step; and I have for some time anxiously weighed it within me. You know that, having been told in your former letters that Dr. B. would not allow you to leave England before October, I acquiesced in that as a necessity. Yet all what you tell me, lets this appear in so quite a different light that I cannot but entirely concur with the opinion at which you two have arrived. The only thing what makes me hesitate is the still not fully decided position of my own affairs. Yet as in that regard, I have already previously allowed that, however, this might be, our union should take place, — I do not think that this will have stopped you, and it may, therefore, well be that when this letter arrives, you are already on your way out. And if you are not, I do not think it advisable to make you stay longer in England now, on account of the chance that I may possibly not get this appointment, a risk which is indeed, I believe at present very slight. Yet, I think it wise that you ought not to leave as yet, except you find a really good large sailing vessel, ~~not a~~ such as Greens &c, which go so rarely indeed that you might sometimes wait for months till one may sail, and it would therefore, not be justifiable for you to let one pass. You will indeed find that there are so few that you must make the time of your departure probably quite depend from such a chance. I will not say anything here of the reasons which render it so desirable for you to be as soon as possible in a home of your own, entirely conserving as I do with you. I believe the causes on account of which Dr. B. thinks too early a marriage inadvisable, may be quite removed by our own determination in that regard; but to go quite sure in that regard, I have this Mail written to Dr. B. and asked him to tell me plainly in what manner I can best take care of you. You will understand that he may be able to tell me directly with more distinctness what I on my own part ought and ought not to do, than he could indirectly through you, doubting. The responsibility which by our marriage will fall upon me regarding your health, and our two's happiness, is so enormous, and the consequences of any wrong behaviour might be so terrible, that I could not hesitate to do a right thing, though it might

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Capetown, 20 July 1862

My darling,

Your sweet letter from Boyne Hill arrived a few days ago, and I have till yesterday been busy in writing to dear Louie as full an account, as I could, with which I sent sheets 3, 5 & 6, 9 & 10 of your letter. I wrote to your father a short letter, in which I asked for your hand, and begged him to give his consent to our contemplated union. I have tried to do on my part what I could to try to make it easy for him; I have, however, given Louie discretion to send or not to send my letter with yours, but to send yours at all events, and in case she should decide not to send mine to tell him that I intended by next Mail when I hoped definitely to know regarding my appointment, to write to him, and ask formally for your hand.

Regarding this my appointment I will tell you here at once that the greatest danger is past. The grant has been unanimously voted by the House of Assembly, and is not at all likely to be opposed by the Council. Therefore, though not yet perfectly, yet it is almost certain. – Regarding your coming out my darling Jemmie, I feel indeed with you all the risk and responsibility of the step

to uninitiated ones appear indelicate. Truly I trust however that it is not so, nor will be thought so either by Dr. R. or you, and I believe I have fully acted in your own spirit. – Should however, no large comfortable vessel sail before the arrival of the next Mail (I mean in the course of September), then we consider that as an indication that it will be better for you to stay till you hear again from me, – which will be more advisable on that account as then you may, I hope, be able to have more decidedly the full approval of your relatives, on consideration of the appointment which I trust to have received before the next Mail sails. Yet, let this not influence you so as to let a really good ship pass. Only in case you should have to decide between two ships, one sailing before and one after that time, I think it almost wiser that you should wait for the latter; but of course from this distance I would be wrong in wishing you to abide by my own decision, as at such a distance of time and space, things may be quite differently. Therefore, you ought to be perfectly at liberty even to choose such an earlier ship, and I know you will act quite in the spirit of my intentions, if you just

Regarding my dear Louis's coming to Cape Town, I have greatly urged her in my last letter (sent yesterday) to come to receive you, and help me to prepare everything ready for receiving you. I hope to prevail, if she rightly in any way can come. I have also written to Julia, with whom I do not why, I seem to feel some particular congeniality at least in some respects, perhaps particularly because you told me she was outwardly so like you, and asked her to be for the next months as wise and prudent a woman as possible, so as to give Louie full confidence and trust in leaving her in charge of Fanny and the house, in case she cannot send both for the time to visit friends. I believe I have written in such a manner as not in the least to offend, but rather to please Julia. Of course I told Louie in general terms what I have written you above, as far as it concerns her. — One thing I am just thinking of which if you can easily get there you ought to bring out from England, such as shades, red blinding couches or sofas, as will be best suited for the restoration of your health. Such things are not easily to be got in such a way as you should wish to have them at the Cape. Of course partly they may be even useful to you on the voyage. — Secondly, If you said, try to direct particularly towards the end of the voyage your attention quite to other things, and try on my account to enjoy the voyage as much as possible. I think that all is right, do not fear, I have the best hope. But should you not succeed in this, do not make yourself wretched by feeling more unhappy and discontented with yourself on that account. — I must still say one other thing of importance. In my last letter I mentioned that, according to dearest Louie's wish, I thought it best that before our marriage you should come more up to Natal &c. — As I see circumstances now, I can not all advise this, and must on the contrary hold it most unadvisable for you to be exposed to two voyages in the Wilderness and the unavoidable excitement of personal business taking &c &c. Louie's last letter — does quite concedes this point, and I think, if she comes herself, you can so much more here enjoy each other than even in Natal. Of course, if circumstances were

