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Capetown, 4 February 1863

My Dear friend,

A direct opportunity offering
for communication with New
Zealand, I hasten to make
amends for not having written
to you for so long. It was not
perhaps so much because every
day we hoped to hear from you
some news regarding yourself
and your arrangements relative
to your Library, - as because

His Excellency
Sir George Grey K.C.B.
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The first months of my married life forced me, on account of ~~the~~ my wife's delicate state of health and other peculiar circumstances which could not be foreseen, to devote my time much more to her, and try so much more to be all the help and comfort to her, than under ordinary circumstances would have been the case. I am happy to say that she is now a good deal better, though the very hot summer weather which we have lately had, has tried her very much. Our wedding took place

place on the 22nd November last year, in St. George's Church, by Mr. Glover. We went immediately home into a little house, with garden in front, in New Street, close to the Bridge leading to "Grey's Pass"; and we have remained at home all the time since then, except a ten days' stay at Rathfelder's, during the time of greatest heat last month. plus

My labours in the Library have, of course, also somewhat suffered during this period of change.

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change in my status. I have, however, been able to translate the whole of the Hottentot Fables, and I am now expecting an answer from Trübner, to whom I have offered them for publication.

One of the rooms, destined for the reception of your Library, having roughly been plastered, and to some extent fitted up, the Manuscripts and Printed Books already received have been transferred into this room, in which I am now writing. It is a room on the same floor with the

the Public Library and the Educational Museum, with two windows looking into the Government Garden, and one towards the Botanic Gardens. A door has been broken into the wall to connect the "Grey Library" directly with the Public Library. It is indeed the coolest and best ventilated room in the whole building, and there is plenty of space in it for the reception of a great number of books and manuscripts.

Further accessions to the collection of Manuscript Native Literature

Literature have not been received since the publication of Vol. III. - Part I. of the Descriptive Catalogue; - with the exception of some interesting and valuable remarks by Mr. Kröniker, on the Pronunciation of the Nama Hottentot Dialect, and a copy of Tindall's Vocabulary, interlineated by Mr. Kröniker, with the corresponding Nama words in his own orthography. The latter may be considered as a really important contribution.

The Catalogue of the S. A. Public Library has at last been published, and

and a copy of it, presented to you by Mr. Maskew, is enclosed in this parcel. The Library has just now purchased almost the whole collection of Botanical works, besides a great number of other valuable books, at the sale of Dr. Pappe's Library.

There were some curiosities in this Library, e.g. a copy of the "Pugna Porcorum per Publium Porcium poetam" in a volume of "Mugae," purchased by Fairbridge. A copy of the Catalogue of Dr. Pappe's Library is also enclosed hereby.

I enclose also six copies of Vol. III. - Part I. of "Sir G. Grey's Library"

Library" (of which I sent a copy to you per Book Post, at the time of its publication), and twelve copies of the "Preface", of which two hundred additional copies were separately struck off. Of the whole Part I. of Vol. III. only two hundred copies were struck off, of which half the number were at once purchased by me on account of Tri'bnar. Otherwise the Library pays the costs of printing.

I forward also some numbers of the "Mercantile Advertiser." The numbers of the "Advertiser and Mail" up to the end of last year were sent to you via Mauritius. Since

Since then, however, I have seen myself obliged to give up my subscription to this paper.

Among other items of intelligence, you will be sorry to hear of the sudden death through drowning of the eldest son of our former printer Pike, and the end of the "Monitor" newspaper, through the editor's (Cowan's) insolvency. He has, however, been made a Professor at the Paarl Gymnasium, after his misfortune.

Of the first part of the Bishop of Natal's book on the Pentateuch, one hundred copies were sold here within almost three days after arrival, and on the whole two hundred copies.

copies have ^{already} been disposed of in
this Colony, and fifty in Natal.
Generally every Mail brings me
a letter from him, and I naturally
value highly my correspondence
with one who so nobly is trying
for a difficult right, and to whom
all Englishmen of coming times
will gratefully look up as to one
who either will have achieved
the regeneration of their National
Church, or who by giving them
this chance, ^{will} have proved that
a regeneration of this stagnant
body is impossible. Whatever
may be the ultimate offshoot
of all these strivings, I do not
know

know; but that I know that
posterity and every one whose
opinion at this moment is worth
hearing, will highly prize and
admire all righteous efforts
to solve this difficult question.
But above this, my personal interest
in the Bishop of Natal as a
tried and valued friend, of whose
love and entire confidence I am
as sure as I trust and believe
that I deserve it, gives me
even a higher interest in the
proceedings than I otherwise
should take, not being brought
up originally as a member of that
body, for whose elevation and
redemption he is so hardy trying.
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On that account, his proceedings must be for you, of course, quite naturally of the deepest interest. I am sure he sent you a copy of his book immediately after its appearance. —

I need not say how anxiously we are here looking out for every item of intelligence from you.

Major Longmore, who just interrupted me, wished to be kindly remembered to you, and so would more than half Cape Town, if they knew, I was writing.

Believe me,

my dear friend,

yours most faithfully

W. H. J. Bleek

P.S. I enclose a letter from Trimen, who was rather ill a little while ago, but is now better. — I am much better and stronger this year than I was last year about this time.