BC 151 C15.27

University Library Cape Town

(unsent letter to Mr. C. Capen)

Charlton House,
Mowbray, Nr. Capetown:
2 June 1882

My dear Sir,

Thank you very much for your kind, and interesting letter, of May 11th. Knowing, by experience, how impossible it is to induce Members of Parliament to come out and see us at Mowbray, (or even reply to a letter,) while the Lepsius casts, I thankfully accepted a kind offer made by Mr. R. Tennen, Curator of the S.A. Museum at Cape Town, (and residing there, too,) to try and see your Brother, Mr. F. Capen, for me, himself. This, after

Charles S. Capen, Esq.

kindly to communicate with me again, when the definite information which you were expecting from Mr. (when you write to my) Stow, has reached your hands. (I shall be very thankful to you for so doing.) Did he from New leave any written instructions? and do you know to whom any spoken one (to which you seem to refer) were intrusted? (to obtain exact information) I feel naturally very anxious upon all these points, and also to learn who his executors may be (when appointed, if no will is ultimately found); particularly on account of that portion of his valuable collection of Copies of Bushman Paintings & Etchings which is still in our care, (still) here. I do hope that a will may be discovered. You can, I dare say, kindly tell me if he left any other children, by his former marriages

after some difficulty, he has at last succeeded in doing. Much as I should like to have the pleasure of becoming personally acquainted with Mr. F. Cafen, myself (your brother, Mr. J. M. Cafen is an old friend of ours), I do not like to venture to trouble him, by asking him just now to come out to Mowbray (which is 14 miles distant from Cape Town); and, therefore, fear that I am hardly likely to see him, at all, during this time of his being down here; as the Members generally seem to hurry away again, directly that the Session comes to an end.

We had seen, in the newspapers only, brief mention of Mr. Stow's death; with deep regret; & we have longed much to be able to obtain some particulars with regard to it as well as (with regard to) any arrangements (for the future) which might have been made by him, in the event of such an arrest of his work and life taking place (as has now occurred). I write, at once, to an acquaintance at Bloem Fontein, to ask any particulars which he could give us; but, weeks elapsed, and no answer reaching me to either letter or telegram, I write to Judge Buchanan, at Thinkeeley. Believing you to be a resident at Smithfield, I had not thought of asking if you could help me by any information, and your kind letter was some: what of a surprise, leading me almost to blame myself for not having thought of writing to you before, on this subject.

Should you have time

kindly

greatly longed for some time past for the day to come when we could also see the other half of his collection, which, he told me, some time ago in one of his own letters, ~~which~~ he has now doubled. I always hoped that he would be coming to Cape Town, with them, himself, as time went on, probably on his way to England, with a view to their inspection and publication there; and that he died, and left them without his superintending care ~~them~~ is indeed a most precious thing. As we have a very large quantity of Bushman material for publication (Native literature, information regarding the Bushmen, &c.) collected by the late Dr. Bleek & by myself), I should have been very glad (had Mr. Stow left no clear instructions on the subject) to be allowed to have charge of the pictures and drawings (either by loan or purchase) with the view to their ultimate publication, in a fitting manner, by the aid of learned societies (should no European Publisher be found willing to undertake, alone the risk of so costly a work).

The texts left by Mr. Stow, would, of course, some of them, that is, require the preparation of a competent man, for the press, and it may probably be judged advisable, by those with whom the decision rests, that the texts (MSS.) and pictures collected by Mr. Stow should not be separated. I do not know if we ever sent you a copy of Dr. Bleek's Second Report concerning Bushman Researches (published in 1875); if not, I must ask Mrs. Bleek to allow

BC 151 C15.27

(as I think you would care to see what is certain) allow me to forward one to you. During the almost 7 years wh. have passed since his death, I have gathered a very large quantity of additional material; a report upon which is now in preparation by me. I mention all this, so that you should understand something of the great practical value ~~and help~~ which ~~the sight and study~~ of Mr. Stow's pictures, have in our eyes ~~for us~~, (of the practical help which they in my work) and have afforded me.

Do you know what became of the MSS. wh. Mr. Stow (as I learned from his own letters to me) forwarded to Capt. Tom on his return to England? I have always looked (and looked in vain, hitherto) for some notice of its publication in England.

Trusting to hear again from you before long, I will bring my long letter to an end. I am, with kind regards, and many thanks, very truly yours

L. L. Lord

(besides the children of his present wife) marriage, or marriages (I think we heard that the present Mrs Stow is the third wife).

You must, indeed, feel deeply honored at Mr. Stow's wish (if such has been correctly reported to you) that the valuable material collected by him should be entrusted to your care. This would, indeed, be a sacred trust, and heavy responsibility (from one upon whom it devolved). I shall long to hear when exact particulars (with regard to all this) have reached you, if you are able kindly to let me know them.

The sight, and study of the copies of Bachman Paintings & Etchings in general lent, in 1875, by Mr. Stow, to the late Dr. Bleek, and as generously lent on to me (since Dr. Bleek's death by his widow), has been of very great service to me in my (upon which I have now been engaged for nearly eleven years) Bushman researches, and I have

greatly