Dear

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different, I would certainly think of
wishing that I could fetch you there.
I should have much wished all your sisters
could ~~have~~ come down to the wedding, &c,
but that is, I am afraid, out of the question.
I have sent 3 copies of my book (First Part
of Comparative Grammar) to Lucy, one for her,
one for father, & one for Mr Sanderson, whom
I have sent a message through her. In
writing to Skystone I told him of our engage-
ment, asking him to keep it close till he heard
it from others, at least for some little while.
I send by his copies to Uncles Marmaduke,
Henry & Thomas. I do not send you one now,
as I do not wish you to try your head
at present by puzzling it over these
rather hard readings. I wish you
much to follow the Doctor's advice and
purchase a good number of novels &c
to ~~keep~~ last you for the voyage. Do
not think that money thrown away.
But I must not say more about this. Time
presses. — I wish you not to send the
enclosed longer letter, written before
Mark's arrival, except you can do so
quite comfortably without exertion to
yourself. Please be considerate
darling, about all this. If does not
contain anything necessary, and
please do not exert yourself with
answering &c. — I have said in it some thing

just follow the inspirations of your
own heart, and if they still tell you that
it is better for you and for your health
to come earlier, — I need not say how
truly happy you will make me. Indeed
advising you in this manner as I
have done, I have purposedly kept back
that longing which I have to have you
really and actually with me. I know
I ought not let this influence me
in the least in arriving at a right decision,
as far as I ought to give one. — But to be
short. In case you go at once after
arrival of this or later, you must
by the love which you bear me, darling,
promise me here though I am not present
to hear it, so solemnly that you will in
no way exert yourself regarding
outfit, or anything else; we can after all
buy all what we want at Capetown, and
know than better what is really required
and what we can also afford. Whatever
I may have said regarding things desir-
able to be purchased &c. at home, leave
all that unregarded as if I had not said it.
Your health is of far greater importance
than any trifling saving or other benefit
which may be derived hereby. Some other
things we may afterwards get over
mother to bring for us, and may order
from here in England &c. — I will not say
more, trusting that you entirely enter into
the spirit of these my instructions.

I should think the encomiums heaped upon him, though his inner man is not sufficiently known to me. I had had dealings with him for years, he being my printer. — The thought, Mr. Field has been thought of also by me before. But we must talk all this over when you are here. Therefore do not tire yourself about ~~it any~~ answering it. I merely ~~mention~~ it, in order to enable you, in case you wished it to tell your uncles regarding this. Will you kindly ask them in our joint name to be so kind as to take still care of your fortune, till arrangements for its management in the hand of Cape trustees can be made. I do not know whether I shall find time to write to Uncle Marmaduke, — though if I can I will, so that he may know of the position of my affairs, even in case you should have sailed. My best respects to Robert, and all.

Good bye, my darling,
with all my love,
most affectionately
your W. H. D. Bleek

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thing about £10 from the Foreign Office which I wished you to reserve for me. I have altered my mind about that, as it may either embarrass you when you are so shortly to sail, or you cannot execute it at all, if really gone. Therefore, I have directed ~~my father~~ Mr. Morris to pay it directly to my mother. This answers also in so far our purposes very well, as we always will want her to keep a little money in hand for us. In fact I do not know whether I am at the present moment not a good deal in her debt; but I find it so difficult to make ~~her~~ tell this. She comes only my having left my share of our small fortune entirely in her hands, or more than equivalencing this; though I, of course, should like her to ~~consider~~ make that no consideration. But all this I must really talk over with you, in order to make you understand fully what I want to say, and how I mean it. —

One word about Trustees. Louis has written me very nicely about it, and seems particularly to like the Bishop & Mr. Justice Waterneyer. She proposes three new names to me, two of whom, however, as being engaged in business, would not appear recommendable to your Uncles "per se" at least. One, Mr. Kuhn, is besides not at the Cape; the other S. Solomon, of whom she must have heard. Through Sand errors, deserves hardly