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Cape Town
9 October 1871

My dear Sir George,

For many months I have been waiting for an opportunity to write to you. At last the old "Cossack" who ten years ago took you away from us, is going hence to Australia, and by her I hope you will safely receive this. I am so hoping to hear from you, how you are, and whether you safely received the box with books mainly in the Native Languages (partly such

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such as had been presented by you to the S. A. Public Library as duplicates of your own collection. – Since I last wrote, the birth of twin daughters has taken place on June 23rd, – but one of these dear little ones lived only to the 17th August, – the other caused us also for some time some anxiety. Now, however, we begin to hope for her as she is to all appearance thriving. But neither she nor our two elder girls (little Mabel of her, and your acquaintance Edith of eight years of age) are strong, or can do without great care. – Our Bushman studies are going steadily on. It appears to me that they are the most interesting nation in South Africa, at all events they are the most surprising one.

Strictly monogamistic, sidereal worshippers who have prayers to moon, sun and stars, – know numerous fables, and curious legends, – all of a very original character. Yet the sounds of their language are the most primitive of any known language, and they have no names for any numerals beyond three. In fact as their third numeral is probably of Hottentot origin, it seems as if originally they had known only two numerals. Yet they count pretty well on their fingers, and can tell me the number of children of a person, even when that number exceeds ten. Physically you can at once know a Bushman by the ear, – or to speak more properly by the almost absence of any outer ear. I had a striking proof of

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of this a few days ago when among a lot of Korannas I picked one out who on inquiry stated that he was really a Bushman brought up amongst the Korannas. You would be exceedingly interested, if you could come with us, and see the gradual progress of our studies, and hear their wonderful stories, particularly regarding a reptile being, green with wings, and red shoes which when thrown up by him one day formed the rainbow. I really wish you would come and pay us a visit. Westbrook and its back grounds "The Schmoor" are for sale; and the proprietor would even be glad to let it on reasonable terms. I am sure Sir Henry would gladly see you here. – Please do come. – You have probably seen the papers on the Australian languages and on the "Coniord" published in the Journal of the Anthropological Institute. I have not yet seen them myself, and as the copies of these treatises which I expect to receive, have not yet reached me, I cannot send you them. – May I at the same time remind you of your kind promise to let me have the paper I wrote for you on the "Papuan" languages. I have also promised

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promised it to Huxley;
of course I shall have to revise it.
Further I shall be much
obliged if you can let me have
Bleek's Manuscripts, viz.,
1. Bushmen Grammar
2. Korranna Dictionary
3. Korranna Customs (of these last
paper you have at least two copies).
But the best thing would
be if you were to bring them
yourself. — I send you a lot
of Parliamentary papers (in the packets), kindly
given me for you by Lerundler.
Unfortunately no bound copies
were at hand; but I did not
like to let this opportunity
pass

pass without sending them to you,
as we may not have another for
a long time, — unless Mail Steam
communication with Australia
is soon established. — I also send
my "Reineke Fuchs in Afrika",
although I expect that you have
already received a bound copy (ac-
cording to my directions) from the
publisher. — Further Library Report
(2 copies), and a few other pamphlets,
a few newspapers, &c. — I enclose
two photographs of the younger of the two
Bushmen who is with us. He is of
good family as all his great grand-
parents are known to us by name.
I also send a photograph of my
little girl and of myself. But I
must

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promised it to Huxley.
Of course I shall have to revise it.
Further I shall be much
obliged if you can let me have
Wuras's Manuscripts, viz.,
1. Bushmen Grammar
2. Koranna Dictionary
3. Koranna Customs (of Rietfontein
paper you have at least two copies).
But the best thing would
be if you were to bring them
yourself. — I send you a lot
of Parliamentary papers (in the packet), kindly
given me for you by Lewinder.
Unfortunately no bound copies
were at hand; but I did not
like to let this opportunity
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pass without sending them to you,
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a long time, — unless Mail Steam
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is soon established. — I also send
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two photographs of the younger of the two
Bushmen who is with us. He is of
good family as all his great grand-
parents are known to us by name.
I also send a photograph of my
little girl and of myself. But I
must

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must close. With our best love
believe me,
my dear Sir George
yours affectionately
W. H. P. Brock

P.S. Please come soon!