even as a mere acquaintance of mine, and you need not keep them longer at a distance than you like. – Now I must introduce my family to you. My mother Auguste Ch. M. H. Bleek geborne Sethe is 59 years of age. Her father held one of the very highest judicial offices in Prussia, was in the King's Privy Council, and died at the advanced age of 88 in 1855. Of his two sons, the younger one my uncle Julius (formerly Attorney General, now Railway Direct.) Sethe is living at Sanssouci near Potsdam, his wife aunt Adelheid (daughter of the great publisher Reimer) bore him several children of which two sons and four daughters are alive. The health of the eldest son (Reinwald) and the eldest daughter (Bertha) are very delicate. – My grandfather's eldest son (Collector of Customs for the Province of Pomerania) Christian Sethe died in 1857. His widow is living at Berlin, where also her eldest daughter is married (Helene Jakobi), whilst two others live also married, in the province (Hermine Häckel and Bertha Petersen). The youngest daughter Anna is engaged to her own and our right cousin Ernst Häckel, who is a distinguished Naturalist. There are also two sons of my late uncle Christian, my grandfather's eldest and youngest, daughters live both at Berlin, but separately. They

they were best provided for during their lifetime by my grandfather's will. The eldest (Gertrude Sethe) is not very amiable, but the youngest (Bertha Sethe) who is a great invalid is a most excellent, sensible and kind aunt, greatly beloved by all who know her. The second daughter of my grandfather Aunt Lotte is living with her husband Häckel (who is now 86 years of age) also at Berlin. She has two sons, the elder Karl Häckel married to his and our right cousin Hermine and the younger Ernst Häckel engaged to her sister. My mother the third daughter of grandfather is and the fourth is also married at Berlin Elise Naumann. She is a very queer, and unhappy person, and we are very sorry for her family. The eldest daughter died not long ago, the second is, I hear, very ill, and the husband, uncle Naumann, is dying. – Regarding our own family, you know I am the eldest, and will be 35 years of age probably, before even this letter is dispatched. My brother Philipp is only a year younger. He studied Medicine, went over to America, practised with success at Brooklyn (opposite New York), but broke down in health, went home in Jany. 1857 remained the summer in Germany, partly trying the

76 January.

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the effects of a bath; his life was then
despaired of; but as a last chance he
was sent to Buenos Ayres. My brother
Theodor accompanied him thither, and
remained some time with him, going
then home via United States. My
brother Philipp gradually recovering, accepted
for a time a doctorship on board a
South American Mail Steamer, and
went with her home in Summer 1859.
There we met for a fortnight, I having
come home with Sir George & Lady Grey
on board the "Celt" that year. But it
was found necessary to send my brother
back to Buenos Ayres before the winter,
and he has remained there since to the
benefit of his health, - prospering a
little, and having invested some
capital in sheep, which he lets out
"a moedes" that is half profits and
half increase. Since the beginning
of 1861 or end of 1860, he has been
joined by my sisters Auguste and
Maria, on account of the latter's health.
My sister Auguste Bleek, now 30 years
of age, is as you know engaged to
Heinrich von Post, a nephew of Bremen
gentleman farmer at Buenos Ayres.
Then

Capetown
23 February 1862

My own dear Jemmie

Yesterday I dispatched per monthly Mail
Steamer a letter to you in answer to your
sweet long one, which was of so vital impor-
tance to me. I have written at once to day
to my dear mother, and without betraying
any secret of yours, merely told her that
you were my dearest friend, and if ever I should
be able to have a wife, and you would have
one, I should be the happiest of men, that further
I wished you both to know each other, which
was also your wish, which would be at all events
if nothing nearer, my dearest Hermann's sister,
and that I wished her to give you an invitation
I under, however, not to embarrass you, she
should keep my secret to Truly even from
my sisters, merely telling them that you
had written to her asking whether she could
take you in for a time. I told you, they
occasionally had English boarders, as you
had received her address from me when at
Capetown. So in the first instance and to
the public in general you will appear as a
mere acquaintance of mine having you
entirely at liberty to tell any one of my
family as much as you like of our intimacy.
I hope you will not blame for this disguise
which I put on you, but which I thought would
be the least embarrassing way of introduction
among my friends for you, particularly
as to the eventual issue of the whole I am still
so much in the dark. Of course you will have
to behave accordingly, but you may be quite
sure of being received by them with all love,
even

