

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, and then urged him to cede - as the senior chief of all the Barolong clans - all the territorial rights of the Barolong to the South African Republic. To make his case unassailable, President Burgers ^{planned to} visit ^{besides} other Barolong chiefs of junior status ^{chiefs} to Moshete (and others) to urge them to cede their territorial rights individually and collectively to the South African Republic. On the 6th of December, 1872, he thus obtained cession of territory from David 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 South African 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, Lieutenant Governor of Griqualand West, and Sir Henry Barkly the High Commissioner.

President Burgers next approached chief Matlaba of the junior (Rapulana) branch of the Barolong, and succeeded in obtaining from him a cession. Armed with David Mosweu's Moshete's and Matlaba's deeds of cession, Burgers now issued a proclamation on the 11th of March 1874 that all the territorial rights of the Barolong are now by 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.

A few days earlier on the 10th August, Montshiwa had addressed a dignified protest to President Burgers:- "I Montshiwa, chief of the Tshidi branch of the Barolong, hereby 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 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 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 territory without

consent.....

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 gracious majesty in reference to my said position.

Signed Montshiwa(chief) and Selere, Isaac Seru, Bathobatho Molema, Mokgweetsi, Josiah Motshegare, Cornelius Bothale, Phetlhu, Maeco, Ncapedi, Mococe, Motlhwane, Rabodietso and Matthew Molema (Members of the Council).

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 South African Republic. The pro-Burgers chiefs - Moshete, Matlaba and Mosweu allied themselves together against the anti-Burger chiefs - Montshiwa and Mankurwane who also banded together against the former. The members of each group 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 ^{followed} ~~were~~ unending disputes, raids, bickerings and reprisals leading to frightful disorder in the western Transvaal border.

to Pres. Burger's proclamation and to Montshiwa's petition
By way of reply, High Commissioner Sir Henry Barkly issued a Proclamation in the following month. "Whereas.....(9) and whereas ever since the Keate Award became known ^{the} Government of/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 had published a proclamation announcing that the territorial rights of the Koranna, Barolong and Batlhaping Tribes have been ceded to, and have now become the rights of the said republic

Now...../

Now therefore, I do hereby proclaim..... that 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, President Burgers in the same month, 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 South African Republic authorities, Samuel Melville, the Commissioner and agent for Native Affairs (South African Republic) Lichtenburg wrote (on 30th April 1874) to Montshiwa at Moshaneng, and to Molema at Mafikeng - "Machavie (Matlaba) and his people are subjects of the Transvaal. Our Government has never yet acknowledged the reward of Lieutenant Governor 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."

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 one side, and the South African Republic and its officials and subjects on the other - Samuel Melville: Republican Agent of Native Affairs at Lichtenburg; I.B. Roode: Field-cornet at Rooigrond; G.R. Otto: Landrost 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: South African Republic State Secretary; Piet Joubert: Commandant General and Acting President of the Republic and Thomas Burgers himself; State President of the South African 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: Lieutenant 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 with Evelyn Wood: Commanding Officer of British Forces in Natal, and George Hudson: British Resident in the Transvaal of the Retrocession period.

These...../

be

take me and my people to 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."

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Later (14th August 1876) by way of reminder, he wrote ^{again} 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."

^{ordered} send several of his people to plough up the lands which the Boers sought to ^{establish a claim to} occupy, and he

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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.

Named
1. ...
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...

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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 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.....

3. Legone pitse ga eke e siiwa ke motho:
Mme fa dipitse tsa baba di tla di lo lebile,
Lo itatlhele fa fatshe mme lo lebe korolo fela.
4. Gatwe motshitshi go gama o mmotlana
O montsi o tlo o lebane.
5. Legone bo-boruru, gatwe yare ntlhammo
Mma-montsi o sa lele, go lele Mma-mmotlana
6. Boboruru lotsenye marapo dinameng

Translations.

