

Dublin

20th Oct 19

My dearest Father.

Ke go koalela go goitse  
fa ke santse ke itekantse. Taka  
u bona ke sale mono Ireland.  
Ke santse ke mo Hospitaling as  
Resident Surgeon and Physician.

It is my intention to leave this  
place at the end of the year  
to go to Liverpool for three  
months namely January, February and  
March to take a diploma in  
Tropical Medicine and I should be  
much obliged if you will send me  
some money - about £60 or £80 before  
the end of the year for that  
purpose. I am anxious, Father that the  
money comes soon because if I miss this  
opportunity of taking Tropical Medicine  
I shall not have any other, the classes

being only from <sup>2</sup> January to March  
each year

I have no doubt you will be very much  
pleased to hear that I am writing a History of  
the Native People of South Africa. In fact the  
book is now in the press, and I expect it  
to be ready in a few weeks, and you  
may perhaps see it reviewed in the Mapeteng  
Mail. Of course you will ~~the~~ get the very  
first copy. Meantime I am sending you  
a specimen of one of the proof-sheets under  
separate cover.

Nobody in South Africa knows anything  
about it so far, but they will know soon  
enough, as I shall get my publishers to  
get it advertised in South African papers -  
Black and white - and even in Mapeteng.  
Of course, as you know, there must be  
some bitter criticisms, but all authors  
have to meet that.

Dumela thala Janang Rra - much love  
from

Your affectionate son

Madiri



Stume Street Hospital  
Dublin, Ireland

30th Nov 19

My dearest Father.

Ke pantze ke cogile sentle. Ke sholofela le uena le bana gore bo cogile. Please let me know how my grandfather, Choel is. Harriet and Sefetog wrote to say he was in poor health. I do hope my dear old man is better. I feel very uneasy about him and have been especially so since my dear mother died and again now when I hear he is not keeping well. You my dear father, have been very good. I am only beginning to properly realise, and be truly thankful to you for several things which you have done in the past, and which seemed to my young eyes to have no meaning. Today I am thinking how you very often sent us every holiday time to Motlhokaditse and to Kraaipan to see our maternal grandparents. It is now, when I cannot see them that I begin to realise the lesson. It is now, when I am trembling with fear that I may not see my dear grand father, that I wonder I did not appreciate your practice of sending us to see him years ago. Will you therefore write soon to me?

Ka pose ea gompieno, ke koeletse le Nane Rebecca. I am sorry I was not able to do so earlier, and hope that I have not hurt your feelings - for that would even hurt me more.

I sent you two sets of ~~proof~~ proof-sheets of my book. I hope you got



them and liked them. I expect the book to be published sometime in December, in about three weeks from now.

I am leaving Dublin on the 24th December for Glasgow and thence to Liverpool for my study of Tropical Medicine as I told you in my last letter. This of course depends chiefly on my getting money from home before the middle of January, for the classes in Liverpool begin then. I am also preparing myself for another examination here which holds the first place in medicine and surgery, and when I have finished with these two I shall be ready to think of dear South Africa.

I expect to meet Mr. Platze in Glasgow next month December.

Locece romela madi mangoe before the middle of January through the Standard Bank of S.A. to Students Union, the University, Glasgow, as before.

My love to all. Dumela thala Bra  
Kenna moroao  
Modiri

University Union  
Glasgow

27th April 1920

Rra oa Lorato  
Ke amogetse lokoalo la gago ka  
boitumelo jo bogolo. Le madi (Bank Draft 90  
£60) a u anthemetseng ka lone ke a amogetse  
sentle, me ke leboga thata Rra.

Ke utluile fa ure urata ketta  
gae mo gopeleng ga ngoaga omo. 'Me ke  
itumetse, ka lenna ke rata gotla gae  
janong. Ke ipakanya gore kette ke dire  
jaka u rata jalo Rra - ebile ke go thologe-  
beae thata. Lemororo ke itse fa janong u  
eopetse gake rate go utloa urialo, ebile  
keitse fa le uena usa rate go rialo. Ke  
rata thala goka go thusa Rra. Ke itse  
fa u eopedisicwe ke dipuo le ditshoko tse  
dintsetsi tse, tsa Barolong - gape ka nle  
motho eo osekeng a ba a itapalosa.

