going at the rate of 2 miles an hour. Dressing was most uncomfortable clothes could not be found.

Well, having breakfasted we set to work to examine the contents of 2 large chests said to have been used by the illustrious Dr. Rhodes. Never did bona-fide travellers



find themselves

saddled with such a variety of useless articles. We have really quite enough of our own but here is some idea of



besides such a foot four soup ladles & frying pans 3 gridirons 2 tin washing basins ordinary size & 4 enamelled iron very large. A mincing machine an immense quantity of cups of various sizes & ab. 3 doz plates.

There are a great many other things. At last I said to the <sup>Constable</sup> Cook that he really must pack up the soup tureen & just bring the stewpan to the side of the table & put it straight into the plates for though we had never

travelled in waggons in Africa before we were well used to camp life elsewhere & knew it was better to have few things & wait till they were washed up

& then there is little to pack. These fine things were only fit for Prime ministers, Governors of Colonies or Generals commanding armies - for our Cook Constable was with Sir S. Wolseley through the Zulul war.

Our occupation for several days was going through all the baggage & re-arranging things & now we are getting pretty comfortable. On the 3<sup>d</sup> day of our travels a great & very anxious & important ceremony took place. To inoculating all the oxen for lung sickness. A diseased lung as virus had been brought. So much advice was given for & against that it was very like 'the old man & his donkey' but it was decided to go by Dr. Harris who said they must be inoculated before we get to Mafeking as they would catch the disease in Khama's country. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> day & they all seem very well. Some said they w<sup>d</sup> die if they were w<sup>th</sup>



The waggon were drawn up side by side  
+ a barrier of ropes put across + then  
each yoke was led up + held by men  
the other side of the ropes + Merideth  
our head man or "transport rider"  
caught hold of their tails. Very few  
struggled + some did not seem to  
mind.

Every day we halt at 8 or nine +  
then start again at about 5 + go on till  
9 + then after supper go to bed at  
10.30 + start at 5 again -

We hope to get to Mafeking tomorrow  
We are going to buy horses there + a dog

We did not reach Mafeking that  
morning for when morning came  
we were still a long way off. 7 miles  
at least.

We pushed on till 11 when we  
felt we must stop for breakfast  
+ remained till 2 when we set  
off again. We had been stuck in

the mud several times: This after  
an hour's hard work always  
necessitates a quarter of an hour's  
rest

We did not reach Mafeking till ab-  
out 6.15 crossing the Molopo river which  
winds about the town at the  
foot of a rising sort of Coleroon  
where waggon's out span. We encamped  
there + Theodore at once went up  
to the town to find Mr. Reid of the  
BSA Co + to send some telegrams  
Mr. Swan + I busied ourselves  
with tent pitching amid rapidly  
increasing rain. We were so glad  
to shelter inside that, not for the  
first time no trench was dug round

On Sat<sup>y</sup> two of the young members  
of the Br. Bechuanaland Police  
called to proffer their services, also  
Mr. Reid who accompanied us to the  
Native Location abt. 1/2 a mile from



The European part. All the houses are little round ones with thatched roofs & clay round walls & very narrow door openings & wicker gates or bunches of thorns stand by each & shut them up. The wall does not go quite up so there is air space all round between it & the roof which is supported on wooden pillars. The houses we went into were all <sup>clean</sup> very. People had a good deal of clothes or not much as it suited them. All the children were nearly naked & the little babies looked such ducks.

We went to see the Chief Montez who is a very important person & paid \$300 a year by Eng. but personally he was an old man of 80 they say in a very dirty shirt & trousers. His head ~~is~~ covered with white wool. He was much interested in

my eyeglass & roared with laughter when I let it fall.

It was settled that I should take his photograph next day at four. On Sunday we went to lunch with Mr. Reed and met Mr. Hatchard the Magistrate & his wife. Then we came down to our camp to fetch my camera accompanied by Mr. Wright who was once Commissioner here & was coming to interpret. It was getting gloomier & gloomier & the photography had to be abandoned & we began digging for a white ant queen a nest abt. 4 inches long.

Besides the ~~the~~ interest of possessing the queen we were improving Africa by killing one. But the rain became heavier & we went to sit in the tent & none repeated we had no brever for we were invaded by water & we had to screen closer



each other + save photography +  
cartridges + sextant + in our laps  
+ it was cold + wretched. At last  
Mr. Swan managed to get tea +  
a spirit lamp + a cake + we had  
some + then it cleared + we went  
to Mr. Wright's house + then to a  
nice little church + home through  
torrents of water.

Monday, we had a trench by this  
time, we sat in the tent but all  
got very wet not saving our property  
+ being warned that the river  
would rise we made up our minds  
to seek higher ground behind Mr.  
Wright's house. We started at last  
about 2. & go about half a mile.

The unspanning takes more than  
half an hour. I got into my waggon  
+ sat on the step with the curtain  
of sail cloth dripping into me  
protecting heaps of loose wet things

thrust in + which I dared not  
have to thrust tumble out. I got  
50 yards when I shed a trunk  
which had not been tied on +  
stopped for that in a raging roaring  
lake + there I stayed about 3 hours.  
Mr. Swan + I walking about in  
the water. On Sunday a fountain  
had burst up in front of  
Mr. Swan's waggon + this had  
undermined it till it was down  
below the axle. My team was  
taken + after much digging in  
front + all round finally it  
was dragged out hindways. At  
last we got under weigh again  
+ after much jolting reached  
a tract of swamps + rushing  
water. Mr. Wright asked us to  
his house most hospitably  
+ I had to take off my shoes +  
stockings + pick up my clothes very



I waded to the house with my shoes  
& stockings & towel. I never got the  
stockings on for they were too wet  
but my spats did very well. I  
had to go back with Mr. Swan to  
get what night clothes they could  
& Mr. Swan's bed clothes & our kind  
hosts kept us 3 nights. I never got  
out next day. the others always took  
off their dry things & put on wet  
to go out for we had no means of  
drying. In the eve<sup>g</sup> All the gentlemen  
in Nafeking went to an orgy at  
the hotel most arriving with bare  
legs. ~~It~~

Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> March was dry so we  
spread out our things <sup>dry</sup> & had a  
tea party in the tent. We have 6  
chairs 3 long, 3 high Mr. & Miss Kay  
(Mr. W. mother in law & our hostess)  
Mr. Parker the banker. Mr. Reed &

Bright & I occupied these &  
the 2 hosts sat on a bank out  
side & we had some English  
cake. We wanted to remove  
the waggons but were not allowed  
& on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> we went to  
take the photos.

We had many streams to jump  
& offered to save me the trouble  
of taking off my shoes & stockings &  
cross a very wide stream but  
he made a false step into a hole  
& deposited me with my feet  
high & dry & my head in the  
water lying on my back. I was  
wet through but so I remained  
because I was anxious not to give  
up my work.

Montsion made great preparations  
& took about two hours about it  
He sat in his cottage having his  
head washed & combed out till it



was like smooth snow but in the end he would not be done because his shirt was dirty & as cartridges & guns & show in photos, so will dirt.

I took 2 of his 4 wives & 2 daughters. They also took an immense time getting into English clothes. One sent for new stockings & their maids were assisting them all in public. Even stays were squeezed on by a lady whose figure was anything but European & we saw the friends tugging at the strings.

These clothes were torn off at once. One wife put an ostrich feather wreathed in her turban & each carried a shawl to show she had a spare one. I did not care for this picture but I had to do it. I did a lot of little ones but what I hope will turn out well is a Gulee witch doctor in his war paint.

I was very tired when we got back to luncheon from hanging about so long. Afterwards I took a photo of Mr Wright's house & we started at about half past 5 again in the direction of Zimbabwe.

We had with us a B B Policeman lent by Sir Fred Carrington to show us the way & our own company was increased by a tall Gulee groom called Joseph.

Our horses are being sent from the Transvaal & we are to find them at Kania.

In about a minute we had to jump up behind Mr Swan's bedroom & hang on by our hands to the wires of his spring bed & get through a guagnire & we had to go over the veldt to get to the road.

The road was beautiful & the best we have had & we all were sitting



in the back of our own waggon  
+ with a tremendous jerk had  
passed a hole where our ~~team~~ team  
was shouted for by Alfred + the  
other waggon had gone down into a  
sunken ant hill.

Well we continued our way + at  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  past 7 I remarked 'How nice the  
road is!' If it was all like this  
waggon travelling would not be  
so bad. We can take more pleasure  
in each others' company than  
if we are banging at each other  
as if we wanted to make holes  
in each other."

At this we sunk to the axles  
on the left side for we had left  
the road which was under water  
+ - we got to bed at 3 a.m.!

We jumped out + both spurs  
came + the wheels were dug out  
but the mud was so soft that it

was not possible to right the  
waggon which was at an angle  
of 25. It was terrible work. The  
waggon had to be unloaded at  
last.

At 10 o' we had a fire made by  
Constable + G. W. Swan got the a  
table + chairs + we had supper.

The waggon was got out. loaded  
which is most troublesome  
+ stuck again the other side.

Then it was dragged out  
empty + the men had to carry  
everything + with all this to do  
we did not get to bed till 3.

It was really dangerous wandering  
about among grass, above my  
head, that is in spikes + all thorns  
+ great holes + bushes + we feared  
rain but this stayed away till  
morning.

We hope to start at about 3 + now



all the oxen are being led through the water to fetch Mr Swan's bedroom as the under water road is thought probably harder than the path.

We started at 5 p.m. on Friday & went on very well till  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  having crossed the Ramachlambwana river between the Crown Colony of B. Bechuanaland & the Protectorate where we stuck & before we got to bed it was near one

It was down on one side & at 11 it was got out & all that was needful was just to drive off the road but as the waggon was unloaded they wished to drive round back to the things & save carrying & were down to axes twice before we were safe - and to add to all the pole cracked.

This had to be mended by shortening next day (Sat. yesterday) and we started at 3. <sup>p.m.</sup> & went down 3 times

in the first mile & had to unload & then our waggon went on with both spans, making a whole journey of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles by 6 o'p. & then all oxen went back for the other waggon &

we 3 made a fire, at least I sat by it & I went for sticks & Mr S cut down trees & so we were ready when Constable & the groom Joseph came to get supper.

As we never met a waggon yet we risked having ours in the road & 3 natives ones past & had to leave the road.

No signs of the other waggon or sound of shouting & at 11 Mr S went home & I sat up till 12 when Joseph returned with his bedding.

We got up at 7.30 & I found tea & beef & with some biscuits we made breakfast & wondered till 10.30, for we did not like to have the waggon, till Constable



came & told us they had been down  
3 times in 400 yds & also had to lend  
a span to help one of the Bechuana  
waggons out. This is an awful road  
but said to be better than the other.

<sup>Sunday</sup> We did not start away till after  
Sunset and got 7 miles without  
a hitch. went on again abt 5 on

Monday morn? & went abt 7 miles  
by 8.45. breakfast abt 9.30

Monday 23. March started 5.30  
& got on till we had to walk to the  
edge of a big pan abt 1/4 of a mile  
long. We were a long while waiting in  
the moonlight & the very wet long  
grass while our men waded about  
for the road & at last got through  
all right & then we soon got to  
another & there we stuck on a large  
boulder & had to wait for the other  
span. It was wretched for men

& cattle & anxious for us. but we  
got safely out & then they left us  
& all went for the other waggons. So  
we determined to have a fire ready  
for them & we made a supper of  
ake, biscuits & tea all we had with us.  
abt 11. p.m.

Off again in the morn? abt 4, stuck  
once. both spans needed & outspanned  
in a very pretty spot near a village  
but first we had lost the road, on  
rather our guide had guided us  
wrong & the waggons had to be dragged  
backwards till able to turn. We dress  
as we can but of course cannot  
wash till we come to a standstill.  
Breakfast abt 11. dinner at 4 &  
off at 5.30 & at abt 10 stopped with  
any adventure. The country is getting  
much more wooded & mountains  
are coming & some managed to get  
for



behind us in the night, we going round them. We are in a nice place with trees. Joseph was reproved today for not helping Constable the cook until he has the horses so off he has gone with an invalid relation who was getting a lift home near Kanya.

We are going to dine soon & go on after sunset and hope to be in Kanya tomorrow.

We are getting quite comfortable in the waggon now, knowing where our things are. We have been to see a couple of villages, that get ~~was~~ & Inaasha. Some people wear a good deal of clothes & some very little indeed. We are getting used to it. I've done a lot of photos. Started March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5 o'clock & went on till 9, the country much more wooded. Sometimes the wagon tears

through the trees. We stuck & had to wait some time. The other wagon got through all right & pulled to higher ground. We managed to make a big jump to Terra Firma & went to supper. It was not till near midnight that our 'wagon-lit' arrived.

We walked ahead a little into a little pass with running water. It looked so pretty by moonlight. Off at daybreak & reached Kanya the capital of Batewana's country. The town is very large indeed & scattered on the side of a hill. It is all composed of round houses shaped like cakes & with round walls & fences all round them.

There is a store kept by a nice man named Williams & a mission station presided over by Mr. Good & a little church.



The man who brought our horse from the Transvaal announced the death of one + there he lay not far off as much as remained uncreased.

Horses are so liable to Horsedickness that they are always sold with a guarantee that if they die before the end of the following May the purchaser will get his money back. Salted horses which have got over the illness cost £60 but unsalted \$25. One was offered for sale in the evening but it died in the night. We are going to wait till Inopolole now 45 miles, our next goal.

We went to see the Chief but he was away. He said the inmates of his household. The little babies naked the little girls with a little apron

of fringe fastened on by a cord of beads the little boys in very ill fitting kettleholders held on by leather straps the women in rockers + kilts of skins. They seemed pleasant smiling people + were teaching the children to dance ceaselessly getting songs + clapping hands to them.

Afterwards we went to call on the goods who asked us to lunch next day.

The weather is still very warm. While we were breakfasting Mrs. God sent us a bowl of butter, a jug of milk, some tomatoes + a cucumber + since has added lemon + pom granites to her gifts.

We again went fruitlessly to see the Chief + watched the servants storing mealies (Indian corn)

We shall soon be quite used to



the strange sights we see but I  
fear my photos won't be fit to  
be seen.

