

Bleek to Gray
Capetown, 4 February 1863

Draft of a letter.

My dear friend,

A direct opportunity offering for communication with New Zealand, I hasten to make amends for not having written to you for so long, It was not perhaps so much because every day we hoped to hear from you some news regarding yourself and your arrangements relative to your Library, - as because the first months of my married life forced me on account of my wife's delicate state of health and other peculiar circumstances which could not be foreseen, to devote my time much more to her, and try so much more to be all the help and comfort to her than under ordinary circumstances would have been the case. I am happy to say that she is now good deal better, though the very hot summer weather which we have lately had; has tried her very much. Our wedding took place on the 22nd November last year, in St George's Church, by Mr Glover. We went immediately home into a little house, with garden in front, in New Street, close to the Bride leading to "Grey's Pass"; and we have remained at home all the time since then, except a ten days' stay at Rathfelder's during the time of greatest heat last month.

My labors in the Library have, of course, also somewhat suffered during this period of change in my status. I have, however, been able to translate the whole of the Hottentot

Fables, and I am now expecting an answer from Trübner, to whom I offered them for publication.

One of the rooms, destined for the reception of your Library, having roughly been plastered, and to some extent fitted up, the Manuscripts and Printed Books already received have been transferred into this room, in which I am now writing. It is a room on the same floor with the Public Library and the Educational Museum, with two windows looking into the Government Garden, and one towards the Botanic Gardens. A door has been broken into the wall to connect the "Grey Library" directly with the Public Library. It is indeed the coolest and best ventilated room in the whole building, and there is plenty of space in it for the reception of a great number of books and manuscripts. Further accessions to the collection of Manuscripts Native Literature