

41 Having forced Martinus Pretorius and his Grik allies, Kharri to resign their office in the South African Republic, by the Council of the newly President, David Erasmus now advised a proclamation repudiating the Keate Award on the ground that the Ex-President Pretorius had no authority to sign the

deed of submission. The burghers of the Republic were now unanimous in their desire to find a clever man to be their president, one who could competently argue their cases and defend their interests before any European council. They obtained such a man on the 1st July 1872 - in the Rev Thomas Francois Burgers of Hanover, Cape Colony. He was duly sworn in as President of the S.A. Republic. He was full of energy, ideas and promise. His first duty was to prove this to his electors by neutralising the Keate Award and thus removing the dominant grievance of the Republic. His repudiation of the Award was expressed in forcible and forthright language in a pamphlet; his grounds were (1) Want of authority on the part of the Republic's signatories to the deed of submission, (2) Want of decision in the deed of submission itself, and (3) Bias on the part of one of the arbitrators and of the final umpire.

He prosecuted some research into the history of the Barolong, and discovered that there were several clans - Ratlou, Tshidi, Makgetla Seleka, and Rapulana in that order of seniority, and that the principal chief of the senior (Ratlou) clan was Moshete, but that for some reason that individual was not at the head of affairs in his clan, let alone other clans, but that on the contrary he was employed as a servant and shepherd by a Dutch farmer - field-cornet Schalk. Burgers sought out Moshete, befriended him, released him from his indenture, and placed him on his 'throne' in 1872, and gave him a staff or sceptre as an insignia of kingship ^(F.N. - This is a staff with a large knob on which these words are inscribed - First Italian Legation) and then urged him to cede - ~~cede~~ ^{all} as the senior chief of all the Barolong clans - the territorial rights of the Barolong to the S.A. Republic. To make his case unassailable President Burgers visited other Barolong chiefs of junior status to Moshete ^{besides and other chiefs} to urge them to cede their territorial rights individually and collectively to the S.A. Republic. On the 6th of December 1872, he thus obtained cession of territory from David ^{Mosweu} ~~Mosweu~~ Reit Taaibosch, chief of the Koranas at Mamusa (later known as Schweizer-Reneke).

In April 1873 Burgers visited Montshiwa who was still living at Moshaneng in the country of the Bangwaketse. He tried to prevail upon him to repudiate the Keate Award and to agree to a new boundary line between his Barolong and the S.A. Republic.

This staff ^{is} obviously just a relic which Burgess picked up by chance .
It has a large knot upon which these words are inscribed
[First Italian Legation] but it is treasured as an heirloom in the
Meshok family and proudly handed down to succeeding chiefs as
a sceptre.

and the S.A. Republic as he said Montshiwa could neither remove nor govern the Dutch-Afrikaners within the Keate line. The chief refused Burgers' overtures outright, and reported the event to Richard Southey, Lt-Governor of ~~xxx~~ Griqualand, and ^{Wesl. 15} Sir Henry Barkly the High Commissioner.

Pres. Burgers next approached chief Matlaba of the junior (Rapulana) branch of the Barolong, and succeeded in obtaining ^{from him} a cession. Armed with ^{David Masson's Moswen's} Moshete's and Matlaba's deeds of ~~the~~ cession, Burgers now issued a proclamation on the 11th of March 1874 that all the territorial rights of the Barolong are now by ~~the~~ cession from the Paramount chief Moshete the territorial rights of the South African Republic, and that, therefore, all Moshete's people, including Matlaba and his people are subjects of the South African Republic.

~~to~~ ^{to 55F (Pres. Burgers's instructions) Dup. 55X}

By way of reply ⁱⁿ High Commissioner Sir Henry Barkly issued a proclamation the following ~~same~~ month." Whereas..... (9) and whereas ever since the Keate Award became known the Government of the South African Republic has endeavoured to evade its effects by repudiating the acts of their president and by entering into agreement with individual members or petty captains of tribes ~~for~~ the cession of rights and territories which those individuals have no power to cede; (10) and whereas under cover of such agreements or alleged agreements the President of the South African Republic for the time being has published a proclamation ^u announcing that the territorial rights of the Koranna, Barolong and Bathaping Tribes have been ceded to, and have now become the rights of the said republic..... Now ~~y~~ therefore I do hereby proclaim....that ~~y~~ the territorial acquisitions to which the said South African Republic lays claim under and by virtue of the alleged cessions made by petty captains and others will not be recognised unless and until the award of the late Robert Keate Esq shall have been first fairly and fully carried into execution."