March 27<sup>th</sup> We lunched with the  
goods very pleasantly & now are  
starting at 5. I am going to buy  
my horse - She is branded with  
G. so I have called her Geography  
but from observing her paces I  
think Jg will be a suitable  
short name. We don't know  
who owns the other as the nearest  
in size to an elephant, where we  
get the other must be for Mr  
Swan.

I maligned Geography. She is really  
a very good trotter & does everything  
well & is also quiet enough if one  
wants to pick flowers. E. & I rode first  
& then Mr. Swan took a turn &  
finally all sat in front of the wagon

till about 10 when after going safely  
down a very steep & winding descent  
with the drag on we went down in  
the mud on the left so we jumped off.

We were in a very pretty place, woody  
& rocky. Of course we stood about a  
long time while the surrounding ground  
was probed & tested & the provisions  
were got on safely but we had already  
gone forward & found a nice  
sandy bay, off the road & made a  
fire when Constable came & got us  
supper. We could realize we were in  
Africa as a boy was kneeling beside  
us with little on but a skin over one  
shoulder & a sailor hat.

Next morning we did not go more  
than 2 hours before we stuck in  
the mud. There was a great stoppage  
just as I first looked out at 6 &  
this was because an awful place



which required much consultation.  
In the mean time as there was a  
stream near E. I got our washing  
things & enjoyed ourselves therein  
& afterwards walked on to a wide  
& shallow river Mtoemaklabat there we  
paddled about a long time & then  
went home to dress & breakfast  
at 9.30. It was not till 11 that the  
other wagon with much digging was  
brought up & then nearly upset  
one wheel a foot off the ground.

In the afternoon E. & I rode on  
to Mashepa, Pilau's town, but now  
Pilau is dead & his son of 18  
reigns, under Bathoen, this  
is not sounded but that is the  
way he spells his son's name in a note  
on a tree at a mile this side of  
Kanya in 3 languages. ~~At~~  
English Dutch & Sechuana

I Bathoen, Chief of the Bamankwe  
give notice to my people & to all other  
people that I will allow no wagon  
to enter or leave Kanya on a Sunday.

If they do he fines them a bullock.

Meredith had told us it was only  
two or three miles to Pilau's he had seen  
it from a hill but it was evening  
& getting dark before we arrived.

We had brought Solomon the groom  
with us so left our horses & followed  
the sound of some music penetra-  
ed into the village where everyone  
seemed pleased to see us & greeted us  
kindly but in no way disturbed  
themselves & stare at us. In fact  
the dance would have been quite  
interrupted. The men were jerking  
round in a circle, one step at a time  
each playing on a reed & with a long  
stick in his hand held up. All were



in hats with fur + ostrich feathers  
put in very wildly + they wore English  
dress. Some coats, some bloomers  
Some shirts + some a blanket thrown  
over a string + they tied on a cloak  
but the women who capered round  
no matter how old they were even  
with babies on their backs + in a  
very unladylike manner were  
dressed after their own fashion.

As it was getting dusk we went to  
a house apparently owned by white  
to call as one could not well omit  
doing. It was a store. Mr. Boman  
is a Swede. Mr. Boman a house  
very much pleased to see a white  
woman. They most kindly pressed  
us to spend the night + made us  
sup there. We were very glad that Mr.  
Swan who was walking with his rifle  
discovered us. He stayed till past 10

when our waggons came to a place  
ab.  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile off + were given some  
fresh milk + young meaties.

I was glad to have at hand some  
yards of tape with hooks + eyes growing  
in it + I find it is a little gift  
much appreciated.

Sunday - March 29<sup>th</sup> As we were  
still breaking this morning I was  
going to sit on the back of the wagon  
in my dressing gown when I found  
Geography with her saddle packed  
on her back so I first jumped out  
of the wagon + on to her back.

Mr. Swan who was also ewe denier  
toilette + I went for a jolly ride to  
a Koppys. These Koppys which  
means in Dutch little cup are hills  
of immense granite boulders  
filled with lovely flowers. It was  
like getting into another world to



be among those beautiful red  
boulders. When we rejoined the  
waggon I retired to bed for abt  
half an hour & I rode on & found  
a good place for the days outspan.  
We hope in 2 more weeks to be  
at Molopolole.

The weather still remains warm  
we are 70 miles from the tropic.  
about 10 weeks. Though the great  
rains have made the roads so bad  
it is greatly to our advantage in  
the matter of grass for the oxen.

We are going through the Kalahari  
Desert as the way by the Crocodile  
river or Limpopo is under water.

Monday March 30. Theodor's birthday.  
About 9 after having sat on the coach  
for some time, tired of riding we  
came to an awful place, the veldt  
ploughed up for 100 yards in width

& after a thorough examination with  
lanterns & probing 4 feet down it was  
decided we could go no further till  
the road was made so we outspanned  
& had our supper & at dawn the men  
began & cut down trees, laid stumps  
then boughs & then earth.

Theodore jumped up & said we  
must have breakfast quickly before  
we trekked so we had it at 7.30 & were  
all ready to start, tables, chairs & pots when  
it began to rain so we had to sit in  
the waggon but our departure was delayed  
by the loss of the oxen & also some of  
the men. It is so very easy to be lost  
in the bush & there was no one to guide  
them. It was not till 2.30 that we  
were able to start, I riding as usual  
with the others in turn till it began  
to rain & so all got into the waggon till  
abt. 6.30 when arrived torrents of



rain we stuck in a torrent which  
crossed the road & there we had to  
stay the night.

The fire for a wonder blazed up  
at once - Constable had to walk through  
water ~~at~~ to us, shoved us in our  
supper & left it with us all night.

The lantern went out soon out &  
there we sat & perched in the pitch  
dark for a couple of hours & then  
Mr. Swan waded home.

In the morning  
March 3.<sup>rd</sup> reached Molepoloh  
The Capital of the Chief Sechele.

We had to cross a river the Molepoloh  
Vale with steep banks but got through  
safely each with our own span.

Going round below the hill on  
which the town or rather village is  
the 2.<sup>nd</sup> wagon stuck, so we had  
breakfast & then went off with the

horses & the wretched waggons stuck  
& stuck & speck from 8 to 5 p.m. getting  
4 miles. We went to Mr. Bognie, the  
trader who keeps the store. He gave us  
tea. He had only had some lemonade  
in our hurry so were glad of it. He  
is a very nice man & most kindly  
gave us a paw, a kind of bustard but  
alas! it was quite uneatable. We also  
bought a sheep from him. It was  
killed next morning & though partly  
cooked at once it was not quite nice in  
some parts by evening.

We walked up one of the rocky hills  
which surround the town, all composed  
of little round blets, but the trader's  
house & the Chief Sechele's.  
He has a fine large house filled with  
European furniture but all in the  
most filthy & smashed condition.  
He is very old & has dropsy I think.



like Montsion, and was lying on a sofa. He has a very nice grandson the son of Sebele, quite good looking. When we began to go Sebele made us stay & sent for some cigar cases which were brought by a nearly naked maid servant & I was presented with four & so we went back to Mr. Boyne's got our horses & reached our waggon which had not long outspanned.

April 1<sup>st</sup> We did not start till half past 10. Mr. Boyne came down on horseback. We filled our saddle bags with the necessaries for sketching, photography, bathing & lineneing.

Mr. Boyne took us to the missionary house. The only person there was Miss Wallace a missionary a very pleasant stirring body come to get the house ready for Mr. & Mrs. Williams.

the rightful owners who were expected every hour. Miss W. however said they were already late & if there were any difficulties not usually met with by experienced travellers they would surely be in them. Once they stuck a mile & a half from the house they started from, all night & sent their shoes & stockings to be dried. Mr. Boyne says he is very green. He left Mr. B there & Mr. B conducted us to a lovely gorge where there was nice deep water. After luncheon he left us & we bathed. It was jolly to have a swim & the place was so pretty with *Tradescantia* growing all about.

Then back to Miss Wallace who gave us some of the most delicious coffee ever drunk & we led the horses up a rocky stream & so to Mr. Boyne's & after tea went home, making all



safe as we were to trick away in the morning. each waggon in turn with both spans as the track was bad. At 5 Mr. Swain's waggon started & at 300 yards stuck & nearly went over. He came back & told us & took the chairs, & a table & when I was ready I rode geography & we had to breakfast there, & we went about 3 miles & stopped till 5 & then we stuck having gone 4 miles & after great work the waggon had to be left in the ~~whole~~ all night but was got out in the morning. Mr. Swan & I rode & lost the way getting too far East but struck W & found the road & seeing no tracks of our waggon went back & found the food waggon & Constable & the spans gone back to ours which was stuck. I sent a note to B by Klein Boy the ~~black~~ <sup>black</sup>

leader of the food waggon with a horse to bring B to breakfast but he brought back news that he was not there. We had had a cup of tea & a stone while waiting & so Mr. Swan, K B & the horses & some stones set out to find B & the long whip was cracked & the bugle sounded from time to time as a guide to the waggon. He was tracked & found very hungry eating Kaffir corn & retracing his steps. We had breakfast pretty late.

We were in a woody country near a large "pan" with a stony bottom. Kappong. but I thought it must be Klippau from the rock.

We tricked on at 5. It rained in the afternoon. We rode till dusk & then mounted the coachbox. It was chilly & damp so we put a blanket over our knees & actually reached



our resting place without ~~much~~  
Sat. Ap. 5<sup>th</sup>. W.S. & I rode up a koppe.  
It is called <sup>one</sup> Mungateli.

It was very stony & also covered with  
trees, not very close. We had a  
very extensive view right away to the  
braamvaal & found the bugle being  
blown for us though we were not  
lost. Theodore is too lazy to ride in  
the morning & also does not want  
to ride too much at first with the  
leg he strained in Perseus Kurumanua.

He rode with me in the afternoon  
till dusk. We had a very woody  
road, trees, all thorny ones, so low  
that the oxen could barely pass in  
some places & then such scratching  
along the waggon.

Ap. 6<sup>th</sup> On again at 5 till 9. We rode  
only  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour & outspanned  
at 9. This very windy. W.S.'s waggon

stuck.

This is all green enough with wood  
& grass in this part of the Kalahara  
desert. We could find no water today  
& what we have is very nasty.

In some parts travellers have to  
pay highly for what the Vaalpaus  
suck up through reeds & spit into  
bottles! May we be preserved from  
that!

We have already been a month on  
the way as we started @ March 6<sup>th</sup>.  
This is Ap. 6<sup>th</sup>. We laugh when we think  
how we were told in Eng. we were  
to be 33 days in the waggons or rather  
travelling in them. Out of 32 days  
we have travelled 24. We have come  
about 230 miles & of course that is  
only a short bit of our journey.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Ap. We have had 2  
mornings & 2 night breaks & have



been much impeded by the heaviness of the sand & had to go out on to the belt several times.

Meredith shot a couple of quinn foal & a daker, a kind of buck about the size of a goat, from the box of our wagon but no other game have we seen.

One of the horses has a sore back a big lump so can't be used. Told ride mine in the morning or with walkers beside me.

Meredith has a little fever but is closing himself with Sequah's remedy. The water we have is like coffee & makes tea & coffee quite unrecognizable - We hope to get to Selenya pan tomorrow & outspan for the day.

Our average pace is 12 miles a day. Two oxen who are not very well

now walk loose & always push & nag the others to get into the row & be yoked.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Ap<sup>l</sup>. We have been coming on as slowly as usual. On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> just after sunset we came upon a little pair of water. The two loose oxen cantered off in a great hurry but had to be driven away till our barrels & bags were filled. We outspanned and one team was allowed in at a time but they trampled about & crowded & made the water very muddy. We were an hour over that business.

In the night outspan & who did not feel very well did not come out to supper.

Yesterday outspanned at Sokrokho. hoba. near a dirty little pond or pan. There was a village near. a quantity of women children & also men came & lived by our waggon all the



day thoroughly enjoying themselves, eating scraps + carrying off the old tins with great pleasure.

Though amiable looking people they had a most awful smell but as Constable said "we could not drive them away without being unkind + we must give them confidence in white people, not so much for our own sake as for those who come after." Constable was applauded for this admirable sentiment.

We started at 5. Riding, we passed a great many pools of water + many enormous anthills, some abt 20 feet high. At sunset we got into the wagon.

Thursday Sep 9<sup>th</sup>. We outspanned for the day in a bare + hideous place. My morning ride did not come off as the saddle could not be got at.

In the evening after sunset we passed

Selenya Pan + several others, filled the barrels. We got into a region of gray dust with a horrid smell + were nearly choked. The road is merely 2 ruts with bushes + grass more than 6 feet high growing between.

We crossed the tropic that morning. It was much colder in the evening or rather at 10 o' clock as we sat supping + our first night in the tropics was frosty. We came through such thick bush + trees that it closed up behind the waggon.

I heard a commotion in the early morn'g + peeping out found that a tree had to be cut down + let our wagon pass. The other I suppose had gone a few inches aside + avoided it.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Started at 3. stopped abt all the while covered with low thorny bushes so remained in the road.



The last water we got was really mud coloured & quite opaque. Washing had to be most scanty. Fortunately we had some better left over to drink, as the

Mr Swan would filter some of the mud for his private drinking as he never ceases at the water bottles -

<sup>but even he could not drink it</sup>  
No water could be found for the men & horses so we hope to meet with some further on.

It really seems absurd to come on so long a journey in so slow a way that I can easily outstrip the waggon on foot & jump in & out without their stopping.

We can see the mountains of Mangwato in the distance.

We did our night break as usual lit a fire, had supper & to bed.

No water found so when I descended from the waggon for my morning ride

I brought soap, towel &c with me & washed in the dew which was very heavy & so did Mr Swan. It was too late for the dew so Constable invited him to a bowl of mud in which he had only washed up a few things.

Meredith rode off & found water about 2 miles farther on in a very dirty & boggy or swamp.

When we passed in the evening my barrel & bag was filled.

April 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday. We are very near the hills now & must soon come to Old Shoshong or Mangwato, once Khama's capital, but now abandoned for want of water & now he is at Palapsueh.

The country here has many trees & bushes but scattered & not shady. All the biggest trees seem dead & dying.  
April 13<sup>th</sup> No water again for the



Constable dug a hole + got some for us  
I rode + the others walked to old  
Shoehong abt. 3 1/2 miles. very hot. I  
had my cameras with me.

