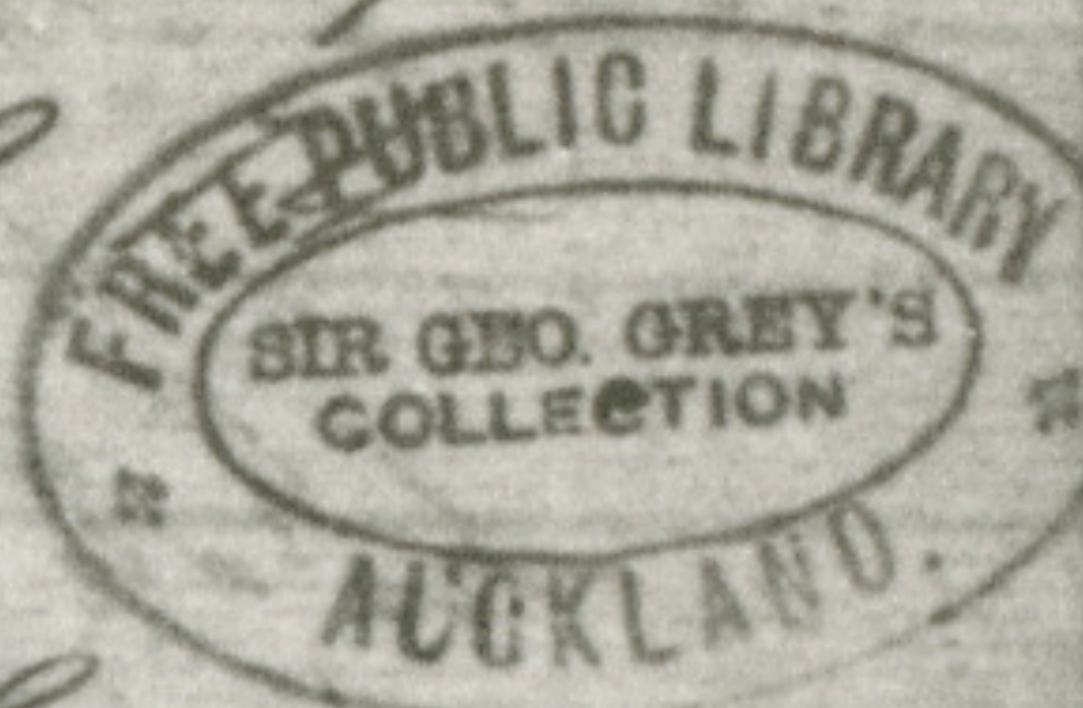


5-9
Monsbray near Cape Town
7 May. 18



1874
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My dear Sir George,

It is so long a time that
I have not written to you that
I even forget how long it is.
Yet I have written many times
since I last heard from you.
In fact since the letter which
you sent me on the eve of
your departure from England,
I have had neither a line,
nor a message, nor any other
token of your existence, or
any sort of acknowledgment of
books, parcels, and boxes sent
you. But, although it is so
painful for me not to hear
in any way of you, I know of
course, I ought not to reckon
with you. We have indeed so
very

very much here to remind
 us of you, - and in the studies
 which I pursue I cannot
 but constantly bear you in
 mind. Especially the grand
 stimulus which you have
 given to the collection of
 the Folklore of the Natives
 (be it by your own magni-
 ficent collections, and their
 example, be it by the words
 in which you set forth their
 importance, &c) promises every
 day to throw brighter
 lights upon the early history
 of the human mind. In fact
 like as Spatrial Analysis teaches
 us the nature of elements
 burning at the remotest
 celestial distances, - so the
 examination of different
 the original literature of

