

Accompanied by their missionaries, the Revs ^{Batswana} W.C. Lloyd and Willoughby as interpreters, the Batswana chiefs Sebele, Khama and Bathoen, ~~and Edwin Lloyd as interpreters, the Revs~~ respectively of the Bakwena, ~~Bangwaketsi~~ Bangwato and the Bangwaketse tribes of the Bechuanaland Protectorate had in the meantime, on the 20th of August gone to England personally to protest to the Secretary of State for the Colonies against the intended transfer of jurisdiction to the British South Africa Company. Arrived in London they saw the Secretary of State Mr Joseph Chamberlain on the 25th of September and made their protest. In simple, quaint and picturesque language they told the great minister;—"We come to England to ask the government of the great Queen to continue her protection over us....We pray you therefore not to throw us away...Our people have been alarmed at the words which say that we are to be given to the Chartered Company..... We fear the Company because we think they will take our land and sell it to others....We fear them also because we hear the words of the Makalaka and the Matebele who live under the Company.....The Government will not give us away without asking us what we think about it."

The chiefs made their representations to Chamberlain verbally, and then repeated their words and ^a fears in writing. Somewhat impatiently Chamberlain told them that the matter of transferring the jurisdiction of their country to the British South Africa Company had long been settled, that it had been promised to the Company by his predecessors in office; the decision was irrevocable; they must just make the best of it. They must arrange the best terms they could with their new masters. He also made his answer to them by word of mouth, and then repeated it in writing.

After an arranged recess of three weeks during which the ^{chiefs} ~~chiefs~~ went sight-seeing and visiting the larger cities of England and Scotland, they returned to the Colonial Office as arranged, and with old-world courtesy rehearsed, almost word for word, their apprehensions to Mr Chamberlain. "The Company wants to impoverish us so that hunger may drive us to become the white man's servants and dig in his mines and gather his wealth. If you will keep us under the protection of the Queen, we will give you a part of our country,

and we are willing also to give you land for the railway."

The chiefs received much help from political, religious and philanthropic bodies, from private people, from the general trend of British public opinion, and not least from Mr Chamberlain himself, who believed that direct Crown rule was the fairest way of governing backward communities. All these influences, coupled with the reasonableness of ~~the~~ the chiefs' request, and their readiness to agree to a compromise assured for them a large measure of success in their mission. Their offer of land was ~~accepted~~ accepted, and Rhodes got his strip of land along the Transvaal border to build his railway from Mafeking to Charterland, ~~while~~ while the chiefs obtained their main request, namely the continuance of the direct administration ~~of~~ Bechuanaland Protectorate by the Imperial Government *of territories which were now set apart for them in* ^{ed}. Finally, agreeably to their wish, they were honoured by being presented to the Queen Victoria by Mr Chamberlain, and were able to return home to Bechuanaland in November, feeling that their visit to England had not been in vain. In fact they had triumphed.

Receiving the report of the negotiations from Dr Rutherford Harris, the secretary of the Chartered Company, who had been present in ~~all~~ the meetings in London, Rhodes wired back to him balefully :- "It is humiliating to be utterly beaten by these niggers." (C.E. Vulliamy : A Study of Imperial ~~Expansion~~.)

Before their leaving England to return home, a farewell meeting was arranged for the chiefs at Queen's Hall, ^LLangham Place on the night of the 21st November. After many felicitous speeches Khama replied on behalf of himself and his brother chiefs. In thanking the British people ~~for their hospitality~~ and the Queen for their hospitality, he referred to that august lady as "Mosadinyana." This word literally means "old woman" or "small wizened woman". Idiomatically it ~~me~~ is translated - 'dear or grand lady', and was always so used by the Batswana when speaking of Queen Victoria, and was of course so intended by Khama. The Rev Edwin ^Lloyd, who interpreted, good as he was in Tswana had however not learnt the language in his childhood, and had not drunk deep enough of the rich well of Tswana idiom, and shockingly rendered the ^{word} 'mosadinyana' into its literal translation of 'old woman, and thus nearly caused a disaster, occasioned very ^{great} ~~great~~ dissatisfaction, and turned a happy cordial meeting

occasioned very great dissatisfaction, and turned a happy cordial meeting into a murmuring and threatening fiasco, which perplexed ~~the~~ and ~~the~~ embarrassed the speaker, who of course did not know enough English to appreciate the anticlimax. Here was a tragic ending to a successful pageant. The reverend gentleman's interpretation had become an interruption which nearly translated hospitality into hostilities between the hosts and their guests, the British public and the Bechuanaland chiefs. (Information from Miss Daniels, daughter of Dr Daniels, born at Thaba Ncho, a Tswana scholar and present at the meeting.)