It must have been a very large  
town. The ruins are very extensive  
in a sort of valley basin running  
into the hills. Some of the houses were  
still in pretty good repair. We did  
not see a live soul.

We trekked abt. 430 into + through  
the hills. It was very pretty + interesting.  
We outspanned at 9 o' at a little  
hamlet of round huts of Khamas  
people. They were all sitting by their  
fires cooking with the smallest possible  
amount of clothes. We were rather  
cold + very glad of our fire.

Tuesday morning 14<sup>th</sup> We rode before  
the outspan + this took place abt. 730  
Some water was got in small pits.

The other horse Inocostorn was used but  
the back is evidently a permanent thing  
sometimes better sometimes worse.

In the evening we had much prettier  
country + crossed 4 rivers <sup>all</sup> more on  
bed dried up. The first was so nice  
+ rocky. We washed our hands + some  
bathed.

Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> Near 5 o' we having been  
travelling since 3. our waggon went over  
to the side so bed was no pleasant  
place + G + I wrapped ourselves up  
+ spent all hour out with the  
lantern. As soon as the waggon was  
out of one hole it was down in another  
+ one of the wheelers Potberg got  
down into an immense rut, where  
he never tried to extricate himself  
though pulled by horns + tail. At  
last sulphur matches under his  
nose made him get out.



There was no water for the oxen that day but in the evening we crossed the Towani + 3 other rivers, none with much water in it.

In our evening trek we came upon some ~~Matabela~~ <sup>Matabela</sup> who were resting by 3 fires, very much afraid of wild beasts I suppose.

Our day outspan on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> was in a very pretty place with lofty trees + near a "vley" or swamp very convenient.

In the evening, abt. 8 we crossed the bed of the Lotani. I never saw any water. We walked over a very heavy sandy tract while the 2 spans were engaged dragging the waggons + we sat in a tree while waiting for the fire as fortunately the food waggons was first + we had supped + were ready for bed by 10.30 when our bed

## Palapsueh

came + able to leave the fire + the men + their economies fuel or rather "minimise" it as Constable says - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. In the morning we were approaching Khameas capital Palapsueh. I write it as I hear it pronounced. It is much better situated than the old town + looks quite finished though they only came here 18 months ago.

We are outspanned under some trees. There were a lot of other waggons near of a transport rider named Johnson, going to Fort Hardecen with pigs. We had seen him at Motopolole. He arrived in the morning + went on in the evening. Pottery who was walking, lost his lost yesterday so Meredith went off on geography also. Then our guide driver to find him



The former arrived soon after us having  
left found Potberg at the Tovariv river  
& left Jan to drive him so they got in  
in the evening.

We have set up the tents.

I went to call on Mr. Maurice Gifford  
He is brother to Lord Gifford who belongs  
to the B.S.A. Co.

It had been proposed by Dr. Harris  
at Kimberley that we were to take  
25 of Khama's men to dig at Zim  
dabye. So there was all that to arrange  
& a horse to seek.

We dined with Mr. Gifford. The  
Europeans here live mostly in round  
kraals larger than the usual ones  
with enclosures of upright sticks.

We met Mr. Moffat son of the  
missionary & brother in law to Living-  
stone. He lives at Lobengula's, Bulu-  
wayo & was only here for a few days.

His son the postmaster was another  
of the guests.

On Sat<sup>y</sup> morn<sup>g</sup> we walked up  
to Mr. Hepburn's the missionary.  
It is a mile & a half up a wooded  
rocky hill. It is only a temporary  
house at present but the situation  
is very nice & there is a fine view  
& good water. Mr. Hepburn refused  
to choose when Khama asked him  
& did not know till the last  
when he arrived Khama had had  
2 huts built for him to live in temporarily.  
There are 8 children.

Mr. Hepburn gave us luncheon & after  
wards the Chief came up. He does not  
look more than 50 though he is 60. He  
has a very pleasant, rather sad face  
& is tall & slight & they say very active  
& everyone has a good word for him  
& confirms all the favourable things



We heard about him. He does not speak English, nor does his son. The son is abt 22 & was married in the Xthian manner last year. Khama also was married again his first wife Mabesse having died. Her eldest child was called Bessie after Mrs. Hepburn so her Ma took that name.

The son lunched at the Hepburns next day Sunday when we were again asked. He behaved like anyone else. He has very protruding lips & is not so good looking as his father.

At 4 of there was a service, Congregation at I think conducted by Mr. Moffat at which a great many men were present.

We went up the Kloop or gorge at the back of the house, abt.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile - through high grass & thick trees, none thorny, & a pretty water fall. There were cactus & alce trees

& huge fig trees & was the most tropical place according to our notions that we have been yet.

Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> I got up & went out in his pyjamas to wash in the tent when he beheld Khama approaching across the grass with 25 men all in arrow behind him.

He had to be spoken to by means of a series of interpreters English, Dutch & English.

I threw on some clothes & rushed out & found the party assembled round Meredith who was in a hammock near the kitchen fire & the 25 men all squatted in a line.

After a little time we proceeded to the tent. Coffee was drunk & a tremendous party took place as to how the 25 food was to be conveyed to Moshonaland as a waggon could not be got.



Mr Swan turned up looking so tidy that  
the home question burst from my lips  
"Have you washed?"

But of course I also were put off till  
the departure of our illustrious guest.

After all it was settled that we  
would not take the men such a  
distance to dig, at 1 a month each  
+ either £1 a day for a waggon or £300  
to buy one, + then their food was  
too much so I agreed to take one to guide  
us to Fort Hebe + go on + wrote to the  
officer commanding Fort Victoria asking  
him to put up an advertisement  
offering digging to white men.

A young man named Harrington came  
to ask for a place + was at first refused  
but now I have taken him. He has  
come out since I was to a Mr. Petersen  
to manage a store in Bedewago but  
is now out of work by Mr. Petersen's

death from drink. He is to be fed + to  
make himself useful + then have  
wages as a digger + in the end will be  
landed in that desired spot.

Mashonaland. £18 of provisions  
were also bought. Preserved milk is  
1/8 a tin, and a fine strong iron grey  
horse from Mr. Sifford £77. Satted.

Mr. Sifford came down to our camp  
in the evening + after his departure  
the tents were struck + all prepared  
for our early start. But at 4 a.m.  
on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Meredith roused us saying  
the guide had not come. I said he  
would go + complain to the chief  
but must wait till day. so the men  
were outspanned. At 6 I rode off +  
hearing bugles found his way to the  
chief Kotla Kotla on enclosure  
where the regiment of Khama's son  
was assembling. They have done some



thing to annoy their Colonel so he for  
a punishment makes them get up  
early & go to dig fresh land. The guide  
in the mean time turned up & re-  
surrected off now a dozen souls.

He outspanned abt.  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile from  
the river Lotsani. Above where the  
road crossed it it was dry land & below  
muddy pools. A good many fish  
were caught enough to serve us all for  
two days, a great relief from the hunted  
things for we never see game - with  
no eggs or butter of course our food is  
somewhat monotonous.

Wed<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup>. Our night trek brought us on  
through the same sort of scattered  
'bush'. Now we have Inopani a thornless  
tree with very curious leaves. Always  
2 together. So where you will you see  
a thick hedge abt.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off allround  
but this melts into scattered trees as you

approach, the hedge recedes & closes up  
behind.

In the morning we found ourselves  
near the Lotsani again a reedy reach but  
not fit for bathing.

We crossed it in the evening trek &  
in the day outspanned of.  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> were about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile  
from it delightful deep, rocky pools.

After the most tremendous deliberation  
as to the presence of crocodiles we did  
have a swim & afterwards each did  
a little clothes washing & Constable did  
a great deal.

We heard of some ruins near the  
confluence of the Lotsani & the Crocodile  
river or Simpops abt. 15 miles from  
Elebi fort & Smart Boy the man we got at  
Palapye (everyone pronounces this differently)  
was supposed to guide us there but  
now we found he didn't know the



so we found a man out shooting who said he did + we assured him on the understanding that he should take us to the junction of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> two rivers.

Elebi is now abandoned by the English as it is considered an unsuitable position.

There were only a few Malabiles with their cattle among the ruined buildings.

We outspanned as we thought about 15 miles from the mouth of the Lotoani + rising early set out at about 7 with our guide Klein Boy + Solomon.

But first I must say that our day of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Apr was spent at the junction of 3 roads. to Palapze, to Elebi + to Makloutie. We went up a high koppie where Khame defended himself from Lobengula + between it + a lower koppie saw a baobab tree like a huge tower about 15 feet in diameter.

+ the great branches did not begin far about 30 feet.

On Sat<sup>25<sup>th</sup></sup> we set off as I send + followed our guide over road now made by the Police to the mouth of the Lotoani now abandoned + hardly traceable over the dry Elebi + the Lotoani + another unnamed river + after abandoning that road he led us with many windings into a fearful forest of thorny trees, mimosa, Camellthorn waitabich + every other horror.

It was dreadful scratching between them, then an open space where runs the grassy track along the Brocodile river + then we perceived ourselves on foot thorough an almost impenetrable tangle of trees to the river Limpopo, alas! 2 hours from the Lotoani mouth!

We arrived at 12.20.

The creepers were lovely, some with large leaves + some like masses of asparagus fern.



+ tangled with all these long trails  
with red & yellow berries + when we  
climbed down to the river it was  
bordered with canes. There was a sort  
of platform of hard sand abt a yard  
high + we could only get along abt 10  
yards. The river was abt 120 yards wide  
+ on the other side is the transvaal.

We lit a fire to make tea + had our  
luncheon + rested 2 hours + spoke sadly  
of the grievous disappointment of being  
where we were instead of where we wished  
to be + decided the only wise thing was  
to return to our camp. It was horrid to  
plunge into that forest of thorns again  
+ a very common shrub I had bought  
at Mafeking left fragments on many  
a tree.

Apropos of Mafeking the natives call  
it "Mafeking" or "At the rocks".

We did not get back till near nine

Fortunately there was full moon  
They had been blowing the bugle +  
cracking whips for us since about 4.  
We were delighted to hear these encour-  
aging sounds.

We saw no game, only chameleons + puff  
adders. One coiled up in our path was  
shot. Three times our guide started  
aside with sudden fear + we after  
him.

On the way home I had to change from  
geography to the "Vrougray Beauty" as  
geography was lame having split her  
hoof with the hot sand.

Horses are a great responsibility + acci-  
dents here. They are enormously dear  
for the old things some of them are. Though  
ours are not so bad + these they are so hard  
to replace. None of ours are shod their  
shoes w<sup>d</sup> get too hot + they have to wear  
rosesbags with holes to breathe all the



Since the dew is on the grass.

On the outward journey T + Mr Swan had let Solomon + Klen Boy ride but returning they had only one horse between them.

We had missed 2 tracks + gone out of our road for nothing.

At noon Sunday morn we started + passed Ulibi fork again + got on to the road for Makloutai the most frequented road we have yet been on. We had been on it for a few miles before we turned off + passed <sup>met</sup> 9 waggons with forage that had come up the Crocodile River road + all the men have fever. We are most fortunate to have come by the desert.

At Palapye they said "You would sit here looking as well as you do if you'd come that way."

In the evening we started at 5 + at 9 came to 2 fine fires near the Sukwa river

which is salt, which the 9 waggons had not long left. They were soon blazing up + there was such a quantity of wood that we had no trouble in finding any.

Monday Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>. These waggons are only half a mile ahead of us, outspanned near another river Makwengi. We never see any game at all.

Alfred had a great escape at dusk one evening walking by the waggon he stopped to clutch up a stick when the stick reared steep up in the form of a puffadder.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Apr. Our day was spent in a very pretty place near the R. Pakwer. There were lots of Kopsjes near we climbed one. There were some baobab trees + many maroula trees which have a very nice fruit but all gathered as some kraals are near. They were



wasting them on the cattle. We  
went to the kraal & saw the people  
very poor they looked & later an  
old man came to our tent & sat  
for some hours. His poor old skin  
was so shrivelled & baggy that it  
looked quite a misfit. I gave him  
a yard of blue braid so he bound  
it proudly round his head.  
I also gave him some luncheon.  
Off at 5 again till 9 & on again at  
3 a.m. Oh what a shaking we got.  
The road was so stony & as a sack  
of meal had been removed from  
our waggon in the rearrangement  
a box had been put high enough <sup>under my bed</sup>  
for me to bang on it. This is now  
rectified.

Wed. Ap. 29<sup>th</sup> We outspanned near  
the Marapong river pretty & sandy  
with palms & canes growing along

it.

Geography still is lame. Alfred  
shot a pheasant, a very small kind  
of bird but Constable made a pie  
with it which fed us 7 white  
people.

This afternoon Harrington & Meredith  
were allowed to take Beauty &  
Snowstorm as there really were  
buck in the neighbourhood &  
Meredith shot a Gemsebok, he  
says as big as a doorky at a mile  
& a half from the road. Of course  
we stopped as soon as possible  
& are 3 miles from Nakloutai  
Camp which we had hoped  
to reach tonight, though 20 miles  
from our last halt was a long  
way for 8 in 2 hours is as much  
as we do.

Now Meredith, Alfred, Harrington



Klein Boy, Klein Jan & Solomon, with  
2 horns & oxen are gone to fetch back  
the prize greatly hoping no animal  
has been devouring it.

Manners demanded that we should  
sit up & welcome the Generebok.

We have our tables & chairs by  
one fire & Constable has supper  
ready by the other.

This last fortnight we have had  
dust & contend with everything.  
We have smells of dust & I am  
sure it is as unwholesome as  
any London fog.

At 300 yds ahead are 12 waggons  
empty which took telegraph things  
to Fort Luli & now are returning  
& won't 260 oxen make a dust  
fog as they pass.

Thursday Apr 30. After 10 we went  
to bed & the Buck did not arrive

till 7 of. when we were just dressed  
Very picturesque the great beast  
looked dragged on a bed of green  
branches & great the joy of all at the  
sight of so much food.

We expected to start soon after  
breakfast but the loss of 25 oxen  
delayed us till 2. The neighbouring  
waggons also lost 25.

The party could not find the  
Generebok last night & made a fire  
at 30 yards off it & lay down supper  
less & those without coats covered  
themselves with branches & leaves.

