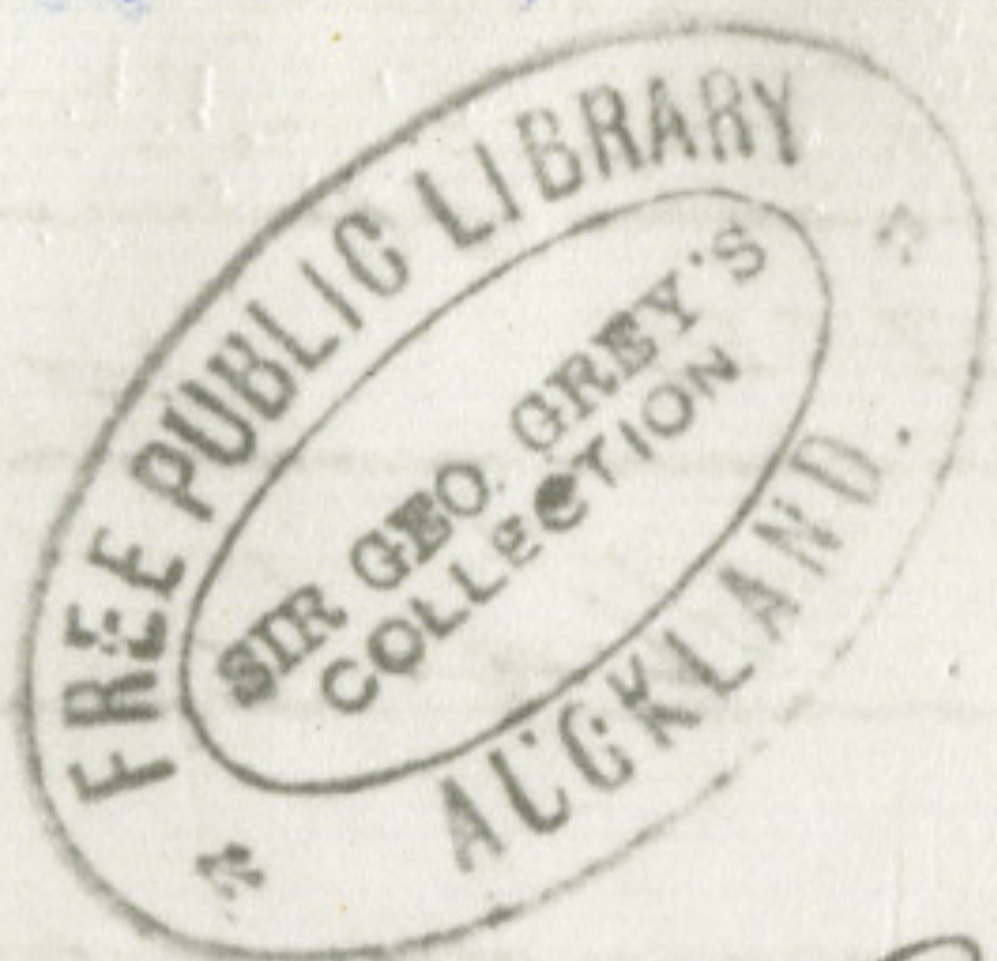


ABC 2, -19-a-17 BC 151 C10.8



Cape Town

20 July 1870

My Dear Sir George,

These last weeks you have been much in all our thoughts.

The naming of the Docks has called vividly to the minds of the Colonists, how much you have always cared for their prosperity.

The ceremony was a great success, although the inconstancy of the weather obliged them to put it off twice to another day. You will find a full description of it in a copy

several months. He is now going home for a few months, but hopes to be back here by Christmas, in order to go to the Diamond Fields.

I have given him a card for Professor Huxley.

The Khasi language (of Lower Assam) which I have been studying hard for some time, will probably afford the connecting link between the Sino-Tibetan languages and the Chinese, Siamese, Burmese, &c. - the so-called Monosyllabic languages. I trust to be

able to establish this. This would entirely change the usually prevailing classification of languages which assumes that Chinese is the most primitive form of language because it is monosyllabic, whilst on the contrary I believe (with Lepsius & a few other scholars) that this is merely an indication of tottering old age. If English had retained only Saxon words, it would be very nearly monosyllabic. As it is, it is

copy of the "Argus" which
 I send by this Mail. I
 also send a copy of the
 Bishop of Natal's charge.
 Next to the opening of
 our Docks the most
 important news from here
 is the great success of
 our Diamond fields. I
 have had long conversations
 with a professional geolo-
 gist who has just come
 thence, a Mr. Friebner.
 His opinion is that the
 whole of the ^{valley of the} Vaal River
 and probably also some
 parts of the Orange River,
 at least below the
 junction

junction with the Vaal,
 will be found to contain
 Diamonds. He expects that
 soon we shall double here
 the annual export of
 Diamonds from the Braggs.
 The (at present with cer-
 tainty established) diamond
 iferous ground is at least
 a hundred miles in length
 of which I believe the
 centre is the mission station
 "Onivel." Mr. Friebner does
 not think that the
 goldfields will pay, at
 least not, until the
 circumstances of the country
 have greatly changed.
 He was at the Saturday
 several

in a fair way towards
Chinese "primitive" (?)
simplicity. But it will
be more important to me
now to study Bushman,
for which I have now
an excellent opportunity,
as there are 28 Bushmen
at the Breakwater. —

There has been some delay
about my pension, — but
I trust to hear by next
Mail from Mr. George
Thompson, who has kindly
undertaken to arrange this
matter for me, that it
is all right. We are all
pretty well. I hope to hear
from

from Mr. Tammes by his
autopsy how you are.
Believe me,

my dear Mr. George,
yours very affectionately
W. H. J. Bleek