

The war had been a brief and sharp campaign of comparatively few engagements in each of which the British were clearly defeated and then finally overwhelmed by the Boers at the Majuba Hill on the 27th of February 1881, and their ~~own~~ commanding officer, the gallant Sir George Colley killed in action .

38.

The settlement of the Peace terms was entrusted to a Royal Commission consisting of Sir Hercules Robinson the High Commissioner, Sir Henry de Villiers, Chief Justice of the Cape Colony, and Sir Henry Wood, the British Commander in Chief who succeeded Sir George Colley.

Among its terms of reference/^{with} which ~~concern~~ this story is concerned was the determination of a boundary line between the S .A. republic and the Barolong in the territory known as the Krate Awar.

The Commission sat first at New Castle from the 25th of April until the 31st of May 1881

The British Resident immediately made representations to the Triumvirate (Pretorius, Kruger and Joubert) who thereupon issued a Proclamation of Neutrality on the 21st October 1881.

Montshiwa's letter to Hudson had hardly been sent off, when by way of ~~assault~~ ^{assault} revenge or reprisal for Montshiwa's ~~attack~~ on Lotlhakane in May, Moshete and Matlaba attacked him at his principal village of Sehuba on the ^{17th} ~~23rd~~ of October. Montshiwa, however repulsed them easily. But a fortnight later, Moshete^s and Matlab^a warriors under Seleka Letsapa made a more determined attack. On this occasion they were openly assisted by some Transvaal burghers. They approached and penetrated the village from the south east and forced its inhabitants to fly in the north-west direction towards Mafikeng. ^{9 Sel - the village on foot} Montshiwa, however, with his old guard took his stand in a high stone wall enclosure ^{we} and successfully defied his assailants ^{noting his precarious situation} until his fleeing men were rallied ^{forced} and led back, not only to relieve him but to drive back the enemy ^{and} reverse ^{In the able and flow of his battle force the enemy to all} the fortunes of the day. ^{advised} In his anxiety to complete the hard-won victory Montshiwa's younger brother Selere exposed himself unduly by riding far in advance of ~~the~~ ^{to exploit a point of advantage} his regiment in pursuit of the retiring enemy, and was shot dead by a Griqua in the enemy's ranks. Montshiwa's followers ~~got~~ pursued and got ~~in~~ ^{In the final result Montshiwa was defeated} hold of the Griqua and literally shot him to pieces. Among Montshiwa's men killed were Mothoko Thwane, Tsietso Madibane and Mahube, while large numbers of his cattle ⁱⁿ and horses were captured by the enemy, and driven into the Transvaal. Montshiwa having complained to the British Resident that despite the Transvaal Proclamation of Neutrality, armed Boers were openly assisting Moshete and Matlaba against him, the British Resident ^{with} remonstrated ~~with~~ the Transvaal Government and at the same time sent Capt. Nourse to investigate and report.

That official duly reported that not only the Transvaal burghers, but the Transvaal Government themselves were assisting Moshete and Matlaba by

1. Allowing them to use the Transvaal territory as a base for their military operations, (2) By allowing them to drive the cattle captured into the Transvaal and ^{grazing} ~~grazing~~ ~~graze~~ them there, (3) By supplying them with as much ammunition as they required, (4) and by, not only ~~supplying them with~~ giving them military advice, but by actual participation of the Transvaal burghers, including members of the Volksraad in the war on behalf of Moshete.

Captain Nourse concluded his report by stating that Moshete was acting under the direction of Commandant Hendrik Greeff. (C.3381; pp 5,33-43; C.3486 p.61)

Besele my son and heir, and Stephen Lefenya, one of my sub-chiefs who carry this letter will speak all our words to the Queen.

Peace to you all, we greet you.

Please send a good word back.

I am etc.

Montshiwa.

If the great monarchs ever read some of these quaint epistles, brimful of pathos and childlike faith from their devoted subjects, then surely though they may ^{complain} ~~agree~~ that 'uneasy lies the head that wears a crown, yet it is not wholly without some compensation in parental pride ^{mingled with good humour} and amusement ^{by such childlike} together with the assurances of filial devotion and confidence. The High Commissioner was furious at the bold step taken by Montshiwa without previous consultation with him. He wired the Administrator Shippard-"I understand Lefenya, Montshiwa's representative accompanied Kgama's party to England:"He feared that the Secretary of State would not be able to see Montshiwa's representative, and asked Shippard to urge Montshiwa to recall ~~him~~ them.

Actually, however, ^{Adm. G. M.} neither Besele Montshiwa nor Stephen Lefenya had sailed for England. They only went as far as Cape Town, and the chiefs Sebele, Khama and Bathoen sailed on the 20th of August without them, ~~whi~~ and they returned in due course to Mafeking.