We were only 3 miles from Makluta  
Camp & Meredith drove us as he  
had had words with the Zulu  
who might have looked after the  
oxen as the 2 leaders whose business  
it was were busy with the buck  
& had been out all night so far



Packed his bag & departed for Inakutan.  
We are none of us sorry. He smelt  
the worst of all.

We had to pass all through the  
Camp many tents & a few huts  
& came upon the waggons of Mr  
& Mr. Philips who were on the  
steamer with us, gold prospecting  
I believe & going to Mr. Hansen  
toat with Mr. Philips what to wear  
to the post & I suppose got no letter  
for I have not had many words  
with him. Someone in the camp  
had asked him & Mr. Swann  
dinner so here I sit with my fire  
& lantern & have had my supper  
alone.

Mr. Philips was surprised indeed  
at seeing to resign his home to me  
& my jumping up in manly fashion.

We have our waggons on high ground

beyond the Mattapouta river.  
They are very busy dismantling  
the deck & hanging joints high on  
trees out of the way of the wolves.

I am busy thinking hard of all  
that will be wanted for a Relief  
Expedition consisting of Harrington  
to start tomorrow & my friend  
Mr. Reed a boy just 17 who is trying  
to join us.

His father was anxious he should  
come with us & saw Theodore in London  
about it. He sent his son out by  
the intermediate steamer 10 days  
after us & we looked in the train  
by which we left Kimberley thinking  
he just might be in it & after 17 days  
gave him up but always left  
messages & once telegraphed, but we  
have come by unusual routes.  
Now we have heard from several



people that he is pluckily persisting  
up in waggons + the last news is that  
he was seen on foot alone + looking  
very bad + as he had no food given  
a Bolognese sausage

Harrington has been up to the camp  
with G + got a map drawn of his  
route + is going off on Beauty  
with food + few medicines +  
blankets to try + find him.  
I feel so anxious about him I  
could be so careful if he were  
lost.

Sat. May 2<sup>d</sup> The saddlebags were pack-  
ed for the relief expedition when on  
further consultation it was thought  
that no one knew what road W. Reed  
was on. That as he + Harrington would  
both travel partly by night they  
might miss that it was most dan-  
gerous to take a horse down country

now + if he died Harrington would  
be as badly off as W. Reed so the relief  
expedition was abandoned.

A visit from W. Harman who is  
coming "down" in rags + G + H +  
Swan dined at the camp. In  
the afternoon we had quite a large  
teaparty. W. Carr Ellison, W. Brighton  
Brown, W. Laurie + another + W.  
Philips whose waggons started at  
4 + picked her up. We gave them some  
English plum cake + my cameras  
+ photographs had to be got out.  
+ during the latter part of the party  
we were each doing a little packing  
+ finally we were seen off at 5.

The buck still gave great occupation  
+ a tree was festooned with bellows  
long drying strips + that required  
great + anxious packing as it was  
not dry yet.



Jan the Zulu had been engaged  
by Mr. Philips. We had no one in  
his place so Klein <sup>Jan</sup> boy was to drive  
& be driver & raised to driver's wages  
£2 a month & Swart boy was to be  
leader but he departed. so we are  
reduced in number by 2.

Meredith drove our waggon but  
by 6 we were in a deep slough where  
we remained till abt. 8.30 & then  
brew dict & up abt.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile.

We made 2 fires & sat hungry till  
11 when Constable managed to  
get some cold buck & coffee & Mr. Swart  
had to sleep in his waggon still  
stuck & all crooked.

A dog had followed us & we  
could not make out if it belonged  
to the officers or the Philipses

This morning I was surveying the  
pulling out of the other waggon when

a member of the British Bechuana  
land Police otherwise B.B.P. came  
& said

Can you tell me if those are Mr & Mrs  
Beut outspanned abt. 6 miles on?  
No, answered & "we are Mr & Mrs Beut  
I was not there at the time!"

I asked abt. the dog & was told  
She is called Meg & belongs to no one  
& runs about the camp so we who  
badly wanted a dog no consider her  
ours.

Alfred has a little fever so Constable  
has taken him in charge & Harrington  
is to have ~~abt~~ 2 a month from May 1 <sup>& keep the pony & dog on the</sup>  
<sup>he leader to our waggon</sup> & all are to have extra wages if they  
choose to dig at Zimabye

Constable was most unhappy abt.  
that damp bilton. It could not  
be unpacked & in the mud so  
he said "We must just trust to



"Providence" as if that was a last & thoroughly untrustworthy resource. We came on about 3 miles to the Makloutsie river & got here ab-

8.30

<sup>Thursday</sup> May 7<sup>th</sup> Fort Tuli. I am sitting in the hut of Cap<sup>n</sup> Nesbit with so many talks round me that I hardly know how I shall write.

We heard a great deal of talk about lions & did not like to leave our fires far at night. The bilting was hung up daily for 3 days & is now very good.

On Monday we were near another river. <sup>Semelale</sup> I now forget its name we went to wash in it.

On Tuesday we arrived at Baobab Spruit, not far from water on a baobab tree as you may judge. We saw the post cart a cart such as farmers use in Eng<sup>l</sup> & 8 oxen & a gentleman

taking the post to MacLoutsie Mr. Jewell. We asked him to come to our tent & take tea so he sat half an hour while changing oxen.

We rode to Fort Tuli 7 miles. I was on in front Geography has been kicked & is lame so Mr S & I came slowly.

E had gone to Major <sup>Ly</sup> so we joined him. He at once asked Mr S. to dine but feared to ask E for fear of leaving me alone but it was arranged that I sh<sup>d</sup> dine in Major <sup>Ly</sup>'s hut alone.

At long last with much hesitation I was asked to dine at Mess. I was reassuringly told that Major <sup>Ly</sup> & Mr S. sit one on each side & "your husband on the other - but perhaps you w<sup>l</sup> not care about that."

Not much. But if you are the other side & don't mind talking to me I shall be quite content!



Eventually I was on Major <sup>Lyle's</sup> Trip  
right, I on his left & the stalwart  
Mr. Swane protected my other side  
With a knife in my right hand  
a fork in my left & the pepperpot  
quite handy surely I might feel  
safe & so it proved.

I feel quite certain that from the  
way my dress was braided anyone  
looking in at the window would  
have known me for the Vwandering.

We rode down to our waggons when  
the road from Pretoria comes in but  
it was so far from water that we  
arranged to move.

Cap. Nesbit came down to see us &  
as he was coming to take us a ride  
we asked him to lunch on.

I did not go but moved to the  
Public Outspan near the river.

No geography & an ox took themselves

off & required hunting the tent  
could not be pitched. We all got  
letters, the latest March 12<sup>th</sup> & sat  
by our fire answering them lighted  
by lanterns.

This morning 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 we rode off  
with Cap. Nesbit & the cameras.

across the river & Nashedi. very  
wide & to a village abt. 3 miles off  
of Makalakas. Took some photos.

When we returned abt. 10 Cap. Nesbit  
asked me to sit in his hut & write  
& now Major <sup>Lyle's</sup> T. W. Swane &  
Mr. Hannay have joined us.

I am going to have a tea party  
today & going to the hospital where  
there are 6 RC men.

We have 2 more Englishmen, one  
a blacksmith & the other <sup>an</sup> <sup>architect</sup> Duncan  
is to help the Cook. They seem good  
sort of men.



I hope this afternoon the tools,  
+ goods may begin to come down,  
be loaded up.

Fort Tuli is the lowest place we  
have been. This on a ridge above  
the river. It is just a camp.

It is still very hot. We are going to  
start tomorrow afternoon. Alfred  
is better for the rest. All the oxen  
are the worse for wear.

We did not get away on Thursday as the  
loading went on till sundown. Alfred + Queen  
being ill + Constable working hard. They  
would not have their dinner till all  
was done + it would have been unsafe  
to try to cross the Shashi without plenty  
of daylight before us.

I was asked without any hesitation by  
Cap. Lennard to lunch at mess. I was  
beside me. There was no tablecloth. only a  
very clean scrubbed table + the salt

in little jampots, candles + bottles  
as on

I was given a nice new stable cloth + used  
as a table napkin.

The tent was struck + all prepared over  
night + before sunrise we rose + E + I rode  
+ led the other horse + with both spurs the  
first wagon crossed remarkably well  
<sup>into Matabeleland.</sup>  
It took us 4 minutes with the horses.

+ of course we were hungry enough  
by the time we could get breakfast just  
above the river in a very dreary spot  
where a few posts indicate that a  
Hotel is to be built.

Though fine for our journey at 2 mile  
the sky became cloudy + it was very windy  
+ cold we had to have a drawing room  
fire in our tent.

I rode over + got a lot of letters March 14  
also Meredith + boasting + congratulations  
were exchanged as to our crossing. The next



people took 2 hours.

For the last few days we have seen so many pretty stones crystal, agates, onyx & cornelian. We always bring guns & rockery to the waggons but could not keep them.

The waggons are now obviously full. Dynamite, fuses, an anvil, forge & its tools, a whole big package of rope - 1000 blankets, 40 lbs of beads, shovels, pickaxe, crowbar, wheelbarrows, planks 20 feet long for these last to roll on & a few more provisions. Still we are getting on faster than most.

We trucked on at 5 & till 9. & I announced myself ill, supposed to be from the sun so he went to bed before supper.

Sunday 10th May We outpaced in a lovely dood on the near side of the Impagi. There were plenty of palms, we have seen many lately & cactuses & I saw a canary

& there were flocks of cockatoos so it was altogether very un-English. I was better, he breakfasted in bed.

He went to a village near - just a labyrinth of stockades with little passages one could hardly squeeze through & opening very narrow & with a bar across. No one was at home.

On at 5 as usual. Alfred much better. Tuli is very low & unhealthy & there are many dead now about.

It looked mournful as we left with the fly half mast high for a trooper named Kelly who has come down country where he has had fever & they have been starved as provisions could not be got across the rivers. They said he had been an officer in the 10th Hussars.

We have no civilization till Fort Victoria & hope to be there in a fortnight & settled at Zumbabye in 3 weeks.

May 11th Beyond the R Sigabi on a bare place



It is a very good thing Kramas 25 men did not start with us as they would certainly have deserted & rather than cross the Shashi into Natabele land.

We came on in the evening & arrived at the R. Umsingwane - a large river 20 miles from the next water. There is quite a big camp here between 2 or 30 waggons. The Philippos are among them & have been 2 days resting their oxen. They have lost a horse since we saw them.

May 12<sup>th</sup> This is a very pretty place with tall trees, much sand, undulating ground & shrubs. & the whole surrounding very picturesque. It is still very wet. Wop came & asked if we should like a piece of Koedoe (pro. Koodos) & accordingly sent a saddle. Feel as if I did not deserve it for she said they had a good deal of trouble at Fort Teli & were nearly delayed for somehow the BSA got news that they

had a great deal of liquor in their wagon & had a search made as it is contraband for the Shashi. I was the unsuspecting culprit. I said how foolish they were giving their Kaffirs spirits every day.

By the bye Kaffer is the generic term for black men of all races.

We had no morning trek. We wait till evening & then in the night do two long treks to the water. If we had gone this morning the oxen would have been all day with nothing to drink.

There was a regular procession crossing the river, everyone who could with double spans & altogether it was at least an hour & a half before we were prepared to leave the river Umsingwane.

We went up a hill to the post station Umsingwane. We found the inhabitants busy with the feathers



of 2 ostriches they had just shot.

On coming down we saw lying under the shade of one of the many wagons outspanned there 2 men who looked as if they had not long to live.

They are Italeais + having paid some Dutch for a passage were left in the veldt. We are often hearing these stories of the Dutch. Now they are with a German. We offered quinine but they have plenty so all we could do was to give them some Brandi beef tea.

I doubt if they will reach Tuli alive.

May 13<sup>th</sup> Mr. Swan + I rode till dark + again at 7 in the morning. We stayed about 1/2 a mile from the drift across over the R. Elmskabetai but could get water at a mere bend of the river. We were in a pleasant place. Theodore still weak + fever coming on.

at Tuni. I do not think it is a fever of the country but in this climate it is hard to get well + the nights are broken. Duncan also is not recovered from a fever for which he was in hospital at Tuli.

In the evening Mr. Swan rode on after the Philips who are a long way ahead to ask advice about Mr. Kuruman who is supposed to have bush sickness + got some croton oil + I stayed with T.

He was very bad + felt sick + could have no supper but went to bed.

At 1 I descended from the wagon made up the fire + heated some beef tea. It was so curious with everyone sleeping under the wagons + the oxen puffing + sighing + the horses moving + distant cracking of wood by some wild beast.



We had settled not to trek till 5 o'clock  
+ went on till 8 this morn<sup>g</sup> across  
R. Umslaue + are near a very curious  
bare granite hill called I think <sup>Tanda</sup> Tando  
There are Baboons on it.

Theodore is wretchedly weak still.

Mr. Swan + I measured a baobab tree  
66 feet round. The fruit is where cream of  
Tartar grows. I did some photographs  
we went up a rocky koppie.

It was a great relief to be out of the procession  
of wagons. We were the 10<sup>th</sup> + 11<sup>th</sup> crossing the  
Umslabetsi + there were many behind.

The Philipsons have gone on.

In the evening trek we passed many  
koppies + on one Setoutsies post station.

To went to bed on arrival. We had  
a great shower of rain + there was a  
rainbow white.

On at 5<sup>th</sup> May 15<sup>th</sup> + outspanned on the  
further side of the Barbagane river.

Five deep rocky pools caused much  
washing + bathing to take place.

Constable to do things more thoroughly  
determined to combine both so stripping  
he plunged in with his sheets etc. +  
washed away. He was so scorched by  
the sun that he had to put on vasoline  
afterwards. Then he dressed in clean  
dry clothes + presently saw a bucket swimming  
away so he walked down the rocks +  
fell headlong in to the mirth of those  
who were there to see. I was not one  
of them. I write this only on hearsay.

At last when he was going home a  
handkerchief fell into the water. Constable  
determined to be safe this time so  
he crept on his hands + knees + by good  
luck only got in up to his shoulders.

But he didn't mind. He came up  
when every one had finished a dinner  
that Constable had left to others, besides



with dry clothes neatly folded, exclaiming  
"It is enough to add a year to your  
life to be outspanned near a river  
like that where you can do washing  
so comfortable."