While the chiefs were seeking safeguards at the Colonial Office, Rhodes was leaving no stones unturned in South Africa to neutralise their efforts. With his restless energy, his dogmatic authority, his self-assertive temperament and his indomitable will he had his ordnance and his orderlies, his myrmidons and his messengers - ~~every~~ everyone and every thing he could employ - working at high pressure, and he gave his friends Sir Hercules Robinson and Sir Sidney Shippard no rest. Something must be done now, they must help him immediately to nullify the efforts and the petition of the three northern Bechuanaland chiefs - Sebele Khama and Bathoen, as they had helped him to defeat the efforts and petitions of the two southern Bechuanaland chiefs - Montshiwa and Mankurwane. He - Rhodes had annexed Montshiwa and British Bechuabaland to the Cape Colony. Why should he not be able to annex Khama and the Bechuanaland Protectorate to the British South Africa Company Colony ?

And ^{by contrast} ~~sp~~ while the three chiefs - Sebele, Khama and Bathoen were subduing empires, conquering continents and winning worlds, their brother chiefs at home in South Africa were doing the diametrically opposite thing - eating their words, allowing themselves to be blindfolded, led by the nose and shifted about like dominoes.

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In September 1895, Administrator Sidney Shippard and Col Frank Rhodes representing the Chartered Company paid a ^rteacherous visit, first to Chief Ikaneng of the Ba-Malete at Ramotswa, and then to Chief Montshiwa of the Barolong. By specious argument they managed to extract from the two chiefs their consent to the transfer of their respective territories to the Chartered Company. This consent is surprising because all the Tswana chiefs from the Orange River to the Zambesi were apprehensive and suspicious of the Chartered Company, and indeed unanimous ^{from} ~~in~~ ^{of} their aversion ~~of~~ it. It is even more surprising in the case of Montshiwa who had recently discussed the matter of transfer with Sebele Kgama and Bathoen, and with whom he had made common cause in vehemently rejecting Rhodes' overtures, and had, in fact, not only addressed a petition to the Queen, but had also sent two envoys to join the three chiefs to England to protest against the contemplated transfer.

How then was it possible to get Ikaneng and Montshiwa so completely to turn round. The presence of Sidney Shippard in these negotiations was both puzzling and disarming to them. They knew that he was Assistant High Commissioner, and Imperial Officer of high standing, a representative of Queen Victoria. They did not know, though they might vaguely suspect that he was something else in addition. Actually he was a ~~high~~ bi-valent factor, a common divisor, a double-edged weapon. He was ~~Robinson's deputy~~ ~~Robinson's~~ an envoy of High Commissioner Robinson, and ^etherefore of Cape Colony and the Queen, and he was at the same time an emissary of Rhodes, and therefore of the Chartered Company. His ambiguous words and his vague assurances were to them more misleading than if they had known this for certain, and their answers to his proposals - his, because there is no doubt that he had much more to say than the naturally retiring Frank Rhodes - their answers were wistfully and almost certainly, ⁿdeliberately, misconstrued, their doubts on ~~many~~ some points interpreted into acquiescence, and their silence on ~~some~~ most other points ^ttransformed into consent.

3. Subtle indeed must have been the arguments with which Sidney Shippard and Frank Rhodes plied Montshiwa to make him ^ssuccumb to their blandishments. It was significant that Chief Ikaneng subsequently ~~den~~

denied, most emphatically, that he had ever agreed to cede his territory to the Chartered Company, and that Montshiwa said he understood ^{Shippard & Frank Rhodes were asked to lease a} ~~his~~ that ^{the land in question being} part of his territory was being leased, ~~for~~, ^{stranger to relate}, when Silas Molema refused to part with his farm Mabete # generally known in the history of this episode as Pitsana Photloko, being part of Montshiwa's territory on which Dr Jameson wished to make his ^{duminy} ~~sinis~~ter police camp, Sidney Shippard and ^{Dr} Jameson jointly offered to give him two other farms in exchange (J.F. van ~~Oordt~~: Paul Kruger p.263) and because he did not like one of the two farms offered ^{from} in exchange, ^{he w} Silas Molema (was offered) ^{paid} to keep one - Wolwedraai, and £300 for the lease of Mabete.