Still bristling with anger and shaking with emotion, the High Commissioner again wired the Administrator at Mafeking a ~~message~~ message of studied sarcasm ~~which~~ to be conveyed to Montshiwa ; "Monthshiwa has behaved in such a shuffling manner that I do not attach any importance to his withdrawal. He first petitioned against Annexation, then withdrew his Petition, then he repudiated his withdrawal, and then ratified his withdrawal. Finally I learn ^{by} today's press telegrams that he has sent two men to England to petition against Annexation, and that he has done this without consultation with me. I feel that it is difficult to place any reliance on any enegagement made by him, and I must refuse to make any contract or bargain with him in regard to Annexation of the Crown Colony beyond what is embodied in the Annexation Act. I think he ought to know that I am displeased at his conduct and informed of the position I assume in this matter " (C.7972. pp 32,33)

more or less administration ^{live} disruption and confusion at Mafikeng, circumstances inseparable from any change-over, and favourable to to any illigitimate risk, the eyes and mind of the administration being turned south. Then, as if the ~~g~~ gods had not lavished ~~as~~ enough favours on their beloved Rhodes and Jameson, 200 of the Bechuanaland Border Police were conveniently assembe^{led} at Mafikeng by Sir Hercules Robinson's orders to be there disbanded, and 120 of them and thier ^{were} officers [^] at once snapped up by Jameson to enlarge his force ~~with~~ which was being moved ~~down~~ from Bulawayo to Pitsana Photloko. This force consisted of 250 men with 293 horses, 168 ^u miles, 6 maxims and 2 fieldpieces.

Jameson came down to Mabete (Pitsana Photloko) early in November, ~~on~~stensibly and even demostrably to commence his duties as Resident Commissioner of Southern Bechuanaland Protectorate, but in reality to make final preparations for his incursion into the Transvaal.

On the night of the 29th December 1895, Dr Jameson, Sir J. Willoughby, Col. Raleigh Grey and Major Robert White at the head of a force number~~y~~ing nearly 600 crossed the Transvaal border to raid Johannesburg. They were defeated and surrounded by General Piet Cronje at Doornkop near Krugersdorp. Their effort ended in a ludicrous fiasco.

The raid put the British Government in an awkward position with regard to the Transvaal, it became difficult, and even impossible for ^{at Cape Town & in} the officials [^] of the Colonial Office to prove their ignorance of the plot, and non-complicity in it. Finally the Government had to reverse the intention and repudiate the promises ^{the strip of Bechuanaland Protectorate between the railway and the western border} to the Chartered Company who thus forfeited [^] their prize, and the ^{of the Transvaal, which had been ceded} lands of Montshiwa and Takaneng reverted to their owners.

The Jameson-Rhodes scheme, launched so auspiciously ended most ignominiously. At the beginning everything went right. At the

B.P. was handed by Colonel Dufferin - subject to some restrictions & provisions
for the benefit of African tribes to the B.P.A. within the sphere of their
jurisdiction it had been originally intended by Charles
Dufferin to be handed in 1896 - this transfer was annulled by Lord &
B.P. came again under the direct control of the Crown.

Tacitus: What they, by a misuse of terms, style 'progress',
is a system of pillage, murder & robbery
and their so-called peace is a desert of their own creation.
Plommes 137

forfeited the land between the River & the 10. Traversa 0
the 9. 10. 11.
the remaining part of B.P. which had been left for their jurisdiction
after delimiting reserves for the Chiefs & tribes.

(1) 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, my nephew Israel Molema and my Brother Saane and their followers have been compelled to leave those places and their repening corn to the mercy of strangers at Polfontein and Vleyfontein respectively.

(2) On the 20th of August 1875 while President Burgers was in Europe raising loans for his Delagoa Railway scheme a letter was addressed "Aaan Montsich" 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.

A the personal relations etc B
(3) *B* → 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 at the same time to feel that I was powerless to render you effective assistance.

As I ~~was~~ 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 African, 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."

(4) *W.O.L.*
4 Thus on the 6th of March 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 assurances 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,
~~With expressions~~ Your good friend W.O.L."