Regardless of this Proclamation, Pres. Burgers in the same month in April 1874, ~~xxxx~~ Burgers moved Matlaba's people into localities

~~is~~ ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ and ~~occupied~~ by Montshiwa's people ~~xxxxxxx~~ at Tollfontein. ~~Monte~~

1874
 in April (1874) moved Matlaba's people into localities claimed and occupied by Montshiwa's people at Polfontein. Montshiwa, of course immediately fell upon Matlaba, tied up his son and other people, and captured several of his cattle, horses, sheep, goats and wagons. This coming to the ears of the S.A. Republic authorities, Samuel Melville, ^{the S.A. Republic} Rep. Commissioner and agent for Native Affairs (South African Republic) Lichtenburg wrote (30/4/74) to Montshiwa at Moshaneng, and to Molema at Mafikeng - "Machavie Transvaal. Our government has never yet acknowledged the Award of (Matlaba) and his people are subjects of the Lt Gov. Keate. Polfontein and the farms near it are on Transvaal territory... Injuries to Matlaba or Moshete's people will be regarded as injuries to the Transvaal and retaliated... Property captured and people taken from Matlaba must be restored by orders of the President."

✓ 27.a

This was the commencement of a long and at times acrimonious correspondence about conflicting territorial claims, spoliations and reprisals between Montshiwa and his people on the ~~side~~ one side, and the South African Republic and its officials and subjects on the other - Samuel Melville: Republican Agent of Native Affairs at Lichtenburg; Z I.B. Roode: Fieldcornet at Rooigrond; C.R. Otto: Landdrost at Zeerust; I.B. Bantjes: Acting Commissioner at Lichtenburg; C.B. Scholtz: Republican, then British and again Republican Commissioner of Native Affairs at Lichtenburg; Commandant Hendrik Greeff of Lichtenburg; Commandant Piet Cronje of Potchefstroom; S. Swart: S.A. Republic State secretary; Piet Joubert: Commandant General and Acting President of the Republic and Thomas Burge⁷³ himself: State President of the S.A. Republic.

Necessarily, at the same time, Montshiwa carried on an equally large correspondence with the officers of the British government - Owen Lanyon Administrator of Griqualand West; Richard Southey: Lt. Governor of Griqualand West; C.C. Campbell: Magistrate of Barkly

West; I.D.Barry: Acting Administrator of Griqualand West; and again with Charles Warren and C.J.Moysey British military commanders in Griqualand West; later he exchanged letters with M.Osborne Government Secretary and Theophilus Shepstone: Administrator of Transvaal and still later Evelyn Wood: Commanding Officer of British forces in Natal, and George Hudson: British Resident in the Transvaal of the Retro-cession period. These letters are in the nature of complaints and reports about the citizens of the South African Republic on the western border, requests and prayers for assistance and appeals for intervention and annexation.

On the 4th of May 1874, the chief Montshiwa in council addressed Lt-Governor Richard Southey of Griqualand West:- "The time has now come that the Boers have made up their minds to destroy us, and I now do humbly place myself under your care and protection. I wish, great chief, that you would ask the great Queen of England to take me and my people to be her subjects, and to take my country to be hers. I trust in you, and because the Boers are doing their work so quickly, I pray, great chief, that you will send me your agent to take over my country as soon as possible."

Later (14th August 1876) by way of reminder, he wrote to Administrator Owen Lanyon ; "As always so now I beg to assure your honour of my attachment to Her Majesty's Government, and with patience await the welcome time when it may please her to accept my oft-tendered allegiance to British rule and law ."

