BC 151 C11.8

Mowbray, near Cape Town
March 27th 1872

Mowbray, near Cape Town:
March 20th 1872

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to lay before your Excellency ~~my~~ the accompanying report concerning the progress of the inquiries into the Bushman language, in which your ~~Excellency~~ have always shewn so kind an interest. A combination of ~~circumstances~~ fortunate circumstances has enabled me to do more than I might previously have expected,

for

His Excellency
Sir Henry Barkly K. C. B.
Governor & H. M. High Commissioner
&c &c &c

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for the solution of a problem of the highest interest and importance ~~which~~ to the philologist ~~and~~ ~~the interest~~ importante and ethnologist ~~of a mystery~~. This could not, however, be done, without incurring at the same time a certain amount of expenditure beyond my own means. That in the first instance, before undertaking these studies, I did not ask for the necessary means to enable me to carry them on, was mainly owing to the fact that I could by no means foresee what this expenditure would be, and may ~~even at first~~ then hoped to be able to defray it myself. ~~But~~ Although

I

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Although I soon saw that this was impossible, I yet considered that if I did not avail myself of the favorable opportunity, I should be ~~and~~ ~~yet~~ thank, on account of the costs, from endeavouring ~~trying~~ to carry on these researches in a thoroughly satisfactory manner, an opportunity ~~which~~ would be lost which might never recur ~~again~~. But I did not even then, at once ~~at once~~ like ~~to~~ appeal for help aid, when what I might achieve was still ~~quite~~ problematical, and before I could report a certain amount of progress ~~in the work~~ and some definite results. I have the honor

recur

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to be

Your Excellency's humble

Prayer

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Prayer is that your Excellency may be pleased and the Colonial Parliament may see fit to grant to me in aid of these Native researches an adequate sum to defray my expenses, ~~say £100 per annum for this year as well as for the last.~~

I trust you, however, that your Excellency will not think me premature, if ~~on the strength of what I have~~ I still, in the midst of my labours, I try to unburden myself from

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Now my humble prayer
but Your Excellency
may will be pleased to ~~allow~~
~~me out of the funds at~~
~~your disposal a sum~~
~~sufficient~~ to defray
the expenses incurred
by me during the
last year, and such as
I shall have to incur in
the continuance of these
~~researches~~ during the
present year, estimated
at the same amount, Trusting
that your Excellency will
see reason
take this my prayer into
favourable
~~your~~ consideration,
I have the honour to be
Sir
your Excellency's
humble obedient servant
W. H. Dobson

recommend to the Legislature the vote of a sum sufficient

(amounting to about £100)

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