You will not find any such sentiment, I hope, among those members of my family who are still at home, though I regret to say that my father ~~taught~~ had them taught by clergymen of by far narrower views than he himself held. — Only my brother Hermann who was just ripe for the University in autumn 1860 when I last left Bonn, occasionally assumed ~~ego~~ similar airs, which if they were not so sad,x) would have been amusing. He is now studying theology at Berlin. My youngest sister Anna who is with my mother at Bonn will be 19 years of age in April. She used to be my pet, and is of course her mother's, who scarcely can be prevailed to let her be absent for a short visit. There are several young girls (I suppose from 16 to 20 years of age) staying with my mother as boarders; but as I do not know them at all, I cannot introduce you to them. — my dear father who died in February 1859, was a native of Holstein,

x) Has destroying every degree of sympathy in these matters)

Of course the Vato! I cannot well remite it!

where still one of his brothers is living as physician. A fat jolly old fellow with a shrewd wife, and no children. We have very little intercourse with them. They are well off, but I believe rather selfish. He is, however, very good natured. — Also a cousin of ours, the only one who has the name Bleek (or as he and my uncle spell it, and as it was originally written "Bleeck." My father omitted the c.) is in Holstein a Rand. Dat der Theologie, and a poet. His name is Konrad. — Whether, if at Bonn you will see any of these latter, or of our Berlin friends, is doubtful, though the wider circle of our relations and friends is so large that there are constant visitors during summer. On that account we frequently see then very little of our Bonn friends, because every one has his visitors from abroad with whom they make excursions &c. But you will certainly see the widow of our national poet, E. M. Arndt, who died 1860 in his 91st year of age. Old Professor (or Geheimrath) Brandis, a very good old man, friend of Bunsen &c. is well worth knowing; he knows more about ancient Greek philosophy than any one else perhaps; perhaps you may see something of the Bunsen family

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family; I know only well George von Bunsen, but very little of his wife, a Miss Barbeck. Another brother Ernest who is attached to the Embassy at London, and three at Abbey Lodge, Park Road, Regent's Park has a most charming wife, a Gurney, who used to be a great friend of mine; but of course her religious views are almost Puseyite. I have written to my dear mother that she must not make any stranger of you, or put herself, on your account in any way out of her way, that you would be satisfied with a small room, or even if she had none to spare, with a bed. For, it may occasionally happen that the house, though it is spacious, may be full with visitors, and knowing that you did not mind it roughing it a little (as you have unhappily to well learn) I thought by such a hint to dispel any shyness on your part. Therefore, do not be astonished if they do not treat you with becoming ceremony. But you will say again that I am laughing at you, oh! please you must not mind that. I hope you will get so accustomed to it that you will miss it, if I should cease to do it. But you know you never had an elder brother to give you your rightfully allotted share of teasing, and, therefore, you are all the more attractive virgin game for any one. And you know I am

Then comes my brother Theodor who has studied law and passed two examinations, so that he is now Referendarius at Berlin. He will soon pass his third and last examination, and then be made a judge. He was a seven months child, and is not very strong. After him comes Johannes, Candidat der Theologie at Bonn, who has published some of my father's posthumous works, and is assisting also in the publication of Bunsen's Bible work. Our sister Hedwig is at Bonn, 26 years of age; she is stout, strong looking, almost robust, with weak nerves. They say, she is greatly distressed about an intimate friend of hers' broken off match. My sister Maria was on account of her delicate health, together with me at Bonn in winter 1859/60 accompanied by Augusta, and went then in September 1861 with the same to Buenos Ayres, where she is still. She is very clever and attractive, but rather headstrong, and difficult for me to manage, perhaps because I was her brother, and because she, thinking me a very bad Christian, or none at all, thought it right to think herself much above me.