85

26.b
~~287d~~ 27.c

About the ~~same~~ ^{date} ~~time~~ ^{center}

~~had~~

A few days ~~later~~ (on the 10th August) Montshiwa, addressed a dignified protest to President Burgers:- "I Montshiwa, chief of the Tshidi branch of the Barolong, here by make known to your honour:

1. That it has come to my knowledge that Your Honour purposes locating at the fountain Bodibe (Polfontein) and Poosedumane (Vleyfontein) certain Barolong and ^{others} other not belonging to the Tshidi branch of which I am chief.
2. That no one save myself and my government possesses any right to alienate any portion of my country which is the special inheritance of the Tshidi Barolong.
3. I protest formally against all acts and things that have already been done or may ^{be} ~~be~~ in contemplation to be done, or which may hereafter be done, whereby any attempts may have been made or may be contemplated or may hereafter be made to alienate or dispose of any portion of my territory without the consent or concurrence of me Montshiwa or my government.
4. That I have on behalf of the Tshidi and other Barolong residing in my territory and subject to me, petitioned Her most gracious majesty, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to be pleased to accept into her allegiance, me the said Montshiwa, and my people, and to declare me and my people to be British subjects and our territory to be British territory, and further that I continue to be in communication with the representatives of Her most gracious majesty in reference to my said position.

Selene

Signed Montshiwa (chief) and Selene, Isaac Seru, Bathobatho, Molema, Mokgweetsi, Josiah Motshegare, Cornelius Bothhale, Phetlhu, Maeco, Ncapedi, Mococo, Motlhwane, Rabodietso and Matthew/
(Members of the Council). Molema,

The only reply to this was a more determined attitude of the white farmers to consolidate their occupation of the disputed territory, and Samuel Melville wrote to Montshiwa: "The president has heard that Montshiwa's people are occupying ~~farms~~ farms belonging to the Boers and other subjects of the South African Republic. He lets Montshiwa know that as his government has full concessions from Moshete, Paramount chief of the Barolong, of all his territorial rights, it cannot ~~also~~ allow Montshiwa, a petty chief under Moshete to infringe on such rights by deeds of aggression. Montshiwa's people must therefore leave those farms before 9 a.m. on Tuesday next. If not, then Montshiwa will be considered as wishing to provoke hostility and his people will be forcibly driven from those places. If still found on them after the expiration of the said time."

28.a

On the 12th of January 1875, Montshiwa again wrote to the Lieutenant Governor Richard Southey: Great Chief, I write to acquaint your Excellency of the great trials that I am subjected to from the chief Matlaba being brought to Polfontein to reside there by the instructions of the Boers. In consequence of the repeated threats of the Boers, ^m my nephew Israel Molema and my brother Saane and their followers have been compelled to leave those places and their ripening corn to the mercy of strangers at Polfontein and Vleyfontein respectively.

And to Mr W. Owen Lanyon: 6/6/1876 Administrator of Griqualana West; "Encroachments are taking place daily regardless of the Keate Award and in open defiance of the same....The Boers are strengthening their position with the hope of having their claims confirmed by the British Government. This is entirely at variance with my wish."

47
Swart
 On the 20th August 1875 while President Burgers was in Europe raising loans for ~~her~~ *his Delagoa Railway scheme* a letter was addressed "Aan Montsioh" by S. Swart State Secretary of the South African Republic instructed by Piet J. Joubert acting President to warn Montshiwa against interfering with Matjavi's (Matlaba's) people who are subjects of the Republic.

The personal relations that existed between the chief Montshiwa and the representatives of the British Government at Kimberley were those of mutual esteem, respect and friendship that took the chill of officialdom and formality ~~to visit Kimberley~~ *from their intercourse*.

Thus on the 2nd of October 1875, Richard Southey Lieutenant Governor of Griqualand ^{West} writes, for example:
 "My Friend Montshiwa,

It had given me much pain to hear of the trouble and annoyance to which you have been subjected, and ~~xx~~ at the same time to feel that I was powerless to render you effective assistance.

As I always told you, nothing could be done without the authority of Her Majesty's Government in England, and I also stated that Her Majesty did not wish to extend her jurisdiction in South Africa, and now feel it is useless to hope for any.