Ke itse ke utloa kapa dipuo le  
ditshoko tsa Barolong di tsamayang ka  
gone. Ke utluile fa tshoko ea lefatsho  
e ene ele fa gare ga Bora-Tshidi le Bora-  
Pulana e atlhosee Bora-Pulana, eaba ea  
tsaca madi otlhe le dithata tsa Bora-Tshidi.  
Mme re kareng Rra, ka dithata tse dikogodimo  
tse molao di atlotse jalo. Having appealed  
to the highest courts, we shall simply have  
to abide by their judgment.

Le mafoko a bogosi kenne ke a

a utloa. Le one a mashoe thata - Bogolo ka  
 jana a kgaoqantse Barolong Boratshidi, a  
 senya kago ea motse. It is perhaps impossible  
 for me to fully appreciate these things until  
 I see them for myself, and I am very  
 anxious to do so, and especially to be of  
 assistance to you, my dear Father. I feel  
 that the many misfortunes that have  
 befallen us during the last few years, have  
 become a heavy burden upon you, in your  
 increasing age, and I feel sorry to  
 think that I have been, and am still  
 so far away, and unable to do anything,  
 unable to work with you. I am  
 proud of Brother Sebopiva for all he is  
 doing, and for what he stands.

Since I qualified I have been doing  
 my best to increase my knowledge, and  
 make myself proficient in my profession,  
 so that I shall be better able to help  
 my people at home, and also make a safe  
 stand. I have several plans which I wish  
 to discuss with you - such as beginning  
 1. a Nursing Home or Hospital

2. Improving the Sanitation of the Stradd.
3. Giving lectures on Nursing and First-Aid to  
 intelligent girls.

Ke utluile, Rra jaka u buas gore gau  
 itse gore molekane oame mo nyalong  
 etla nna mang. Ke dumela gore  
 u setse u amogetse lokoalo loame  
 janong to ke go lopiteng ka lone  
 gore u ntumelele mosadi eo ke mo  
 akantseng. Janong kesa letile karabo  
 ea gago, e ke pholofelang ele gaufi

Dumedita Mme Rebecca, Bo-Kgantsa-  
 dieke lebo 'nake thata.

Dumela thata Rra, ka lorato

Kele moroaa

Mo dwii

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University Union  
Glasgow

16th May 1920

My Dearest Father, I can safely say that no son loves and honours his father more than I love and honour you, and I shall ever be deeply thankful to Providence for such a father, and to you for the excellent and rare education you have given me - education which makes me today one of the foremost men of my race and one of the best-educated amongst black and white in South Africa. This alone, dear Father is in itself sufficient to make me hold you in high esteem, but apart from it, I have a very high sense of filial duty and deep love for you my Father. Every word I am going to say will, as always, be dictated by that high principle of honour dutifulness and love to you Papa. You will realise my grief at hearing that you are not willing to second me in my choice of a future wife. My dear Father, I must earnestly and humbly ask you again for your approval.



My request has not been a result of hurried or clouded thought, for as I have said before, I have known and been closely associated with the lady in question for seven years. I have been in love with her for 7 years. She has the best education that is possible for our women in South Africa. She is of highly respectable birth, and she loved me before there was a hope of my rising to my present position. This is the kind of person that could take an intelligent interest in my life-work and be of material assistance to me in every way. There are very very few girls to think of, in connection with marriage, who have either ambition or education enough. There are certainly none amongst our immediate people, and most certainly none amongst our relations. This difficultly I think you recognise my dear Father. If I must marry, I must have an educated and intelligent partner. Our people have not taken the trouble to educate their children, and they cannot rightly expect their uneducated daughters to have educated husbands.