You

earlier in England than the Mails — Now
today on the 15th March we are indeed by
expectation of the English Mail Steamer.
The Albatross arrived this morning,
and brought me a few letter from Lucy.
I could feel how puzzled she was at my
apparent neglect, but by this time she
has I trust my letter. The Bishop of Natal
didnot write, probably supposing that
I had neglected him. yet he send a bound
his newly published Zulu-English
Dictionary, a work of 560 pages. Also
from Mr. Shepstone I had an official
letter, announcing to me the intention
of the Natal Government to put £50
on the Estimates for copies of my Com-
parative Grammar. — I immediately
increased the edition on that account from
~~500 to~~ 500 copies to 600. If I sell them
all, I may make a nice little sum. The
Cape of Good Hope Government has as yet only
subscribed for the first part; but if they con-
tinue to take it, ~~that will cover~~ subscriptions
will cover the costs of printing. So what
may be over, will mostly be profits. —
I have here had some countrymen, officers
of the Russian man of war transport "Elbe".
I went on board of her to see the numerous
curious animals, which she takes home from
Japan, Siam, Java &c; and I managed also
to procure for them exchanges here from
the Botanical Gardens, the Museum and
the Colonial Office. — Among them was one son
of Count Oriola, the companion of Prince
Waldemar on his travels in the East Indies
and Brazils. This father, now a General in the

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an inveterate teazer; and if I were not so goodnatured with me, I suppose there would be no bearing me. – I told my mother to write you in German, as I believe you can easily decipher a short letter in that language. She does not know English, at least she cannot speak it, though she may just be able to make a short note out, or understand a commonplace conversation. But if you can manage, you better try and write her an answer a few lines either in German or in English, for as this correspondence is to be kept secret from my sisters, she cannot call in their help, if she should not be able to make some English phrase out. But if it is too difficult for you, then never mind, write as plain English as possible! – My mother's address can be seen from the enclosed letter, dont you ~~can~~ quite as well write Mrs. Bleek, instead of the cumbrous German title, which sounds so ridiculous to English ears. – 3 March. Nothing new. Letters overland from Natal say that the Early Morn arrived there. So the Bishop will probably soon be off, perhaps before my letter could reach him. – I send this by the "Lady Jocelyn" going to morrow, in hopes that as it is 14 days before Mail time, it may reach you earlier. I enclose the letter to my family, and give you hereby the choice of sending it or not. It contains nothing but what refers to you, at least nothing of importance. It is not necessary that you should enclose anything; but if you should think it desirable, you can put it into the green inside letter which is for my mother alone. Do seal the latter at all events. You may read the letter if you like and can, of course. – But I must close.

Believe me, dearest love,

yours most affectionately

W. H. I. Bleek

I did not send this letter as I had intended by "Lady Jocelyn", hearing that as a slow sailer she would offer little chance of being earlier

X Also you find after Tuesday!

whether and when a union de facto is possible. But I perfectly approve that you told Dr. Russell, and would have suggested it, if I had been so sure (as you of course) were that he possessed your entire confidence, not only in medical matters. But I did not like to advise what possibly might have not appeared the natural thing to you. I shall be much interested to hear regarding your meeting with Mawide; and whether you have succeeded in coming across any of my other friends. — Your letter has set me thoroughly at rest regarding my scruples of the rightness of telling you my love, — as you say, if even an entire union should become impracticable, it is mutual joy, mutual strengthening of confidence and reliance upon each other and thereby upon one self, which binding other indescribable benefits has been the result of this step. The book "A life for a life" is in our Library but just out, — I shall read it, as soon as it comes in, and give you my candid opinion, hoping that in return you will give me yours as you conceived it before you had mine, and perhaps say also what you have to answer to mine. I am afraid that your opinion would rather have had some weight, for me, considering how many I believe — Now as I am considered by many to be — I so dearly love you for telling me so every thought and feeling of your heart, and making me understand the effect of my behaviour to you. I have given you the key to this already, but I am very thankful to you for letting me know in what manner even I caused you dearest pain, and it makes me reflect and think whether my behaviour is not in many ways sometimes liable to cause pain just to those upon I love, and may I not sometimes have unintentionally done so. I am afraid I am frequently too unguarded, and say meaningless things, not insincerely, — but merely as immediate outpourings of my heart, and without reflection of the effect which they may have upon others. This is simply a German habit, and comes to us with one of our virtues, I mean openness and sincerity, it may become a fault. But I think the English are to apt to imply hidden meanings and look for them in other person's simple words. But I know now you and I will understand each other, and learn daily better to understand each other and I so love your dear openness and sincerity which I think one of the greatest ornaments of man, or woman; and I almost made me love any person if I knew it was perfectly impossible for her to say an untruth, but alas how few I have met of whom this entirely could be said, and hardly as I have striven I have never attained this perfect truthfulness myself. I remember my sister Mary giving me a great lesson at Pau, when after a visit to had gone to whom I had politely dismissed expressing my gladness to see him again, I afterwards confessed that I cared not much about him. Of course I had no business for mere compliment's sake to say anything I did not mean. Yet dear Mary though very particular about such little ways, could not bear to search into the truth and reality of the foundations of her creed, and would simply ample sophisms and cry down, if one simply tried to establish any real great truth. She was truthful in little things, but not so consistent in the great