I am sending you a few articles by Israel (Molema), which you will use in remembrance of me, and I received, with thanks, the kaross you sent me."

These letters ~~of~~ of Montshiwa to the officials of the British Government evoked uniformly courteous expressions of sympathy with him in his troubles, appreciation and esteem of his friendship to the British Government and hope of its endurance, and finally the bright prospect of compliance with his request to be received under British protection.

Thus on the 6/3/1876 W. Owen Lanyon to "My Good Friend Montshiwa,
 I am grieved to learn that any of your subjects have been maltreated.

"I accept with pleasure your assurance\$ of confidence in, and love you bear for the British Government. I can assure you that Her Majesty highly esteems the friendship of the native tribes in South Africa, and I trust that the Barolong and the English may always be amicably related to each other. I have sent a copy of your letter to Sir Henry Barkly the Queen's High Commissioner. I am sending you a small present of a saddle and bridle which I hope you will accept as a token of goodwill.

With expressions of esteem, I remain, Worthy Montshiwa,
Your good friend W.O.L."

Montshiwa writes

Again on the 24th of June 1876: "Again I write your Honour to acquaint you of fresh troubles which have occurred in my country respecting the line. Landdrost Scholtz of Lichtenburg came down to move my people by power (Sie) from my gardens at Rooigrond and Buurmansdrift.

I am also subjected to annoyances from the chief Matlaba..... He had made a raid among my people, killed my oxen and taken others.. He is a Transvaal subject and used by them as a tool to provoke me to do something by which war may be brought about. But I still wait to hear what is to be done for me by the British Government."

When in January 1877 the chief expressed his intention to visit Kimberley to discuss his difficulties with the Administrator W.Owen Lanyon, the latter immediately expressed his readiness and pleasure at the anticipated meeting, and when Montshiwa subsequently arrived, the Administrator immediately sent him a note (2nd Feb. 1877) "I have heard with pleasure of your arrival at Kimberley to see me, and I shall be glad to meet you today at 12 o'clock."

At this meeting or shortly after it, there was an interchange of cordial services and presents, in recognition of which Lanyon wrote (6th Feb.) My Good Friend Montshiwa:

I thank you very for the very handsome kaross that you have presented to me, and which I

hope had not been a hot favourite with his ^{Burghers} had an open quarrel with his volksraad, and he launched out in a vehement tirade at them: "I would rather be a policeman under a strong Government than the president of such a State. It is you - you members of the Raad and the Boers - who have lost the country, who have sold your independence for a drink. You have ill-treated the natives, you have shot them down, you have sold them into slavery, and now you have to pay the penalty.

29.a

~~In the summer of 1876 Keate's award and his friends at last left Moshete's~~

On the 12th of April 1877, the South African Republic was annexed to the British Dominions as Transvaal by Sir Theophilus Shepstone, against the united will of the Executive Council and people of the Republic. The officials of the Republic who were willing to take an oath of allegiance to the Queen of England were allowed to retain their posts. One of these was B.C. Scholtz Native Commissioner at Lichtenburg. With the annexation of the Transvaal by ^{Gr}eat Britain, Montshiwa saw his prayers answered and his ^{hopes} ~~people~~ realised. Thought he, thankfully, the Keate award would now be carried into execution, the Barolong boundaries according to the Award would now be recognised; ^{encr-} ~~enkrash~~ oaching farmers ^{from} on the Marico and Lichtenburg directions could now be safely given notice to quit, and Matlaba's and Moshete's pretensions would now be silenced. The British officials, especially Lieut Governor Richard Southey and Administrator W. Owen Lanyon were ^{quite} ~~quiet~~ right when they cautioned him to be patient and assured him that things would ~~be~~ right themselves.

Bouyed up with enthusiasm, and ^{radiant hope,} ~~with a firmer hand~~ ^{hand}, Montshiwa wrote to his trusted friend Administrator Lanyon: " It has given me much pleasure to hear that Her Majesty's Government has been pleased to annex ~~the~~ the whole of the Transvaal... Feeling as I do now that there can be no hindrance to moving into the country awarded me by Mr. Keate... I wish to bring to Your Excellency's

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