(2) "Whereas Ikaneng, Chief of the Ba-Malete did, on the 23rd day of September 1895 at ^{Francis} Namoutsa, with the consent of his council and people, cede to Col. ~~Frank~~ Rhodes D.S.O in his capacity as representative of the British South Africa Company, jurisdiction over the Ba-Malete territory; and Whereas Montshiwa, chief of the Tshidi Barolong, did on the 1st day of October 1895 at Mafeking with the consent of his council and people, cede to the said Col. Francis Rhodes D.S.O in his said capacity, as representative of the said British South Africa Company jurisdiction over so much of the Barolong Territory as is situate within the Bechuanaland Protectorate"

"And whereas it is expedient to withdraw the operation of the laws of the Bechuanaland Protectorate from the said Ba-Malete and Barolong Territories respectively, and to substitute for the same the ^{laws} ~~laws~~ of the British South Africa Company and to authorise the said Company to appoint such officers, establish such administration, and make such provision as may appear to be necessary in the interests of peace, ~~and~~ order and good government therein"

"Now therefore, under and by virtue of the powers in me vested, I do hereby proclaim, declare, and make known as follows :-

I. Within and in relation to the Ba-Malete and Ba-Rolong Territories ⁱⁿⁿ the Bechuanaland Protectorate.....all other proclamations or laws at variance with the provisions of this proclamation, shall be and are hereby repealed.

II. Within the Ba-Malete and the Ba-Rolong Territories aforesaid, the

(3) That no land shall be taken from natives for private or public purposes without the previous consent of the Secretary of State.

the laws and regulations of the British South Africa Company shall henceforth have full force and effect.

III. It shall be lawful for the British South Africa Company to appoint such officers, establish such administration, and make such provision as may appear to be necessary in the interests of peace, order and good government, and for the said Ba-Malete and Ba-Rolong Territories respectively, provided 1. That the Chiefs Ikaneng and Montshiwa and their respective successors shall be allowed internal jurisdiction in their tribes.

2. That no direct Taxation shall be levied on them by the B.S.A. Company. (3)

4. That all existing laws prohibiting the sale of liquor to natives remain in force.

On the same date as this Proclamation was issued, Dr L. Starr Jameson was appointed Resident Commissioner of these tiny territories in Southern Bechuanaland Protectorate, and almost immediately proceeded thither, ostensibly to exercise his authority.

5 Sidney Shippards's and negotiations and Sir Hercules Robinson's telegrams and recommendations on this strange chapter of the history of the Chartered Company reflect their servile, perhaps mercenary devotion to Rhodes and the Chartered Company's interests, , and their total lack of sympathy with Batswana rights and welfare. While emphasising the fact of their being the Queen's representatives, and occasionally beating the Imperial drum, they were in fact playing the Rhodesian rhapsody .

1 In any case the consent or acquiescence of the two chiefs was no sooner extracted or presumed by Shippard Shippard and Col. Frank Rhodes on the 23rd of September and the 1st of October than, with indecent haste a Proclamation by the High Commissioner was issued on the 18th of October 1895.

The territory ~~of~~ of the Tshidi Barolong lies between that of the Batlhaping on the south, the Bangwaketse on the north, the Tinnasvaal on the east, and the Batlharo on the west. It is traversed in its northern parts by the Molopo River and its Ramatlabama tributary. These water courses were made the boundary in ^{erstwhile} ~~1895~~ between the ~~erstwhile~~ Crown Colony of British Bechuanaland in the south and the Bechuanaland Protectorate created in 1885. In this way the Bam long territory was arbitrarily divided into two parts - the British Bechuanaland Crown Colony portion on the south, and the Bechuanaland territory portion on the north. It was thus subjected to "a dual mandate" or double administration. The southern ^h portion which was first created a Crown Colony in ~~1885~~ ~~1885~~, as British Bechuanaland in 1885, subsequently annexed to the Cape Colony in 1895, and finally became part of the union of South Africa in 1909 has been administered one way, while the northern portion has to a great extent shared the vicissitudes of the Batswana countries north of the Molopo and Ramatlabama rivers, and come in common with them under the direct control of the Imperial Government.

In primitive Tswana life, land had no intrinsic value, and land proprietorship was a vague conception, while its occupancy of residence were fitful and precarious, its limits and boundaries shift/y and vague. Anywhere that you or your vassals pitched a wattle-and-daub shelter for however short a season, anywhere you grazed or watered your stock, or raised melons or hunted for game, or had your relative or vassal buried was your land. Thus the land for miles north, south, east and west of Mafikeng was Montshiwa's land, as much as anybody else's land. Even today, the Vaal and Orange Rivers, and the Kgalagare (desert) are regarded as the limits of the land of Tau, the ancestor of Montshiwa if perchance his shadow ever fell there, until definite boundaries

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