BC151
BC151 C11.3

Capetown, 18 May 1867

Gentlemen,

In forwarding to you a copy of a little book (On the Origin of Language), printed for private circulation in Germany, I beg to state that it is my wish to see this book published simultaneously in England and Germany. It is on this account that I venture to ask you, Gentlemen, whether you will be inclined to undertake the publication of an English Edition on the following terms:

1. You will do me the favor to ascertain from Mr. Arthur Henry Bleek (whose address you will doubtless be able easily to ascertain, as he is the author of a Grammar of the Persian Language, and the translator from the German of Spiegel's version of the Zend Avesta), whether he is inclined to undertake this work, and if you can agree to his terms, you will then engage him at once for the translation. Should he either be unable to undertake this task, or his terms appear to you to be beyond what you could allow for the translation, you will oblige me by proposing to me some other person who seems to you competent for the work of such a translation, and is willing to undertake it. In that case, however, I must request you to wait for my

To
Messrs. Maimillan & Co

my approval, before you make any definite engagement; for it is just possible that, in case Mr. Bleek could not do it, I should prefer to get the translation done here.

2. The translation, before it is printed, is to be sent to me in manuscript for revision. (N.B. The transmission is easy, safe and cheap per Book post, registered)

3. According to the desire of the publishers I can then either get it printed here, or send the revised manuscript back, to be printed in England under the superintendence of the translator.

4. On account of the great difficulty of the translation, I do not stipulate for any profits from the first edition (of one thousand copies) of this work, but I should, of course, expect a certain share of the profits of any further editions.

5. I engage (in case this is thought desirable) that the German Edition shall not be published previously to the English one, provided of course that no unnecessary delay occurs in the translation and publication of the English Edition.

6. I need hardly add that I do not wish the copy or copies which I send you to be treated otherwise than as unpublished Manuscript.

Whenever you wish to communicate with me, please address

Dr. Bleek
Grey Library
Capetown

I have the honor to be
Gentlemen
very faithfully
W. H. I. Bleek

P.S. I had hoped to send you with the book also the Preface and the title page; but unfortunately the Preface is still in the Printer's hands. I shall send it you by next

next Mail. The title page, however, is quite complete in itself, and if circumstances should be favorable, might be put at once into the translator's hands.