great questions of life and death. I am very much pleased with you dearest indeed in reading again over your sweet letter that you tell me about your very first impressions and also what you heard of me. It is right and proper that you did mention even a Cape town rumour, and I am sure you will in any case you may hear anything similar, I mean anything of whatever kind concerning me, tell it me as openly and hear what it really was. The facts which were related to you (be it by the Misses Roeder or by other persons) happen to be untrue, though of course they are based upon some things which really took place. I can hardly tell you all in a letter, but I must tell you the main facts. It is true that at the end of 1858 and the beginning of 1859 I paid some attentions to a young lady whose name may have been mentioned to you, - that is I met them in the Public Gardens, accompanied them (for always her mother, and frequently also a sister were with her) in their walks, and visited them occasionally at their house, &c. That this was done intentionally I can not say; for, the connection was greatly desired by some friends of mine who had at that time a prominent influence over me; for, at that time, before my illness I was not by far so independent and self reliant as since then my very weakness seems to have rendered me. Of course Cape gossip immediately seized this, and I was from all sides congratulated; but in reality this acquaintance had no serious consequences for anyone, and I may safely say that none of our hearts were in any way touched. In fact, notwithstanding numerous such rather

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the Prussian army, was often in our house when standing at Bonn with his regiment. I had not seen so much of the Officers as I should have wished; but on the one hand they were of course very much engaged, and on the other hand I was not quite well at the beginning of their stay, and the weather was much against me. But now they are to leave to morrow, but at least one other Prussian vessel is expected to call here in a few days' time. They say that there are some interesting scholars on board, one of whom I have met before at London in 1854. - 17 March Yesterday afternoon your dear long letter of February came into my hands, and delighted me the whole evening by reading out your affectionate words, and the candid outpourings of your faithful heart. Have thanks for them, though I ought rather to scold for you so long awaiting till your bark takes you more sharply than ever before. That was really thoroughly naughty, I cannot help saying; though I do not know how to say how really sweet it is that you make yourself so entirely one with me. - But before trying to answer some things in it, let me say that I think it now best to send that letter to my mother direct to her, as at all events I must now tell her, and so glad I am to be able to do it, and have your consent for it. I even am debating whether any concealment is further desirable, if not (as you do not yet mean tell your family, and I besides hate to have the matter gossiped at Bonn, before we even know whether