Off at 4.30. soon crossed the Rubye  
river + then just after sunset the  
R. Unyinge. wide sandy bed. Here  
we stuck with both wagons + had to use  
both spars.

We had a thunderstorm just after  
supper. A lion was heard at that place  
the night before by people who outspanned  
there.

May 18<sup>th</sup> In the morning we were at  
Inamandi close to a lot of koppies.  
Crows came to sell a great variety  
of food + a great deal of bargaining  
+ bartering was done. They have never seen  
a lower coin than 6<sup>th</sup> thanks to the  
first corner so one must offer goods to

represent smaller amounts. Many  
wanted to get 1/4 for two 6<sup>th</sup>. We were willing  
enough to do this. I changed my hat for  
a very pretty whistle. They knew a few  
words of English. Where they wanted  
needles they said keelet beads. beads  
but many other words they knew quite  
well. though they have not had long to  
learn them.

After breakfast we started off with my  
2 cameras, the prismatic compass  
aneroid, sextant, artificial horizon +  
to sketching things + we scaled a koppee  
of the most astonishing appearance.  
Chiefly round bald granite surface.  
At the top or near it were a couple of  
haulets of very small round huts some  
18-20 feet in diameter + how these are  
prevented blowing off the smooth granite  
I know not. There were little granaries  
daubed with mud + with several openings



the into a honeycomb to be reached  
under the roof. All the water has to be  
taken up. also cattle. They were surrounded  
by 2 strong stockades

We could not leave till past 7. being  
delayed by the loss of 2 oxen.

Poor Kuramain was seen to be dying  
so was shot + skinned while we were  
inspanning by the inhabitants who were  
to have the meat.

We did not do more than 4 miles.  
We travelled among koppies.

Sunday. May 17<sup>th</sup>. Crossed the R. Um  
saw in the early morning.

We had our waggon wheels added to find  
a rat but as the <sup>feet</sup> <sup>and salt</sup> sacks were not removed  
from the bottom, there he is still. We  
climbed a koppie + I took a photo.

The scenery is most strange + weird  
with all these most curious rocks +  
palm trees, lath cactus trees, big india

rubbers, baobabs, aloes + creepers of  
all kinds.

We rode in the evening + had a very  
slow journey, sticking several times.

There were so many ginsmires.  
May 18<sup>th</sup>. We are in rather a flat place  
with some trees. E. quite well today.  
Darius still ill.

Started at four, very hot + soon came  
upon the Philipson who had been delayed  
by the illness of a horse since yest.  
morn. The horse had died 2 hours ago  
+ this is the third salted horse they  
have lost besides 2 oxen. Our mare  
Snowstorme staked herself in the night  
+ has a hole in her side larger than  
a 5/- piece.

In 2 1/2 hours came to the Wauetui  
at least 100 yards wide loudly rushing  
over a sheet of granite. It was a very  
steep descent (an angle of 35 degrees)



We got down this on foot + on to some rocks to see the first wagon pass, the second class carriage. The second span had to be sent for. It was dreadful to see the oxen falling down + men too. Klein face was swept away but Klein Boy caught his long whip stick + dragged him back. We went up again + found the Philipps outspanned for the night + Mr. P. looking out for us with some most "grateful comforting" coffee + bread + butter.

The moon was very bright + if we had not crossed there we must have waited till daylight + the men must have travelled on wet.

May 19. It is cold enough with dry clothes as, having started at 4 we had to jump up in a great hurry before sunrise to cross a river, that is to

go down the steep bank, but we got on the wagon for the water + afterwards & bed again. We stuck a good many times.

We started again 4 pm. crossed the R. Savarima deep + muddy + outspanned in a very lovely spot near a great granite tooth, the Savanna Buli Rock + the rushing river Singwee which has hot springs in it + palm trees along it. I should like to have been there by day but by moonlight one could see a good deal. The air from the rock was so warm.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. Off at 1.30 over the Singwee safely + then stuck about a mile on for about an hour. During this time the Philipps passed us.

We arrived at 7 among numerous wagons on the right bank of the wide R. Sundi. It has been impassable from October till within the last



few weeks + real famine in  
Mashonaland has been the result  
causing many deaths. Indeed the  
road seems lined with graves  
but though many die from the  
climate + the journey, still there  
are such numbers of people on the  
road travelling such long periods  
away from civilization that graves  
are not to be wondered at.

One hears very sad stories from  
remnants of large parties.

There is a boat on a rope worked  
by the Police + I was very anxious to  
secure our team at this so he went  
at once down to the sandy riverbed  
abt.  $\frac{1}{4}$  from our waggons + Meredith  
swam across + found we could not  
have the boat today + tomorrow it is  
to be buried + the rope taken away  
on account of the Boers who are

trekking from the Transvaal to settle in  
Mashonaland but a Mr. Burnett  
who has a small collapsible boat  
kindly lent it to us if he could be done  
with it by 8<sup>th</sup>.

To Theodore's annoyance the oxen  
had been taken away to feed + they  
could not be got back till 12.30. We were  
very anxious as you may think.

First they went very deeply down a  
bank + then over the wide sands with  
both spans + down by the river we were  
for 6 hours.

The waggons had to be unloaded + all  
put into the boat which Meredith  
rowed backward + forward, 9 times  
in all. It was so interesting + exciting  
seeing the waggons come down into the  
water with double spans, leaders +  
drivers swimming. Some of the people  
around had some clothes on + some



none but I tells me I had a great influence over the toilettes of many. It was baking on those sands & I need not say that Constable was slaving far too hard to be able to get luncheon & I do not think we ever thought about it.

Our men dressed in bathing attire & our waggons came through very well. The men & men swimming.

Some axe & hammer handles left on our tailboards or floor swam out over the tailboard but Meredith caught most of them. Our Cartel order was loaded with baggage & guns.

Then the waggons had to be loaded as quickly as possible in order not to impede other waggons. Peoples piles of goods were so close that we lost a case with 28 lbs of beef, a loss indeed.

It was not till 7<sup>0</sup> that we could light our fires in Mashonaland & having heard there were the ruins of an ancient fort close by we lay down with a determination of doing our duty by the Royal Geographical Society & the BSA & examining them on the morrow & digging if necessary.

There was quite a large camp of Zaggos. Someone knew from passing & repassing on the road as one or other gets stuck or breaks something or a man on horse gets ill or the oxen foot sore.

Everyone addresses us by name but we are not so clever in all cases - at least I do not know the name of a young man we have spoken to once or twice & I got much & who came & asked me to accept a very handsome panther skin. He said he did not wish



& carry it any further. That & the boat were great pieces of luck.

Not only w<sup>d</sup>. the boat have cost at least £2.10 but the time gained is so precious.

One of our own Waldman came no further. This is the 3<sup>d</sup>. we have lost & the more I now term is all.

The police said our gray horse Beauty is the finest that has crossed the river.

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Friday. Soon after breakfast we went to the ruins of a round fort. measured it examined it, photo'd it & decided not to dig.

The Philipsons rose up out of the river after sunset. we had sent to say coffee would be ready for them. & so they sat till their waggons came a few yards from us & in the evening they brought Mr. Mandy who was going down

country to spend the evening.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hearing that there was a vault under the fort & that it was hollow though we felt sure the hollow sound only came from fallen masonry we went back to the fort with a man, spade & pickaxe & soon dug to the Wainrock. so we have done our duty by that ruin.

We went up a kopje in the afternoon. It was not so hot. The Philipsons went on at sunset. & perceived something happening to the moon & we found it was a total eclipse. only visible in Eng. as a partial one. The shadow was a cloudy red & black thing.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. Came on at 4.30 a.m. I forgot to tell of our tremendous excitement yesterday. In the morning a report went about that a man had come riding to say the Matabels were rising in conjunction with the



Boers. Some thought it would be well to get the oxen, inspan at once & get away to Fort Victoria. We had to finish our letters in hot haste & I went across the river to enquire further with the result that we did not become fugitives.

We spent the day near the grave of Mr. Percy Howard who was gored to death by an ox last December. There were several graves near as this is a regular stage from the river as there is water.

At our last place there was a grave of J. H. Hendy only a month old, nearly under our tent. To hear it told up. His friends even in Africa must still not know of his death.

Off at 4.30 through very pretty mountainous country. As we were supping the post cart came by. We stopped it, got letters, gave coffee & heard that there had been sufficient scare at Fort Tuli for them to be all got up

early & paraded under arms.

Sir John Willoughby & a great troop are now at the Wauwesi & will soon pick us up.

May 25<sup>th</sup> We found ourselves in a very pretty place close to an inhabited Koppie. Lots of natives came to sell food of various kind for beads, limbs, a little salt & other funny things & a needle to which the bargain. We bought a pretty snuff-bottle, carved black wood for about a tablespoonful of salt & knife for 4<sup>th</sup> worth of beads.

The women are all scarred over their side in little ribs & dots, very painful. I should say.

May 26<sup>th</sup> Crowds came very soon after our arrival to sell things, chiefly mealies, or Indian corn. They brought it in little baskets which when full they carry like bowls on their palms & when empty like a bell by a loop in the bottom. By giving a few beads or bits of limbs which is a pretty







not far from his huts, with a tree to tie the bones to. It was very cold.

May 28<sup>th</sup>. Near Providence Forge, which would better have been named Pass is the only pass through these mountains & the fact of the Pioneers' hitting on it & their not being attacked by the Natchez which they expected was considered to be providential so Mr. Selous gave it the name.

I went to the fort soon after breakfast & care to have a trooper named Mattleton whose father is Col. Mattleton & Sergeant Turnbull as interpreter & guide. If there were not so much sickness we should have many more men & the same cause has prevented their making a road & building huts for us as was intended.

There has been a terrible amount of fever & the firing parties were hardly

strong enough to fire over their comrades graves. Famine has also made the fever more fatal. The rivers prevented food coming.

A very strange thing is that the only thing meat, besides sardines & that kind of thing is salt beef.

A trader just arrived is selling Dutch Cheeses (round ones) £2. each. Bacon 7/6 per lb. Ham 10/- muttons 1/- each Pears' Soap 2/6 each milk 3/4 per tin - 2 lb tins of salt beef 10/- each 3 boxes matches 1/- + if you take less than 3. 8 each

I went to see Mr. Graves & he eventually fetched us to tea when we met Capt Turner just come from Fort Charter & now in command. Capt Lundy Mr. Coope Mr. Brackenbury & Mr. Chaplin. All seem anxious to help us. We had a fire outside the



tent in the evening but the wind blew it mostly away.

We had a very windy night

May 29<sup>th</sup>. Bitterly cold + violent wind we had to shut ourselves into our tent with winter clothes on. I had invited all my new friends to tea but we thought we could get away by 3 o'c so I had to go + postpone my departure till we sh<sup>d</sup> be at Zimbari but after all just as the oxen were brought in + the tent down + all packed S. J. S. Turnbull came + gave such an account of a stream to be crossed that it was decided to send him + Meredith off on horseback. (I am so cold + writing on my knee)

We felt very forlorn. No shelter + very little food left, violent wind + we had never seen the sun all day. But Major + W. Graves Cap. Turner + Capt. Leidy came + were going to the trading waggon so I asked them if they would

return to tea so we went with them + they stayed with us till past 6 + helped us well to pass over what would have been a very wretched hour.

Ab. J. came Sery<sup>l</sup>. Turnbull saying "Your Conductor has shot a sable antelope + wants 4 men sent."

We asked abt. the drift, which in English means the passage of a stream, tributary to the Umohagashie.

I said it will take a good days work to cut down the bank + make the road"

Alfred, Harrington, + the 4 Kaffers went off + as there were no stars lost the way + were not in camp till near one.

As it was very cold + chairs packed we breakfasted May 30<sup>th</sup> in the wagon + saw the Philipses arrive + settle abt. 1/4 mile off. The antelope is a beautiful black beast. We visited the P. found W. P. has fever + abt. 10 started "making tracks" for Zimbari.



Even if these ruins turn out to be of no interest my long journey will not have been quite in vain for I have taught the inhabitants of this fort to put hot water in their indiarubber. Mr Graves said "our tin bath has just come. I said "We have an indiarubber one." So have we she answered but we wanted one we could put hot water in."

I laughed & said "But hot water bottles are made of the same stuff & we have had many a hot bath in our bath." Then I was told they dare not take cold baths as they have had fever & could not have hot because it would melt their bath.

The Dr. had bought a bath from an officer who no longer could use cold water & now he had had fever & found the bath useless.

I said "Anyone who likes can prove my words with my bath." Anyhow hot baths began next morning with great safety

to the baths.

We drove through high grass & bushes about 5 miles, winding through trees & at last came to the high banks of a stream as yet impassible & outspanned at one of.

The grass was so very coarse & thick we could hardly struggle through it. The banks of the stream are thickly wooded with creepers, some with lovely, large, pink flowers tangling through. A road had to be cut down & up & trees felled to make a corduroy bridge across the swampy stream.

Nothing was really done till after dinner as the cutting up & skinning of the antelope had to be done.

We went up a hill which looked soft & grassy but was really very stony & one might as well try & pick one's footing in a deep turbid river as in that grass.



One could only see the waggons sticking up but neither man nor beast till one got into the sort of nest in the grass where they were.

I did not tell you that we got some returning from the Philipps that we had to change our clothes. Even here we have exceptional weather.

Mr Swan went up a high hill & was belated in returning. He could not see far with grass 11 or 12 ft. high or get on with mimosa bushes in all directions & altogether he was very tired & we were very glad to see him when he arrived.

We had been shouting & having the bugle played & even the fires don't show far. We have added 2 pretty brown kids, more like little deer to our party.

May 31<sup>st</sup> It rained heavily in the night & we have had so little sun that the

men's bedclothes are being dried by the fires. They have put up a tent for tonight & the ropes are just tied to the grass.

We breakfasted in the waggon & started at 1.35. We had no wish to try over new road any way but on foot. It was a frightfully anxious thing to see the first waggon come down. It rushed down before the drag could be secured tight. The angle was measured 39 degrees. Several loose things - bedding got shed off & the kids were hanging by their necks one wheeler fell & got his legs through the spokes & one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> yokes fell & the other wheeler gave him such a dig that his horn was covered with a tuft of poor Blom's hair. The pole looked to be in great danger but was not broken: a yoke was the only real damage. Both spans were used to come



up. The other wagon came very ~~well~~  
+ at 2.5 to 4 we were able to start away  
+ rattled + jolted + rolled till at 5  
when we hungry people pulled up before  
a swamp which we now find we cannot  
bridge so we must go round + over the  
spur of a hill.