I am 29 years of age now, and must prepare to settle down. I can hardly, think ~~that~~ that, in the nature of my work, people would trust me to attend to their wives and children if I have no wife and children of my own. I think that if I have to succeed in medical life at home I must have an intelligent partner. I have looked for such an one. This lady is the only one I have ever asked to marry me. She has consented

Then, again, Father, apart from love and education, there is the question of Honour, which in our position becomes, the very substance of life itself. It would be very dishonourable in me to break my promise after writing love letters to this lady for 7 years, after keeping her waiting all that time, after my asking her to be my wife and after he giving her promise to be my wife. Honour alone would dictate - but one line of action and one duty. I must appeal to your enlightened ~~views~~ and to <sup>the</sup> ~~your~~ broad-mindedness which distinguishes you - dear Father, and especially, to your Love. I know you are as anxious as I am to get me a good partner

I can assure you that I have been guided  
 in my choice by the purest motives and  
 best ~~tastes~~ taste. I have truthfully told  
 you everything and explained the difficulties, and  
 I really don't think it can be said I  
 acted rashly. Again I wish to express to you  
 the love honor and dutifulness ~~that~~ to you that  
 I began my letter by expressing; and pray  
 you my dear father to make me happy  
 by giving your consent and approval of our  
 engagement for marriage. By so doing ~~you~~  
 you will bring joy to

Your loving and dutiful son  
 Modivini

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W.D.O. GLASGOW

11. 1 — AM

17 MAY 20



17 M

Silas. J. Molena Esq  
P.O. Box 11  
Mafeking  
South Africa

University Union  
Glasgow

2<sup>nd</sup> June 1920

My Dearest Father,

I send you this  
note to ask you to accept,  
with my warmest love, a  
copy of my first work -  
The Banter Past and Present;  
which I mentioned to you  
before, and whose publica-  
tion has been delayed by  
the great scarcity of paper.  
I wish I could have  
handed it personally to you  
so that I might hear  
with my own ears, your  
congratulations, upon which

I can confidently count.

The reviews and criticisms upon it have been very good here, and there is every prospect of the book finding a good sale. I hope it will sell well in South Africa.

I asked my publishers to send a copy for review to the Mafeking Mail besides many other papers in South Africa such as the Diamond Fields Advertiser, the Johannesburg Star, the Victoria News, the Cape Times, the Bloemfontein Friend etc. ~~If you~~

Perhaps you ~~have~~ will have seen the reviews already by the time you receive this letter. The copies of the Book will be sold in South Africa by J. B. Juta and Co. Capetown. I hope you will persuade many Europeans at home to buy the book. We have had, unfortunately to make it rather dear on account of the high price of paper and of labour. But the book is a pretty large one too though it does not look it. It has 400 pages and is printed in small type as you will see.

I hope also that many of our people in the Stadt will order it through the Mapping Mail or direct from J. C. Jula of Capetown.

Mr Platje was here last week and we spent six days together here and in Edinburgh.

My love to my sisters and brothers.

Dumela thata jamong  
Bora. Your affectionate son  
M. Modiri

P.S. The book is sent today under Registered Cover.



GLASGOW

4. PM  
JUN 18 1894



Silas T. Holman Esq  
P.O. Box 11  
Mafeking  
South Africa

# MONEY ORDER REQUIRED.

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Making Mail

ardian.

University Union  
Glasgow

18th June 1920

My dearest Father,

This is just a short note to say that I am in good health.

I think I told you in my last letter that I met Mr Solomon F. Plaatje here last month. He was up from England, and we spent some time together, and journeyed to Edinburgh together, where we parted - he returning to England, while I came back to Glasgow.

About a fortnight ago I sent you a copy of my book

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"The Bantu Past and Present." I trust you will have received it safely when you get this letter. I sent you a cutting of a review on it. The papers here seem to think very highly of it. I don't know what the South African people and papers will say about it, but no doubt I shall know by next month. It will be reviewed in several papers to each of which my publishers sent a copy <sup>at</sup> ~~to~~ my request. You will ~~not~~ no doubt see some of these reviews.

There is a small-pox epidemic in Glasgow at present. It has been on for 3 months now.

Is Morara still with the Rev. Moncholunie? He thought he might be going home.

bae eae Dumedisa bonnake  
thata. Ke shofela ba pantse  
ba cogile pentle.

Dumela Thata Rra.

Ever your loving son  
Mordwi



Dublin

18th July 1920

My dearest Father.

I am pleased to let you know that I am keeping very well and wish you the same. I have not written you for some time as I have been rather busy lately. I am at present in Dublin for a short rest before I resume my duties.

I am very anxious to hear from you - dear Father. You have not written to me for a long time, and under the circumstances

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