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Library, Cape Town:
August 23rd, 1870.

Sir

The presence of twenty-eight Bushmen at the Breakwater affords a rare opportunity for obtaining a knowledge of their language. You are aware, Sir, of the importance of this subject, totally distinct as the language is from that of any other nation known in South Africa. Its affinities to other languages are as yet unknown, but its apparently primitive character promises to throw great light upon many important questions regarding the origin and development of speech, the natural clasification of languages, and other points of philology, — to say nothing of the question regarding the origin of these tribes, and all the other ethnological problems connected with it. It was for these reasons that some years ago when two Bushmen were at the Break-water, His Excellency the then Governor Sir Philip Wodehouse afforded me every facility for studying their language. The results were the collection of a good number of phrases and sentences, which yielded many words and some insight

insight into the grammatical structure of the language. Grateful as I was for the help thus afforded me, I knew that this was only the beginning of a task which is, of course, by no means an easy one, with such difficult sounds to master as those used by the Bushmen. Yet I have every hope of gaining a thorough insight into the character of the Bushman language, if I have sufficient access to at least one of them. This, I find, is only practicable when I can have him at my own dwelling-place. As I now possess ~~such~~ possibilities of keeping a Bushman under proper surveillance, ~~as~~ such as I have never had

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