All our men seem to do this hard  
pioneers' work very cheerily. We have  
2 invalids. O'Leary + Nettleton the BSA  
men. Serg. Turnbull was very helpful  
turning the oxen which wriggled out of  
their yokes + turned round + moved +  
tangled themselves on the hill.

We have had some tea + are now hoping  
for our dinner.

The Chief Amgaba was delighted when he  
heard an Englishman was coming to live  
with him + came some little time ago to  
Fort V. to fetch him, bring a cow + some other  
things as presents.

Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Yesterday morning we  
started at 8 after coffee. It was raining + had  
been since very early so it was very cheerless  
O'Leary was well + Nettleton pretty bad  
The mare Geography very ill.

Our journey was not long. 1/2 mile till  
leaving a swamp we pulled up before a wood.

The grass had been burnt so besides its  
being thinner in the wood we were better off.

We thought Geography would die. She has an  
attack of horse sickness. If she had died by the  
31<sup>st</sup> May the BSA Co. wd have got their money  
back. It drizzled till near midday but  
we had tents made with the sail.

A great deal of wood cutting took place  
+ Geography was given castor oil + would have  
had a hot mash but out in the heavy dew  
it seemed dangerous so it is deferred till  
today in the sunshine.

Today abt. 2 miles to a large brook. Very windy  
+ wood morasses. Very cold + wet with a heavy



dew + falling mist. We hope to get this  
ford arranged + be off by 3. We are so near  
Zimbabwe. The maps are so incorrect.

It is so pretty here. Tall Tritomas grow  
among the canes + mint + yellow everlasting  
flowers. Geography looks better.

Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> Crossed the stream  
+ travelled abt 3 miles to the edge of a  
large morass. Arrived abt 9. Meredith  
+ Turnbull rode on to find a way. did  
not return till 3 saying they had been  
to Zimbabwe + the ruins appeared  
immense. They pointed them out on  
the hill but we could only see what  
seemed like rocks with the telescope.

We had to remain the night where we  
were as, though only 3 miles off we were  
to go along way round. Solomon + Klein  
Jare ill. Why did Theodore say "nothing  
ever happens to those black fellows"?

Geography very weak. She nearly fell down

during the journey when tied behind the  
waggon + her rope had to be cut. Theodore  
gave her handful of grass which she  
was too tottery to stoop for + we gave her  
some water. + then she grazed a little  
+ on arrival + at night she got hot whisky  
+ water. Her eyes + nose run continually.

Today, our 6<sup>th</sup> day since Fort Victoria  
we started at 6.30 + came abt 4 miles  
+ rounded the swamp crossing it at  
a narrow part. Scait + Turnbull drove  
our waggon. Solomon was well enough  
to lead. Klein Jare seems pretty bad  
+ O'Leary was one of the patients for  
guinea. Geography really better but  
weak. We think now she will live.

This is an awful country. Those  
who said it was so healthy were were  
only here in the winter. All the dreadful  
illnesses for beasts make it very hard  
for men to live. There are very few houses



left + the men got lying sickness  
or bush sickness. + then the Tztree  
fly a little further on.

We hope to go on at 2. Through bush  
+ get to Zumbabye, at least the foot  
of the hills tonight.

By the time we started An or Skilder  
had the staggers or drunk sickness. We  
trekked on + by 4 p.m. the Expedition  
had <sup>been</sup> jolted, jammied, jarred, rattled  
+ shaken, squeezed, pumped, bumped,  
bruised, knocked, tossed + jumbled to  
a distance of only half a mile or so  
from its goal.

Off we set on foot like arrows from  
bows eager to see if all we had gone  
through had been in vain. Really yes?  
I hardly liked to feel we were so near +  
might so soon be disappointed. The  
way was very hard through grass far  
higher than ourselves. First without

a path then we struck into one but as it  
was only a foot wide the grass mat over it  
+ slanted in ones face + a yard or two off  
one could not see, if it wound at all, who  
might be near.

At last we reached a circular enclosure  
among the grass + scanty trees. We rushed in  
+ it was like getting into a tropical  
greenhouse with the roof off. There were  
tall trees + long creepers making monkey  
ropes. large flowers hanging. great cactus  
trees, aloes + all sorts of beautiful  
things crowded together so that one  
could hardly squeeze through. I should  
liked to stop + stare at the vegetation  
but once rushed over walls + to the  
tower we had heard of, which is close  
to the outer wall. We did not stay  
even to walk round the tower but  
out we rushed again like people  
who were taking a stolen look into



an enchanted garden + were afraid of being bewitched if we remained.

Really we were afraid of being benighted before we got of over some large sheets of smooth granite.

It was quite dark + we had to be guided by shouts to our camp + got home in a state of great wonder + delight + high hope of profitable work and full assurance of their great antiquity of the ruins.

Theodore was not very well + had to take quinine.

June 5<sup>th</sup> After breakfast we hurried to Zimbabwe as they pronounce it, also Zimbaboue. I rode Beauty with a troopers saddle as my saddle was packed. I was glad to get dry through the decay grass which came high above the top of my parasol. We left the waggon to follow. First we climbed

up the hill, or rather the principal hill near, full in every cranny + on every detached rock of ruins + a large quantity of people. There are ruins all over the top, all the ends of the walls are rounded at the end both up on the hill + down in the round ruin.

I mean to abstain from a description of the ruins for they will be described elsewhere when we have worked at them a little. Our souls were gladdened by some long stone carved over + one with a strange bird at the end.

When we had climbed as much as we wished among these old walls + over decaying vegetation which seems a kind of slerry paste we went down + more thoroughly investigated the round riddle below.



After some time we heard cheering and the natives with us said it was the "Nkosi Umgabe" so we went to meet him but to our joy was great at finding it was the arrival of one wagon on rising ground in an old mealy field quite near the ruins, with both spans. We never expected to encamp so near. The only bother is that there is a horrid brown bean looking like pluck in the grass which sheds his hairs that get into ones innermost recesses clinging very much. On the other hand we see no signs of white ants.

Umgabe the Chief soon came with a large following + was received by the others with clapping of hands. We had already seen his son who lives in the paper village, an elderly man with

a grizzled beard + sat round on the ground + he nodded + smiled at me + said very civil things to me. Kettleton told me.

The father does not look much older than the son. He is very fat + wears a necklace of very large opal beads, glass Tuckpore + carried an assegai, an axe + a large iron walking stick like a poker. Two little skin aprons completed his toilette one in front + one behind.

He immediately said he was very hungry + wanted some meat so a salt buck's leg was given + soon roasted + cut in small bits which they gnawed. Then he wanted a blanket + did not like it at all so a feint was made of removing it but then he laughed + wrapped himself in it. Kettleton + he had



a long conversation in which he said  
"We have come to this country to do  
you good." "I don't think so," said  
the chief. Then Nettleton said "Well  
why did you come when we settled  
that desperate in your favour."

Then we asked for some men to work  
for us at the ruins + some to make  
huts. + they were to have a blanket  
a month. Now these blankets are  
all cotton light gray with pale pink  
+ blue stripes rather ugly + cost us  
2/10 trade price + are supposed to  
go for 7/6. He + his followers settled  
themselves down for the day.

I was in the tent after luncheon  
when I heard most peculiar +  
musical chanting so down I hurried  
to the entrance of the ruins by  
the path we have had cut in the  
grass + found about 20 men all

snorting + rushing like romances  
to pick up stones + carry them abt 30  
feet from the wall to clear out the  
doorway. The door had only arrived  
in time to prevent them tearing down  
the building. One party dragged out  
stones + the others rested by clamping  
in a truly wonderful way. Thinking  
to make myself agreeable I had stuck  
a lot of guinea fowls feathers in  
my belt + gave them one by one + they  
were quickly stuck in very grotesque  
fashion in the hair. One had white  
that it was very difficult. Most  
of the hair is shaved + a small  
patch is left in some peculiar form.

One has a row of tufts all over  
the top of the head + down the back  
like a cockscomb. One 3 tufts on  
the top, bound round + round till they  
look like 3 little trees. One a patch at



2 inches round over one temple  
one a stripe from in front of one  
ear to behind the other. One a  
piece of this shape. One a very  
small belt with 3 strings abt. 3 inches  
long of tiny beads. One wears many  
fine rings of plaited grass bound  
together with a string of glass beads  
as a cladem. One has a lot  
of feathers turned up. One has 2 disks  
of tin that must originally have  
been in a beef tin hanging over each  
temple. One has a single sock tied  
to a string as a tobacco pouch. One  
had a pouch of a rat skin turned  
inside out tail legs & all. One a glove  
fastened to a string on each side of the  
wrist & something in each pocket  
formed by the fingers. They wear  
2 aprons & if the hinder one is tin  
skin of an animal it is suspended

by the 2 hind legs to the main sides  
so that the fur goes the wrong way & the  
tail hangs over so that it almost  
looks as if it belonged to its present  
wearer.

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> No tents yet built so N.  
was sent to tell Ungabe that the  
promised rifle would belong to some  
other chief for we should get a distance  
to get other men so we hope all will  
be right tomorrow. In the mean time  
some sleep in the tent, some under  
waggons we in our waggons - Mr Swan  
is very ill with fever & ague - Theodore  
has to go round with bottles every  
morning. Kleel Boy & Tom ill & a  
trooper who walked out by our road  
& hours required quinine on arrival.  
He said Major & Mr Graves & others  
were coming in a waggon to see us but  
they may change their minds on



hearing Turnbull's account. He went back on Beauty with our mail this morning + another <sup>brother</sup> is coming. Both mares are now getting quite well + the sick os still alive.

All the others' legs have swollen + they are getting to look worse + worse. I am told they always do for a fortnight after they stop + then pick up. They say it was a fearful work getting the waggons through the grass. Meredith tried tying a rope to the leader but that did not do + as they could not see him, he had to guide by shouting. The drivers could not see the osen - those horrid beasts climbing up the grass shed themselves down their necks so they were nearly wild + had to undress. I cut one bit of grass + measured it. more than

12 feet. The best way is to go backward Lobelia (blue) which is in flower is a weed here.

June 8<sup>th</sup> d's birthday good luck to her!

I am tired. Breakfast 7.30. Off at 8.30 to the high village with most of our white men to fetch some long stones with patterns on them + birds at the ends. We expected difficulty but a blanket to the chief was enough to secure them so we have something already we hope for the British Museum.

I returned by the round way + gave some directions there. I did a heavy job of work at a tent till luncheon while C was at the ruins.

Mr. Swan very bad. He got up in the middle of the day. After luncheon I went to the work leaving C to nurse him. He was given a very acrid emetic ~~made~~ by Constable but when



I enquired I was told it had stayed down + made him feel much better.

Early in the afternoon Mr. Braekenburg + Mr. <sup>ing</sup> Keane arrived; they had walked from a waggon which was following. They told us Mr. Reed had joined the B.B.P. I mean the British Bechuanaland Police ~~was~~ in Hospital at Maeloutie. They picked him up very ill with fever. Mr. <sup>ing</sup> Keane has asked to join the Expedition + so he will come to us tomorrow.

Later came Mr. Cathcart Mr. Donnan Mr. Ross + the waggon arrived. There is a Mr. Murdoch sick that I have not seen. Mr. Cathcart has been coming with 4 waggons behind us + trying to catch us but really we appear to have done well in steady speed. Several that we know of have had

to wait + rest their oxen from trying to get on too fast. Mr. Cathcart was bringing 83 horses for the B.S.A. but only one is alive to arrive. The Phillips lost 2 of 5. + all day we have been wonderfully lucky with ours.

A new trooper came called Torbett. Very good work was done today + a great deal of wood cutting - There are fallen trees of vast age + hardness + creepers hanging flexible about a foot round.

G + I went to the other waggon to ask what we could do for them.

I asked, having already sent some medicine, if they would like soup for their two invalids. They said they had Liebig. I said we have a sheep + an invalid at present therefore we have good broth going so they were much pleased when Constable took them some with a



promise of more on the morrow

They gave us some ham.

The rigger workers are building  
booths + Constable has made an  
immense kitchen with the sail  
of one waggon. He says "where there  
is arranged he is going to make us  
an Indian terrace to dine in"  
+ we are to have this tent for a general  
sitting room + have it placed as  
select as possible. We profess  
great delight + we wonder what  
an Indian terrace is.

A great change has come over the  
dress of our scullery maid <sup>Ann</sup> +  
here + called Jim. Jim owned  
some the short drawers of the place  
inside out. This morning they  
become much split + now ~~peel~~  
hang round his waist in a very  
incomprehensible way. They feel

look like what we call niggers. Some  
do. + some have large mouths but  
if white they would pass very well  
+ a few are really handsome.

With a cornet + an concertina  
we have a good deal of music +  
song too in the evening.

Tuesday we saw nothing of the inhabitants  
of the other waggon till the middle  
of the day. Three required medicine  
Mr. Swan very ill still. I asked Cap.  
Brackenbury for tea + the cake  
promised at Fort Victoria.

Wed 10<sup>th</sup>. They went away in the morning  
Mr. <sup>ing</sup> Keane consigning his blankets as  
an earnest of his return. It rained  
all the morning but still there was  
no idleness as the making of the  
~~camp~~ proceeded + in the afternoon  
gave great pleasure by seeing this  
work might continue instead of



digging. Really it would have been  
dangerous to stay in that dark  
& shady place. Mr. Swan better, Klein  
Boy + O'Leary bad + I had a slight  
attack in the evening.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Very misty in the morning  
As far as I know this is my dearest  
Queen's wedding day. How far away  
I feel! How lonely these all being  
together. my sisters I mean.

Well here in Africa hut building  
wood cutting & digging went on. The  
ruin drives us wild with uncer-  
tainty as to what it is or was or how  
old or young it may be. As we find  
nothing artistic we begin to feel a  
little discouraged, still we have begun  
we think to find a hole which on  
further investigation may be only  
fallen masonry. Wild wonder rages  
in our breasts as to what the Indian

Terrace may be like. Constable says it  
is to be 12 feet square. All the sick  
better.