certain had been coming over me gradually for months previously, the symptoms of which had only been neglected by the carelessness of the Cape Doctors. It may of course be that this affair added a little to the over excitement, which at that time may sadly have increased the ~~inroads~~ strength of the inroads of the illness. But there were so many other causes for this over excitement which I may some day mention to you, and the illness was to a very great extent brought out at last by physical over exertion at a time when I was not fit for it, that it would be not exactly correct to say that my illness had any direct connection with this affair. I have told you here candidly and openly its main features; and this was indeed not more than ~~is~~ rightly due to our mutual relation, and the oneness which ought now to exist between us, and if I really had had any particular feeling exceeding that of simple friendliness (friendship would be far too assuming a word on this occasion for me), I should candidly confess it. And I may here as well say that though I never was actually in love before, yet that for two persons before I have felt a feeling of very particular regard, which perhaps under favorable circumstances might have been changed onto a deeper feeling. Once more than a dozen years ago, when I was scarcely of age, towards a first cousin with whom I was constantly thrown together. But then at the time I always considered that, besides my youth, our too close relationship would forbid anything further. So I merely liked her as I would a particularly beloved sister. She is now married these ten years, and I do not think that any one except one of my aunts with whom she had always been a particular favorite, had any idea of this my particular liking. The other time was at the Cape, but I never ~~knew~~ had the opportunity of knowing so much of the lady that I would be sure that ~~any~~ the attraction which she had for me, would deepen or even continue on more intimate acquaintance; and although ~~the~~ ~~other~~ ~~on the~~ ~~other~~ ~~this~~ ~~on this~~ connection might have been a very desirable one, yet the knowledge that she was brought up in very narrow low Church views, and that I either should have always remained at a great distance from her on the most important points, or have risked the harmony of her mind by the trials for us, setting her religious belief, made me perhaps hesitate in adopting such plans which would have allowed me to be thrown more together with her. She had gone to England before ~~she~~ I returned to the Cape after my illness, and is not likely to come ever back to it. I do not like to mention names in a letter, otherwise I should give you here at once fuller particulars. So you see you did not pain me by referring to what you have heard; and perhaps I may be thankful that you did hear it then, and on that account (I ~~may~~ can though it was a false one) allowed yourself such an unrestricted intercourse with me, for whom it was greater happiness than I can say. And now you could not do a righter thing than tell me all this as you do, and it makes me so glad and ~~proud~~ to learn you inwardly thought and see you put away all false shame and unnecessary prudery which might have prevented me from understanding you entirely. I know indeed that we do not want constant

constant assurances of our mutual love (being too sure of it), though the expression of it will be always dear to each; but we want to be really one, and for this purpose it is necessary ~~that~~ each of us to read those changes of thought and feelings which have gradually brought forth the present state of our minds, and so I likewise shall not fail to tell you where I think you are wrong, knowing that you will expect me to do so and expecting you to do the same to me; for, it would be almost a being neglectful of one's self if not in a loving manner and in such a way as would really tend to the amendment of the other, we were not to try to correct each other. – Neither shall I feel shy by any fear of English prejudices, or to tell you all which in our relation towards each other I think right and natural to tell you, and I think my previous letters already show you that I have done so to some extent, though what English or what German people might ~~certainly~~ in general do in this relation in which we stand to each other, is more than I can say, never having experienced it before. But I do what I think right and good and necessary, and of course am sure that you will believe it done for that purpose. But your loving confidence and particular permission to return it makes me feel perhaps somewhat easier in doing this than I otherwise might have been. Your explanation of my expression of irrational love is quite right, I mean it is not against reason but more than reason could be found for, and though it is certainly based upon respect and would without it, though not entirely lost, yet lose all which would make it in any way joyful and gladdening to the loving heart. One could not hate, though one might learn to despise

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rather public meetings. I knew as yet very little of the young lady, when in April 59 they left for England. Yet after all the attention I had paid her, I thought of the possibility of having in some way engaged her affection and (though from all I observed I thought it unlikely) felt somewhat in honor to myself and her bound ~~not~~ not to offer her my hand, for that I felt I could not at the time knowing her so too sufficiently, ~~and to do~~ not being then able to bestow my heart with it, but to ~~really~~ some thing which would make it ~~[illegible]~~ for her to express ~~to her~~ a wish of the continuance of our intercourse, if she should have particularly desired to do so. Her answer to this perfectly showed me that my fear was unfounded, for I may say almost fear, as if she had expressed some such wish, I should probably have not been clothes at liberty, according to my then ideas to recede. – I think now and perhaps I even then in some way thought not very highly of my then proceedings, but if you knew of what terrible year 1859, how every sort of engine which a wily and crafty mind could invent was set to work to make me do certain things or, how my dearest affections and the cares for my family then just bereft of our dear father, were made subservient to such purposes, – you would not condemn so strongly, what I do not wish to justify entirely – though I must say that I in no way did anything dishonorable or what I could not boldly defend before the general public. – However, to come to the point it was no disappointment at all when my acquaintance was interrupted by the young ladies departure with her family to England where they still are and when I knew that I was entirely free, this therefore could not have brought on the illness, which attacked me in the winter of that year, but which, I feel certain