"Viervoet". It has precipitous sides and sharp stones and jagged ledges projecting from the three sides. Major Warden however stormed it, and in the first rush overpowered the Basotho and the Bataung, and captured their cattle. The vindictive Barolong were, however, not satisfied. The Bataung dogs must be totally plundered and exterminated. Wherefore the Barolong entered the Bataung huts, pillaged and destroyed everything. A feast had been preparing among the Bataung, and there was much millet beer (bojalwa). (Foot Note. W. Collins: Free State p. 38). To this the Barolong helped themselves in a rowdy manner to put a finishing touch to their victory and plunder. Suddenly, Moshoeshoe's sons, Letsie and Molapo and his brother Mopeli, appeared with three strong regiments to assist the Bataung, and surprised the would-be victors. The Bataung rallied, turned on their Barolong assailants, and handled them roughly, dealing out death with assegai (and maze) and gun, hurling hundreds of the enemy over the precipices and recapturing nearly all the cattle. The casualties were high among the Barolong - 150 (Foot Note. Lagden: The Basuto p. 120), among whom was Moroka's brother Chake - the victim (?) of Rev. J. Cameron's curse. Moroka himself had a narrow escape. He had remained at the foot of the hill with his body guard when his warriors ascended Viervoet. In the general scramble and disorder of retreat, with the Basotho and the Bataung in hot pursuit, Tshipinare saw his father surrounded by the enemy, and at great personal risk, returned with some of his men, and beat them off, thus literally snatching Moroka from the jaws of death. Moroka, ever after, remembered this incident as proof of Tshipinare's filial love and attachment, and it is said that from that day, he made up his mind to nominate Tshipinare as his heir and successor.

The disaster of Viervoet created panic among the Seleka Barolong. They call it 'Ntwa ya Selomo' that is the 'Battle of the Precipice' or "Tigele" meaning Submergence. It is an

emphasise with all the ^{passionate} thunder and lightning of his rhetoric

arsenal of deceptions

fabric of society

described him comprehensively as —

insurgent and undecisive spirit

Regard with contempt and intense loathing — also with rage
and fear

"Despotie & oligarchie pretensions are proof against the
most formidable battery that reason and experience
can construct against them." (Hobbes)

unsuspected school,

He was a man denied, criticised & repelled

The looming shadow of a great catastrophe

President Burgers' interviews and discussions with the chiefs had the effect of dividing them into two opposite camps according as he succeeded or failed to persuade them to throw in their lot with him and the S.A. Republic. The pro-Burger chiefs- Moshete, Matlaba and Mossweu allied themselves together against the anti-Burger chiefs - Montshiwa and Mankurwane who also banded together against the former. The members of each group ~~felt that~~ and especially the pro-Burger group, felt that the Keate line had encroached upon them, and were determined to indemnify themselves. In consequence of this mutual jealousy, there were unending disputes, raids, bickerings and reprisals leading to frightful disorder in the western Transvaal border

addenda 2

X 28 d → at the summer of

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In 1876 Montshiwa and his tribe at last left Moshaneng and returned to their traditional home on the Molopo River after an absence of 23 years. It had been Montshiwa's intention to make his capital at Phitshane on ~~his~~ his brother's ~~land~~ ^{land} but he had been forestalled by Makgobi who had settled there in 1872. ~~after leaving Ganyesa~~ ^{had come for Ganyesa}

Leaving Moshaneng in September 1876 in many wagons, and driving ~~many cattle~~ large herds of cattle, the tribe, about 10,000 strong passed by Selokolela, Tsoaneng, Majaneng, and crossed the Ramatlabama spruit close to its confluence with the Molopo ~~opposite Disaneng~~ and halted at Manawana- a sandy plain a little to the east of Disaneng where resided the Batlhwane of Masibi. From here heralds and officers of wards were sent forward to make allocations at Sehuba according to previously arranged plans. After tarrying for about six weeks at Manawana, Montshiwa completed the journey of 20 miles to Mafikeng and another 6 miles beyond it to Sehuba, where he made his capital about halfway between Molema's town of Mafikeng and the Rapulana village of Lotlhakane. Sehuba is a flat and stony terrain devoid of trees or shelter of any kind. It is in every way unsuitable for the settlement of a large population such as Montshiwa's was, and one wonders why it was chosen in preference to so many more beautiful sites.

Montshiwa was now in a position to exercise his authority at close range upon his recalcitrant subjects at Lotlhakane. This attempt was

and he was determined to make it clear to them that the place was
chief in the country they inhabited. They repudiated such right & so.
met at first with sullen ^{passive} resistance - called non-cooperation ^{which}
afterwards became active defiance of his orders. It soon
clear that ^{sooner} ^{later} there would be ~~physical~~ reprisals,
~~and~~ mutual spoliation; Extermination in physical struggle
a violent collision, and physical conflict.

This happened when Mokholokholo's cattle damaged ^{corn}
of a Kapalawa man. He was ^{man-handled} ^{Mokholo} ^{by} them and his
effecter cattle killed.

Mokholokholo, immediately, ordered Makabe & his people to go and
kill the cattle and re-inforced his order by military action.

And they repudiated such right and so they met it first
with sullen and passive resistance - called non-cooperation -

This happened when Mokholokholo-Makabe's
cattle was assaulted and severely man-handled
and his cattle slaughtered
by the Makabe's because they alleged that
the cattle had destroyed their corn land.

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