Thursday June 23<sup>rd</sup> I have not written  
for a long time. We have been busy & it is  
hard to find time. Now I am sitting on  
a heap of freshly turned earth with my  
ink bottle in my hand in the mouth  
of a cave on the hill.

The Indian Terrace is a frame of sticks  
with grass tied on. We have hung up bits of  
linen & lined the walls with everlasting  
flowers, big beans, travellers' joy & many  
other things & a table covered with linen  
in the middle, a camp bed & side  
tables made of trunks make it quite  
cosy looking. In the evening we sit in  
the tent which is warmer with a  
fire outside it.

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> came a note from Mr  
King saying he had fever & could not



get manage the walk, also letters & his baggage so next day we sent a horse & he arrived after luncheon <sup>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></sup> very yellow & weak & in the lowest spirits. People with this fever get most awfully depressed.

We were glad to have him to take care of for where he was at Fort Victoria with Mr. Cathcart the sick had to nurse each other. He did not quite recover for more than a week & during that time we had many ill for a day but now all but 2 are well again Alfred & Solomon.

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> We had the grass burnt that walls might be revealed. It was a grand sight to see the great flames but some of the huts outside our camp took fire and the grass of our round fence & the back of the kitchen had to be removed for fear of sparks. On the other side of the camp the fire came up so close

that it was all 12 men could do with wet sacks to keep it off. It is much more airy & healthy.

Every day at abt. 1.30 after luncheon we have crowds at the camp, women bringing dinners, sometimes of hairy Caterpillars & others come to sell rice, mealies, tomatoes, eggs, porols, honey, milk &c. & we stroll out & buy snuff bottles, knives, bracelets &c.

All last week we dug down at Zimbabwe finding nothing but the plan.

On Sunday came Mr. Stokes with provisions for 3 days, his bedclothes and a letter of introduction from Captain Brackenbury with whom he was staying at Fort V. while his oxen rest. We begged him to sleep in the tent on a spare campbed & got a few blankets from our trade store so he accepted & gave Constable his food.



He is come out for some mining syndicate & we find him pleasant company. He seems very happy & his departure is often deferred.

On Monday last the 22<sup>nd</sup> he came in for a very amusing scene. We all went up to begin work on the ruins of the fort where the village is situated. Before we got up we heard loud shouts & screams from the Chief <sup>Gorma</sup> Kormuz who strongly objected to our digging in his cattle kraal which was the place fixed on. Our work men (the blacks) ran away saying they were afraid they would be poisoned if they dug. He presented a bold front & laughed at him. He rushed to his round cottage & fetched his bow, quiver, club, assegai, shield, iron sceptre & brandished them but at last was induced by our laughter to lay them down & sink into a sitting posture to listen to reason from Kettleton our inter-

preter while the barricade was quietly demolished behind his back by our men.

He said the women were frightened but I said "I don't think they are for they are laughing & why should they be more frightened than I am & I am not afraid of any of them". This made him laugh but he soon saw he could not do any thing to us & so though he came & scolded a great deal nothing more happened.

He held long conversations with me each in our own tongue & that seemed to please him though we could not understand each other. Next day most of the other men came to work.

We have been digging now four days up here & revealed many architectural features besides adding to our collection of finds. Mr Stokes & Mr Swain went off on horseback yesterday on an exploring expedition to the R. Umshagashu & are



gone off in another direction today

We from above describ'g 3 strange horses  
near our camp so of course expect  
visitors up here shortly.

Yesterday evening Chief Kormey <sup>Gorma</sup> came  
down + seeing a bowl of honey on the  
table stepped in + siezed a large comb  
but I flew at him with a spoon -  
broke off all that he had not grabbed

His musician comes down sometimes  
+ plays ceaselessly for 3 or 4 hours on  
a very curious instrument, a collection  
of 32 keps of iron inside a large gourd  
with armadillo shells loosely put  
round the mouth. He puts both  
hands in to play + occasionally yells  
dildly nodding his head + rolling  
his eyes + looking as if he sat there  
to bewitch one. The women here  
have all got those curious cuts  
round their sides. They say it is so

painful that only a few inches can  
be done at a time. Yet they are very  
regular + show no break in the length  
of the stripe. The red beads look much  
better when dirty + dull they look like  
coral.

We have a round fence round our  
camp with one entrance + a tiny post  
for us to go to the horses who always neigh  
+ come to us because we give them the  
broken bread.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> The visitor proved to be Sir  
John Willoughby who slept on the floor in  
the tent with Dr. Stokes who returned from  
his expedition with fever and has spent most  
of his time in bed ever since.

On Friday Dr. Swan + I did not go up  
for a couple of hours after the main body  
as he was assaying gold + I at my photography.  
Sir J. rode off to see Chief Umegabe.  
When we got up we found there had



been another battle - An enormous boulder abt. 30 feet high had slipped with a great noise at the head of a staircase we had been digging out at the western side of the Kattlekraal + carried away a granary belonging to one of Gorma's women.

In he rushed with men + women brandishing various weapons + one man knocked down one of our workmen for they dared not touch the whites. They gathered together + armed themselves with tools + I seized an assegai + they punished the chief offender + drove them all away. Our workmen also ran off but came back later.

We thought the best thing was to make him come down to Gorma + have a good rowing from Sir J.W.

In the evening he was sent for, came but went away saying it was too late.

Sat. morn. 28<sup>th</sup> He went up + with the aid

of Hettleton the Chief was soundly scolded + told if there were any more fighting men w. come from Fort Victoria and raze their village + do all sorts of bad things to them, that if they had behaved properly they w. have had compensation + now they should have none.

The damage is small as all the corn is safe + the little granary was only mud + sticks. The woman who owned it made the worst row but in our defence. So I am sorry for her.

Our hearts were gladdened that morn. by a prize which gives quite a different turn to our ideas a piece of a dish nearly 2 feet wide abt. 2 1/2 to 3 in high with a straight edge + a quantity of zebras + other animals a bird + a man very well preserved. We have about 15 inches of the border. The finding of this made our half holiday very pleasant.



On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> before 11 four visitors arrived. Cap. Nesbitt, Dr. Harris. Mr. Graham + Mr. Vizard. We were sorry for Theodore as instead of resting in anyway he had to walk + talk the whole of the rest of the day.

The Indian Terrace was densely crowded with people. Mr. Stokes was better. All the <sup>new</sup> guests slept on the floor in the Indian Terrace having brought their beds as well as their ration.

Dr. Harris who has full powers from Mr. Rhodes is most anxious we should have everything we want + much interested + excited over all he sees.

I asked for a lot of packing cases. I be sent eventually to pack the find but in the mean time to make furniture as I want to build another house as we have so many

visitors + every board we have is used up.

We are going to have a notice to forbid camping in the ruins + to point out where people are to go.

Also is to have power to forbid anyone grubbing or taking anything away as we hear some Dutchmen mean to come.

All these 4 left at 12 today Monday 30 Mr. Stokes came up to luncheon. Mr. King ill again.

Sat. July 4<sup>th</sup>. We have had a very satisfactory week + the place seems to become more + more interesting.

Mr. Stokes left on Tuesday + it was so wet that it would have been unsafe to attempt any digging that day. Our place is on the south side of the hill + the sun only peeps over for a short time in some places + under the cliffs not at all + it is very chilly



and dank so we have luncheon out  
in the sun to warm everyone up.

Every day someone cannot go up or  
has to go home invalided.

In several of the nooks & corners we  
have come upon the dead relations  
of the inhabitants walled up with their  
scanty clothing, mat &c. We were told  
they never buried their dead.

Sir John Willoughby returned on  
Tuesday eve. & left on Wed. morning.

A curious thing turned up in a cave  
a goat not more than a year buried  
tied down on a mat with a knife  
lying beside him. We are longing for  
a more satisfactory interpreter than  
we have now; Kettleton is most apathetic  
& never tells anything without hard  
questioning.

On Thursday the original entrance  
from below was discovered, up a very

steep cleft in the smooth cliff.

Turnbull returned on the horse Mr  
Stokes took, some donkeys for us, some  
stons, a trooper called Martini came  
out for 2 nights change of air & 2  
prospectors of Sir J. Willoughby's.

Just now? Friday 3. I smelt a strong  
smell of burning & it seemed to be  
everywhere. At last I thought the  
bark was burning but it was discovered  
to be that was on fire from some  
smoker. The tail of my cotton blouse  
was burnt off & my woollen dress  
a little & the band of it nearly burnt  
through. I was beginning to feel very  
warm round the waist. I was not  
flaming, only smouldering.

Spent till ab. 3 o' helping Mr  
Swan to measure i.e. climbing to the  
tops of all the walls & boulders either  
holding a measuring tape or a rod at



14 feet high for him to take the level.

This morn<sup>g</sup> I did not go up. I was tired & had lots to do below. Just early after dinner we went out to see

our weary workmen dancing war dances like wild things <sup>which they are</sup> with the greatest vigor singing very well in excellent time. They danced round the fire & often jumped forward into it bringing out hot embers & danced on them with out minding

Sometimes one & sometimes 2 or 3 would leave the circle & caper away into the darkness throwing up sand & doing the most extraordinary things. These were skirmishers we were told.

After luncheon today the workmen were to be paid. Chief Ungabe was here & also Gorma. The men all stood in a highly excited state in a

circle & each got his blanket.

At once they all put them on & all looked as if they were just out of battle. A great change came over their appearance & then they set to work to dance this war dance singing & led by fat old Ungabe with his iron sceptre held aloft.

The skirmishers in the blankets capered about & I tried to photo the scene. It was quite the most wildly funny thing I have seen for a long time. We white people were all shouting with laughter. I ached all over. Last night was serious & this was comic. It was worth 10 blankets a piece to see such a sight.

One poor old fellow said he wanted to come & work as he wished to sleep in a blanket once before he died.

They wear bits of our blue muslin



as shawls + a general blue appearance is green ground. They tie wisps round their heads necks + waists.

I saw an infant 5 or 6 weeks old being brought up by hand 'eat'.

A mother had placed the babe on the ground between her knees with its back leaning against herself + under its chin she held her left hand full of a brown sort of gruel + the baby's cheeks, nose + mouth were immersed in this, while she swept it into its mouth with her finger.

The baby tried to struggle + cry. It was a disgusting sight.

Saturday night it rained so on Sunday morning we had to give up a contemplated ride to some ruins 8 miles off. We sat round the fire waiting for breakfast till 8.30, our usual hour being 7.30. Constable was walking

uneasily about the yard. At last he said "Is breakfast never going to be ready?" "It has been ready since 1/4 past 7 when you ordered it."

"Well why did you not bring it?"

"I did not know you wanted it."

"I was waiting for orders, it is not for me to give orders."

I said Well could not you guess we could not go in the rain + we were all dressed + waiting?

"This is not my place to guess" + so we all got a good scolding for our misconduct, which is always the case when Constable is in a bad temper + no one knows where that will be.

We sat in the tent the Indian Terrace being a showerbath + all spoilable possessions had to be saved into the tent + waggons. We tried to look at the bright side + were glad no visitors were



possible to be stormstayed.

Dr King continued shivery &c.

Monday no possibility of work

I developed some photos which turned out very well but I encountered a difficulty not expected in Africa. I could not dry the negatives. There was only fire in the open air & a whirling smoke & wind & dust so the poor things had to live for 3 or 4 days in a rack wrapped in a napkin & have suffered from prolonged damp & dust.

On Tuesday at 10 I entered the waggon very cold & sick. Of course this was alarming I was in close attendance till 12.30. then he dozed & seemed warmer & at 2.30 we were amazed at his appearance in the tent saying he was too hungry to remain in bed any longer. We were feeding him when

--- I stepped Mother Patrick & Sister Annica accompanied by Col. Penfather.

Capt. Graham & Father Prestage.

Consternation was I must say our first feeling. However even Theodore rose to the occasion - Dr King hurried to bed. It really was awkward for us with one sick man just up & the other going to bed & only a tent & 8 by 9 as our only parlour.

They were all so pleasant. We had seen the Jesuit party at the Tuli hospital they are on their way to Fort Salisbury. The Sisters had had Col. Penfather's home between them & their long white dresses were in a terrible state.

They had tea & then we went to visit the Torser enclosure & then Sister Annica alarmed us all by being 'taken with the cold shivers'. She trembled & her teeth chattered. I took them back to camp & dried their shoes & stockings & warmed them by the fire & Sister Annica mercifully quite recovered.



As the rain had ceased we managed  
to dine in the Indian Terrace with 6 chairs  
2 wooden & one tin box lately of biscuits.

The ladies slept in the tent & all the  
gentlemen in the kitchen.

<sup>Next</sup> The latter went up to the fortress & all  
departed at 12. We lent them a horse  
so both sisters could ride. We hope to meet  
them as well as Mr Stokes at Fort Salisbury.  
We worked a little below at the Tower  
place in the afternoon. Theodore was  
feverish in the evening - & did not get up  
till about 10 on

Thursday Mr. Swan led up the digging  
party & I followed later leaving the 2  
invalids below. I went up a good many  
walls measuring. I came up at the  
very end. It was so cold. In the evening  
when we got down we found a new trooper  
Warrington <sup>here</sup> come as interpreter. He brought  
the spirit rations of Torbett & Turnbull 5% <sup>total</sup>

of D.O. a fearfully common spirit all  
consumed in one evening causing great  
noise & the absence from work of Torbett  
next day & a good deal of row till very  
late.

Friday. Very chilly in the Castle. A lot of  
measuring done. Mr King below still. Found  
Mr Cope from Fort V. We were very glad to see  
him. He asked Mr. Swan if there had  
been any row over the spirits but Mr. Swan  
was merciful. If there had been Mr Cope  
said they wd have been fined 2 guineas  
a piece. It is requested that no more such  
rationis will come to our camp.

What folly it is to bring such stuff up  
country when the same trouble would  
bring good brandy that would be a medical  
comfort - & so very many people drink only  
tea & coffee here in Africa.