Different nations promises
 to furnish us with data
 regarding long lost truths
 in the ^{former} structure of the
 Languages spoken ~~by~~
 tribes of which any
 other evidence may at present
 be wanting. I must refer
 you to my paper on ~~various~~
 languages in Bushman and
 Australian mythology,
 of which I send herewith a
 copy, having already sent
 another via England.
 The present result of my
 researches is that probably
 only two kinds of language
 exist on earth, viz. the Pre-
 fix-pronominal and the
 Suffix-denoting. For, it appears

to me now probable from
 the character of their folk-lore
 that the great mass of the
 so-called Turanian or
 genderless languages were
 originally sex denoting,
 sharing as they do with
 the sex denoting languages
 similar original mythologi-
 cal notions, - notions which
 we do not find in those
 languages which can
 clearly never have been
 sex denoting. And although
 philosophically we must
 presume that there were
 once languages which did
 not yet possess true pronouns,
 it seems that we find none

none such spoken by human
 beings at the present
 day; and it is probable
 that they have all become
 extinct. In fact they could
 have little chance of
 preservation in competition
 with Pronominal languages.
 I might, however, wish
 to leave myself in a
 disquisition when writing
 to you. But I cannot help
 thinking that you will
 be gratified by the efforts
 we are here making to
 the best of our abilities
 to set before the public the
 true value of that Native
 Literature, of which you
 were one of the foremost
 if not the foremost collectors

and student, and of the
importance of which you
have so long already
spoken with great eloquence.
I am now making use of
parts of your preface to
"Ko nga motaketea," in order
to impress upon the Govern-
ment here their duty of
doing something for the
preservation of the still
existing monuments of
the various native minds
found in South Africa, before
they have quite lost
their originality. This is
in connection with a new
report on our Bushman
studies, in which I am
giving also a short account

of the folklore of this nation
as far as it has as yet
been collected.

You can fancy that the
rare and difficult oppor-
tunity of having it within
my reach to discover not
only a language almost wholly
unknown, but a still more
to rescue portions of a rich
and highly important
folklore belonging to so
primitive and important
of a civilization so low
a race, dared not to
be neglected by me; and
this particularly as
there seemed to be otherwise
no chance hope of it being
done at all, before the race
had become extinct. This
made

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made me set aside,
for the last few years,
the Comparative Grammar
of which I had been so
desirous to publish shortly
a further section. I
have, however, not
neglected my Library
work. I have now made a
careful revision of the
Detailed Inventory of
Old Manuscripts, and
this is now quite ready
for printing. I hope it
may soon happen to be
published; but it may
be that the great expense
of such a publication will
delay for some time.

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At the present moment my
working power is impaired
in consequence of ill health.
At the end of January
I caught a bad cold;
and although I spent the
whole of February at
Kathlamet, I never recovered
my average strength.
At the end of March I had
a more severe hemorrhage
than I have had for years.
The Doctor recommends
great caution, and
allows me only to go out
in fine weather. — On March
18th my last Bushman
left me, and on April 25
my collaborator in the
Bushman studies (who did
more time to give to him, and
had consequently the better
practical

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practical knowledge of
the language, went on a
short visit to England.
Our household (which lately
numbered from twelve to
eighteen people) is now
reduced to eleven. I
have now four children,
all girls, of $10\frac{1}{2}$, $4\frac{1}{2}$,
nearly 3 years, and the youngest
fourteen months old. At
this moment we are rather
anxious about the youngest,
who is ill with a bad cold
and cough. This is painful
to us, as she is to us the
most charming child. For
my children and for the
completion of many important
works begun, I wish much
to

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to live on; but I feel every
year more that this may
not entirely depend upon
one's wish; and that the
end may be nearer at hand
than one has any idea of.
You do not know what
a pleasure it would be
to me to see your hand-
writing, ^{again} even only in an
address on a paper, &c.
Here you are well re-
membered, as you well
know, and many always
ask after you. Hampden
Wells is still at Govern-
ment House, but he has
for six months been
acting Under Secretary

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in the absence of Captain
Mills. - Those disturbances
in Natal which you so
long predicted as the
natural consequence of
their unwise Native
Policy, have begun in
earnest, and both the
Government and the white
people have made matters
worse by most injudicious
wholesale butcheries, &c.
We shall see worse things
still there. - Believe me,
my dear Mr. George, with
our united kind regards,
your affectionately W. B. Black