1. A wounded person should not be wilfully slain,
Else Jehovah will punish the offenders.
If we thus err, Jehovah will forsake our cause.
2. Also you must always place yourselves before God
Before you face your enemy
And when the enemy comes to you
Put bones in your flesh (i.e. Pluck up courage)
3. Remember also that a horse cannot be outrun by a man,
So when the enemy's horses (cavalry) rush you,
Lie flat on the ground and take aim at them.
4. It is said a small swarm of bees makes honey
While a large swarm just buzzes merely.
5. Also my brothers, it is said,
The day a parent of a large family does not cry
Is the day a parent of a small family cries.
6. My brothers, put some bones in your flesh,
Have some backbone, be strong, have courage.

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Have some backbone, be strong, have courage.

We are on surer ground when we come down a decade later to the year 1850. Montshiwa's father and his section of the Barolong had left Thabanchu for their home on the Molopo River; Montshiwa had soon succeeded his father Tawana in the chieftainship of the Tshidi branch of the Barolong at Lotlhakane, and was receiving verbal and written communications from his Dutch-Afrikaner neighbours exhilarated by the munificence of the Sand River Convention of 1852.

The name of Montshiwa and that of the Tshidi Barolong comes prominently into the lime light of history in connection with the disputes of the diamond fields (1871) in which Moroka and Montshiwa, among others, claimed ownership of the diamondiferous lands. We meet them again associated with the name of Matlaba in the boundary disputes of the western Transvaal of 1881 to 1885. These disputes were the repercussions of the Transvaal War of Independence, which culminated in the famous Majuba episode in Natal but were only terminated by the Warren Expedition in Bechuanaland in 1885. In these controversies, Montshiwa comes much into prominence and has much praise accorded him by the English people and equally as much abuse heaped on him by the Dutch - Afrikaner people. His name is now associated with that of Moshete (Moshett) another Barolong chief, but always on the obverse side. That is to say that when praise and approbation are heaped on the one, censure and approbium are hurled at the other vice versa.

Finally we meet Montshiwa and his Barolong in connection with the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 when they fought side by side with the British in defence of their town of Mafikeng which was besieged with the European town of Mafeking by the Transvaal commandos, and defended by Major General Baden-Powell.

Above we have mentioned Moshete, Montshiwa, Moroka and Matlaba. All these are Barolong chietains; each of them the principal chief of one or another of the four main sections of the Barolong tribe, these divisions being the Ratlou at Khunwana in the Lichtenburg District and also at Setlagole, Kraaipan, Madibogo, Motsitlane, Phitshane, Tshidilamolomo in the Mafeking District and also at Bodibe (Polfontein) in the Lichtenburg District.

These sections or branches of the Barolong tribe originate from one common stem and their chiefs descend from one man - Tau, who was king of one great Barolong tribe in former times. These former times are however, near enough to leave us in no doubt about the rank and precedence according to seniority of birth of the Chiefs, that order of precedence according to seniority being derived from the order of the sons of Tau and perpetuated..../

... on water ground when we come down a beach later
to the year 1852. Montshuwa's father and his brother of the
Barolong had left the Barolong for their home on the Orange River.
Montshuwa had soon succeeded his father in the chief-
ship of the Tshidi branch of the Barolong at Botshabane, and
was receiving visits and written communications from his sub-
alterns and neighbors exhibited by the assistance of the
Sand River Convention of 1852.

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These disputes were the repercussions of the Transvaal war of
independence, which culminated in the famous Mafeking episode in
1852 but were only terminated by the Warren expedition in
1852. In these circumstances, Montshuwa comes
such into prominence and has much credit recorded for him by the
English people and equally as much abuse heaped on him by the
Dutch - Afrikaner people. His name is now associated with
that of Moshote (Moshote) another Barolong chief, but always
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equitation are based on the one, consent and equitation are
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with the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 when they fought side by
side with the Boers in defence of their town of Mafeking.

Montshuwa had recently died but his influence pervaded him. His
name was still in every body's mouth, and stank in the nostrils
of his enemies as much as it was treasured affectionately
in the memory of his people.

Practical chief of one of the
of the Barolong tribe, these divisions being the Tshidi,
Barolong in the Tshidi district and also at Botshabane,
Barolong, Tshidi, and also at Botshabane, Tshidi, and also at Botshabane, in the
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