On the Queen's birthday having nothing to make  
a feast with we offered a bottle of whiskey



but our men refused & would not drink spirits & said they did not know about Deary & Ducau so it was better not to offer it so the Queen's health was drunk in tea. Sat. Dr. Coope is gone off to some chief with Warringham & our horse Beauty & he returns tonight & will stay till Monday & go to the postponed ruins tomorrow.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> On Sunday we had a very pleasant ride 3 on horseback. Dr. Coope & Turnbull on foot. Dr. King could not come. The country we rode through was very pretty with rocky koppejes on all sides & distant hills. It was swampy in some parts. Troops of niggers joined us. The ruins are small & done by the same people as those on a very strange place but would not be worth our going to encamp & dig at. We had a very merry luncheon with soup in the middle of it & then the black ladies danced, smacking themselves

with both hands all the time. I tried to photograph it but the light was bad. As we were starting 2 of the horses were frightened at the crowd & ran off. Dr. Coope on the 3<sup>rd</sup> went to catch them & got a kick on the shin. He was soon prostrate on the ground & had to be bandaged with a wet lab napkin & ride home. So Dr. Swan had only one horse between them. Dr. Swan was threatened with fever & I just recovering. I got over tired & eventually had another attack.

On our return we found Dr. Harford come up from Lulu & Cap. Jones. They had tea but refused dinner & shelter, camped near, breakfasted with us & went up to the fort & Dr. Coope also though only able to hop along.

Today I could not go up at all so sat down with him. Dr. Coope went after luncheon.



On Thursday I took up my camera  
+ had a very hard + tiring day's work.  
I was attended by Mr. Swan + Theodore.  
2 people alone could not have done these  
photos. The whole place is now so dug up  
that you must now necessarily either  
climb a wall, creep sometimes on hands  
+ knees through a low crevice in the rock  
or go over a mass of loose stones so the  
requisites could not have been moved  
about by me in one journey. The view  
of some tall monoliths high above  
me had to be taken from an end of  
a wall with an area of abt. 3 feet square  
with a tall stone stuck up in the middle.  
I tipped back the top of the camera  
+ tilted back both back + front till the  
camera lay on my forehead. I could not  
~~kneel~~ kneel. There was no room.  
Mr. Swan stood on my left + held the  
front leg of the camera down + supported

my entire weight by his arm round my  
waist. Theodore held my feet or rather  
my heels to press my feet against little  
crevices in the wall + if there had been  
a fourth person I should have liked  
my head held up for it felt as if it would  
roll off down my back. My neck ached  
+ so did the whole of me when that  
was done. I was of course using a wide  
angled lens. Another was down a  
narrow staircase. I took off my hat  
+ pressed my head hard against a rock.  
I held the camera + Mr. Swan held  
me up by putting his hand through  
my leather belt, nearly cutting me in  
two. Let me say. My feet each on a  
wobbling stone. I was afraid I should  
not have room to pull out the slide.  
I had only done 5 photos in 3 hours +  
all really within a small space. I have  
more to do yet but today + yet have seen



been cloudy. After more photography  
Mr. Swan & I went to measure again  
that entails much climbing.

Friday Mr. Swan went off on horseback  
to the Besa mountains. Mr. King is  
now well enough to go up daily to work  
& Theodore the better of a tone.

About 10 white men in 3 parties  
came yesterday thus raising the number  
exclusive of all belonging to the Expedi-  
tion to 56. There are traders &  
prospectors who are resting their oxen  
at Fort V. They cling to the mountain  
this morning surrounded by 8 all  
questioning him. In the little yard  
formed by the waggon. Indian Ten-  
tees & fence all the fends are arrayed  
like a little museum.

All Friday evening we upbraided Mr. King  
because he had not fulfilled his promise  
of finding us a decorated beam he had.

dreamt about the night before but  
however on Sat it turned up from the  
same place but not the same position  
as in the dream.

There is another dream of an inscrip-  
tion beginning Iris-unfulfilled as yet.

We enjoyed our half holiday very peace-  
ful. Four BSA men came out with leave till  
Monday night.

Sunday morning was rainy so we could  
not ride as we meant to see the Cling Cher-  
umbila but it was fine enough afterward.  
On Monday Turnbull accompanied them  
back taking over 3 horses to be shod.

It was too cloudy for me to take up my largest  
camera & I was looking out for a place to take  
a photo from when I kicked against my little  
camera which was on the ground & over the  
cliff it went. We could do nothing as we had  
not 2 feet safe to stand on. It was a most  
horrid thing after its long straight drop & hear



it bump & bound over the rocks till it fell between 2 walls. It is very slightly damaged in 3 places but now repaired. Besides the leather case it had a double linen one.

In the evening arrived Mr. Sam Howard. I had met him when staying at Highclere. He is Lady Carnarvon's brother Mr. Caulfield was with him of the Co. Roscommon also a Prospector Mr. Fox & Mr. Engleberg a German who had asked to share their guide. We asked them all to dinner & breakfast & the 2 former slept in the tent, the latter in the Indian Terrace.

The rain caused Mr. King to have a relapse. Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> The visitors came up with us to the work & when they were gone I went to photography. The camera lasted to tea. I bending over the cliff held by Mr. Swan. I took a little photo of the scene. It will only be for very private

circulation. I hid one in a cleft of rock abt 20 inches wide very steep. My back had to be propped up & my feet for fear they should slip down. I did several others in difficult postures & developed them in the evening.

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> I stayed below till 11.30 printing photos & doing other needful jobs & am just going to photograph again.

I went up before luncheon & after the photography came down before the others. I developed my photos in the eve. This was the last day's work on the top of the hill.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Work was resumed in the Circular Enclosure below. Mr. were wondering why the horses did not return. The farrier was away. In the middle of the day they arrived with Mr. Coope & his horse. He stayed the night which was very pleasant.



He went about 3 on  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July. I did not leave the  
camp as I had not felt well since Tuesday.

It could not be decided whether  
I had indigestion or a sprain. I  
remember slipping with my foot  
while holding on with my hands & Mr  
Swan said "Did you hurt yourself"  
& though I did a little, I said "No"  
& Mr. Swan remembers all that too  
but neither could remember the day  
or place. Anyhow as it hurt me to  
move I lay down for the sprain & as  
according to the <sup>possible</sup> indigestion & it all turned  
out very well.

Sat 25. I breakfasted in bed & lay on  
a little bed of Mr. Swan's in the tent  
2 days.

We had intended to ride on Sat to  
the Inyuni Mountains & stay out  
the night but I was not fit & Mr. Swan

began rheumatism. Several Boers  
some BSA men came out. Meradets  
shot a reed-buck in the afternoon.  
On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Mr. Swan & G & Mr  
Kies rode out to see some ruins but  
they found they were being taken to  
those we had already. They found some  
people roasting & eating ostriches. G & Mr  
Swan tasted some.

In the afternoon Mr. Beib who is one  
of the directors of the BSA & besides  
something great in De Beers diamond  
mine & Barberton gold mine came  
with Mr. Hoffmann. They slept in  
the Indian Terraces.

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> I arose betimes but  
could not go to breakfast as the gaiters  
were too much in my invalid state  
so I eat a huge breakfast sitting  
on a box in the waggon & was hence-  
forth well enough to go about my business.



I photographed the finds. a most troublesome business to Mr Swan as they had to arrange the things. Mr. Beck - Mr. Hoffmann left at midday. It rained a little in the afternoon. I developed my photos & they turned out very well indeed.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> A very rough Boer came & told us of a wonderful graveyard abt 7 or 8 miles off so we determined to try our luck there. Mr Swan & I went up to the upper ruins for measurements & photography.

Wed 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Swan, Theodore, I, Warrington & 4 Makalankas with picks & shovels & the graves with the 3 horses.

The weather was lovely & we passed through some very pretty scenery. One hill was covered with red trees in all shades like flames & a wood

we passed through was like fairyland on the theatre. The trees were all lopped & festooned & hung with bluish lichen several yards long blown everywhere by the wind. As all the trees had been killed by the lichen there was no shade, but through & through these lace-like veils there were occasional gleams & flares of red leaves.

At last we found ourselves at least 4 miles from camp at the big place which we had had to cut down to make a road across a ravine. It was so changed & bare & all burnt up. The graves were near this. As soon as we arrived Mr. Swan & Warrington cast themselves down under a tree a piece. The first was bad with rheumatism, the last had the "Cold shivers". Theodore & I were horrified at



this. I wished I had not come as my horse would then have been available & now we wondered how the invalids w<sup>d</sup> get home. I made up his mind to walk all the way. However they both got better & were able to walk there & share. The graves were of the most miserable description: heaps of loose stones laid over a body & then the ants had puffed up the earth among them. We dug one & only found a green frog, or toad, pinkish & with long claws suitable for burrowing. He was deep down & is now in a bottle.

~~We passed through clouds of locusts.~~  
During our absence Odeary had been packing the beams with birdsoe for we are now making ready for departure on Saturday afternoon. Some of the men had still been digging on the hill till now.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> I did some photography & while we were out Odeary continued

his packing & had made up several small cases with many objects yet unphotographed. I saw him peck at half a dozen Iron spear heads & together peck a little grass over & then stamp in his foot & heard a clanking. I got to on opening the box found all the metal things heaped together & some had got broken. Other boxes then were examined, pottery, soap stone granite &c were like shingles on the sea beach so they must all be repacked & Mr. King was to help to do it. Mr. Swan is always slaving over his plans & maps. Turnbull & Torbett had to return to Fort Sale Victoria as their troops to start on Friday for Fort Salisbury. We kept Warringham. If we kept the others we must have conveyed them to Fort S. In the evening a high wind sprang up & the barometer went up too so we made all preparations for rain.



Just as I was going to bed one of the grass  
huts of our Inakalanka workmen  
caught fire & flared up. It was fortun-  
ately to leeward of the camp. Four or 5  
huts near burnt too but there was  
not enough grass near to spread much  
on account of the former fire.

Constable thought of the dynamite &  
was ready to run off with it.

In the night down came the expected  
rain & tremendous wind blew & today  
we are completing a week's work lost by  
rain besides the Saturday afternoons  
& Sunday. This was to have been the  
last day digging & now of course our  
departure must be delayed.

I hope the moose will do good to the  
health of everyone. We have had 14 cases  
of fever & that means one day up & perhaps  
down the next. We have just been  
calculating that fever & rain have cost

us a third of our labouring time here.  
It is such a comfort to have a water  
proof tent & I hope we shall have no  
visitors.

This last visit was not destined to be  
gratified for at 11 o'clock arrived 12 prospectors  
from the de Beers' great Trek commanded  
by Major Hamilton Brown, a cousin of  
the Browns of Augustine and with  
him an American Mr. Armitage. These  
fellows were very wet. We gave them hot whisky  
& water & then they went up & camped  
under some overhanging rocks up at the  
kraal on the hill. I went out with Mr.  
Swan who carried my camera & took 3 photos  
which I developed in the evening & they  
turned out well. G. & Mr. King <sup>could not</sup> pack  
the finds. <sup>as the day was too wet</sup> Major Brown came to dinner  
& 2 men for the 2<sup>nd</sup> table. They all  
slept in the kitchen for it was too wet  
to go up the hill. I wish we had had



a rain-gauge. Once it was measured after G had washed in it & was found to be a large amount.

Duncan & Warringham got most awfully drunk as some Cape Brandy or D.O.P had come from Fort V & G had some trouble turning them out of the kitchen when Major Browne went to bed.

Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> Major Browne departed after breakfast & we heard that 2 of his men had fever. R packed all day & I tried to take a photo of a very handsome man, who if white even would be admired.

The sun was not good & he wobbled out of focus while doing him full face & twice when I was trying to do his side face he turned round to see what was happening.

Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The blankets & linbo were given to the digers & Kilethen people. They danced beforehand because of the pleasant prospect. Only one has worked both months.

The waggons were loaded L. W. Swan & I went for our last work in the circular Melocore measuring. G was outside the wall. Dr. Swan on the batt top & I inside. I could not help feeling sad at feeling I never have a chance of seeing this place again. In the evening I developed photos & packed all my things in my little black tent. We had one more to pack on the boxes for the wagon <sup>unders</sup> is very full.

Aug. 3. Monday. Packed our bedding, food & necessaries for 3 days & at 10 Dr. Swan G. W. King & I & Warringham & Harrington 3 horses & 6 porters left the ruins of our camp & left the waggons to get to Fort Victoria where we shall meet them. We had a lovely ride through a wood of figs & sorbs & other lovely trees & over a stream with beds of osmunds & agalis shaded by tall tree ferns. All about were curious rocky peaks amongst which was



the village of . . . We stopped a few minutes & saw the chief. Soon after we saw a lot of baboons running about on rock & among the grass very large ones. About 1.30 we reached Ungabis kraal where we were to pass the night. Three huts were ready for us. Ours is rather tumbledown & like a cage & oh! such an uneven floor to spread our clothes on.

First we sat in Ungabis hut with 12 Makalankas, rather a smelly crowd with only a small door at 3 feet high & not 2 feet wide. There they look out to the 3 huts destined for us. Nestling under rocks & trees & on the edge of a ravine. We made a fire & boiled eggs & made tea to eat with bully beef & biscuits. We then set off to see a great cave where the Makalankas refuge from the Makabele. It seems to ramble under half the village & various openings are

bridged over with sticks & earth which sway as you pass over them & can be pulled away from under the enemy. They keep food down there. The river runs through

I did not go down. We went to the other side of the water. All the rocks are spread with locusts drying. In the evening we cooked supper under the presidency of Mr King who was most kind about it & did nearly everything for the other two men never as much as offered to help. Suppose it is the vile colonial manners.

Our house was very cold & open as the walls & roof were in ruins.

Aug 4<sup>th</sup> We started soon after breakfast that is about 8 o'clock. We were pleasantly told that Snowstorm could not be bridled as she had horse sickness. One side of her mouth was very much swollen but eventually it was found she had pricked herself on a cactus tree to which she had



been tied & she rapidly improved during the day but was not riden.

We went through the ravine which looked most lovely with aloes with their red hot poker sticking up. Large pink pink flowers like huge footloves hanging, great thick monkeypops and trees with large bunches of flowers of the richest red. We went over hill & dale till at 12 when we unsaddled by a river under a large village. Crowds of people were all around & we had luncheon. We had stopped earlier at a village on rocks but with a good deal of flat ground & with a stockade round it. Here we bought some things they tie to the calves of their legs when they dance to rattle hollow gourds in rows on sticks with something inside.

We had a great fright with the horse in a great swamp later on. He had

or i  
The - unyju  
Isenya Kufi  
+ Lisa