found no time for any account of it; but in rereading your letter I find that you must have forgotten to put in the 10th sheet, which I had not remarked at first, as though the difference of writing between the eleventh and the end of the ninth had rather puzzled me, ~~yet~~ and I had thought the transition rather sudden, yet it could though constrainedly be made to hinge together. Never mind! Perhaps next letter brings me the missing sheet, if I am right, and you have not perhaps only jumped over one number in counting and lettering the sheets. — I am so glad of your promised photograph; I shall try to get one of myself before the next mail. I have none — likenesses of myself at all, and as you have a pencil sketch (done by you, or Mrs. F.?), you are better off than I. You have no idea what a immense happiness and great comfort in my loneliness it is to know myself beloved by you, with such a love as your ~~letter~~ make me sure you feel for me; — and yet the longing to have you with me entirely and soon is so strong, that I can hardly restrain my wish to have you at once with me; the more so as I feel daily how inscure things are, and how little we can be sure of having each other for a long time. — You will be glad to hear that my sister Augusta's wedding has probably taken place before this letter reaches you. It had been decided that they were not to reside in the Banda Oriental (i.e. opposite Buenos Ayres, across the La Plata River) where he had first intended to buy a farm, but in the state of Buenos Ayres itself, at some distance from the town, yet not too far as not to allow my sister sometimes to visit (on horseback I suppose) her friends in town. The latter is very large, about more than 100,000 inhabitants. My sister Mary however, and my brother Philipp were to remain in the Banda Oriental, where they have many friends, and where my brother Agg got a little practice as doctor. I had a long letter by last Mail from Mary, with a few lines from Augusta. I hope she will be happy, and from all I have heard of her chosen husband, it is very probable, yet one cannot help thinking it strange to have such a new relation, whom one does not know at all. It is ~~[illegible]~~ much worse than your sister Lou must feel about me, as she must know me somewhat through your letters, and a little even through mine; and the Cape is not so far from Natal that there is not a reasonable chance of soon becoming personally acquainted even with each other's outward appearance. Yet it makes me desirous that this should soon take place. I do not, however, see any chance of such a thing being right for me to do. My absence from here might have most serious consequences. I wish I could transport the dear girls by some magic here to Capetown, and make them receive you here in a new permanent home. I need not repeat here, how necessary it is for me to

* Sister of Buenos Ayres, at the Sambourne river.

to know all about your past (as far at least as it refers to the relations in which I as one of you must stand to your father and his family). You can imagine that I am necessarily reluctant to make enquiries from strangers, besides having no confidences in such reports which would probably be as far from the truth as what you heard regarding me at the Cape; and not knowing exactly the circumstances I might imagine them worse and be perhaps unjust. Among I am too well aware of my own imperfections to be very hard upon those of others, though I may greatly lament the evil consequences resulting thence. Tell me without any shyness this — but only when you feel quite strong and able for the task. Otherwise I can well wait for it. I guess from your account that your dear eldest sister's fortune was lost in that way; and that your other sister's and your own is on that account tied up. I feel very reluctant to speak about the matter, and to make you speak about it; but it is unavoidable, if I am not to stand in a most awkward position regarding all this. I once wrote to the Bishop of Natal, inquiring whether he had altered his opinion regarding your father, and he answered that he had not changed his opinion of his conduct. He says that though worse than worthless as a Clergyman, he is kind and sociable as a man, and he has the manners of a gentleman. — I did not mention my reasons for

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a person whom one had cared for, and whom one sees utterly undeserving of it. But you have so fully and well spoken my own mind on this subject that I shall not further refer to it. Of course, I have written again to dear Loui this time, and told her I thought all doubt was at an end regarding the relationship in which we were to stand to each other. I have left it to her discretion, whether to tell Fanny and Julia; but told her I thought it better to have kept it a secret in Natal, and here at the Cape, particularly as we count here scarcely any real friends. Yet I have told the Bishop of Natal at least that we were great friends and might be something more, and begged him to keep it entirely to himself though he might speak to Loui about it. I hope the letter still reaches him in Natal; otherwise it will be sent back to me. — Did Dr. Russell lend you his History and Heroes of Medicine, which I found Edward used. I am very glad you were to meet Maurice and still gladder that you overcome your shyness and made up your mind to claim my friends as yours, and not to conceal from them the position in which we stand to each other. The only thing is that I hope it will not through them reach my Bonn friends, at least not before this letter arrives and has told my mother, though I know even otherwise she would trust and confide in me. But I believe at that season there is little intercourse between Bonn and London; and I am sure, I am too insignificant a person for the folks in London to speak about my affairs more than necessary. — I should so have liked to have heard a little of that evening at Dr. Russell's with Mr. Maurice, and as the letter was only sent after it, I thought you would form

your shyness and gladly be the first to say a few words of welcome. And before everything, and anything and not withstanding all I should like to know, please, dear love, do not on any account write a word more at any time than is absolutely good for you. Make it a rule always to lay down the pen, whenever you feel it might in the least hurt you. Our trust in each other is too great as that any misunderstanding could arise from this, and do not be afraid of anyone else now, if even they should misunderstand your not writing, — as none who really are quite and true friends will do. Never write more at any time than an hour continuously, and never at any day more than a couple of hours altogether. This I entreat, you by the love which we bear to each other. — I have also told my sisters and mother in Buenos Ayres; and these, whom I have mentioned are the only people who know it from my side. — I send you a newspaper for you and Mrs. Fisher. There is a short article in it regarding me. — I saw to day Mr. Windham, the Greytown Magistrate who is going home with wife & baby. My own affairs here have not yet mended. The only thing is that the Trustees of the Grey Library have proposed that for the custody of this Collection £200 should be thrown out. This will of course depend on Parliament, which I think the chances are favorable; and then the appointment is as much as promised to me. In the meantime my Comparative Grammar is slowly going through the Press. The number of subscribers is as yet not greater than 44, besides what the Governments of this Colony and Natal have ordered, viz. the latter 500 copies provided their Parliament agrees to throw out £50 for the purpose. The Cape Gov. has as yet subscribed for the first part only; but their subscription covers entirely the costs of this part, so I hope to get a little bit of money by that and that is rather wanted. My health is at present as well as I can perhaps expect under the circumstances; but I feel so very lonely, and thoroughly want you out with me here. But let that not spoil the pleasure of your stay in Europe. — How far does Mrs. Fisher know the matter? — I saw the Glovers yesterday. He wishes to learn some Kafir from me, he and Squibb together. I have no objection to make my little knowledge useful

useful. She looks rather worn, he seems a thoroughly good natured person. — Capt. Jamison's leg (I think I told you it was rather dangerously hurt) is doing better, though slowly. She has presented to the South African Public Library a present of £100. — She is sometimes liberal, though not living at all as a lady could who has from 5000 to 6000 £ per annum. — I send you a number of the Cape Monthly Mag. in which the article on Sir G. Grey's Library is from me, — not that I think it will much interest you, but perhaps my friends at home may like to see it, when you come to visit them. You know "Bonn on the Rhine, Germany" is their address.

But I must conclude this long rambling letter, with much love

Yours very affectionately

W. H. I. Bleek

BC151 CL11

for my question. Yet in a Postscript to that letter he says that "the young ladies, daughters by his first marriage, are in no way whatever to be credited with him. Their conduct has been most exemplary under very painful circumstances. His has been brutally selfish towards them." Pardon my writing this, but I wanted to tell you how much or how little I knew, and save you unnecessary words. Please do not give me too many reasons. I hope to be able to enter into it in the right spirit, and a short statement of the facts would be the best thing, as I want them and I must try not to exhaust your strength. Otherwise I should like nothing better than to have everything fully explained in its bearings by you, but give me all the real facts as far as they affect me, at least, as they affect in any way my opinion.

21 March. — I have finished all my other letters and can spare a few moments still for this, to tell you first that I have written to my mother that I should leave entirely to her discretion, whether she was to tell at once my sisters and brothers. Yet I wished her not to make our engagement (for so I may now happily regard it) public at least not without your concurrence. If you like particularly and think it right or good, of course you may write her a few lines yourself, but you must do or leave that just as you think best for yourself. It will not make any difference in my mother's feeling, who naturally will understand your