

The Net June 1, 1894

Mr Walters looks forward to the move from Isandhlwana with much courage and spirit. He says:-

Isandhlwana March 8 1894

This will probably be my last opportunity of writing as to the work being carried on here. I dare say you have heard by this time that the Bishop has asked me to go to Ndwandwe, where Umswele, the queen mother, lives, and it is the centre of the Zulu nation, Mr Gibson, the Resident Magistrate, of that district, has himself noticed that there is a remarkable religious movement going on amongst the people, a kind of stirring of the dry bones. Old and long tried supporters of the Mission will be rejoiced to hear of this, that the seeds sown amidst many discomforts and much opposition, yet in faith, by the early pioneers of Christianity in this land, are beginning to bear fruit after this manner.

The people themselves (and it is very thickly populated) have been asking for a teacher for some time past, Dininzulu himself has sent word from St Helena that he wishes them to be taught.¹ Mr Johnson said to me the other day, when I was in a state of mental distraction as to whether I ought to accept or to refuse the Bishop's offer, that it was the most important field in Zululand for Missionary enterprise, and that whatever religious body was there would become practically the Established Church.

This opinion, coming as it did from an experienced Missionary, rather tended to decide me not to go, as the work there, being an important centre, would require one who had more experience than myself in Missionary work. But, as the Bishop said in the letter I have already referred to, 'God would show us the way.' And so, we think, He has. The Government are placing a doctor there at once and the Resident Commissioner has offered me the post. And, as the result of many searchings of heart, I have to start work at this new post on April 1st. I propose to leave Isandhlwana on Easter Tuesday, join the Bishop at Kwamagwaza, and then go with him via Melmoth and Ilundi to Ndwandwe. It is four days' ride from here, N.E., in the direction of St Lucia Bay.

Ernest Betelezi and David Ntombela, two of the College students, will accompany me, and also Philip Ngobese, whose father was the chief of all this district under Ketchwayo, and commanded one of the Zulu regiments in the Zulu War. He is a very good builder and has built his brother and himself a neat little stone house, not far from this station. For the first month or two we shall have our hands pretty fully occupied in building, as there is nothing there at present for us. Being new ground everything will have to be begun *de novo*. Very different to this nice place, with its beautiful church, fine large house, and well-stocked garden. But I must say the new work before me has a great charm, and new workers must not expect to live always on the toil of older workers. People say that it will be a

¹ <http://www.sahistory.org.za/people/king-dinuzulu>

difficult work, but we shall be upheld and strengthened by the many prayers offered for us in the old country that God will give us grace according to our needs.

Mrs Walters and the children will join me as soon as I have something ready for them to live in. We propose to build round sod huts, at any rate, at first. Mr Johnson will take charge of the boys in the College till my successor has got into working order. Miss Bliss will join Mrs McKenzie at Kwamagwaza.² Mr Spink and Mr Franklin will remain here, I believe.

I said when beginning this letter that I was going to tell you about the work here, but I find that it is all about my new plans. We are going on much as usual in our usual routine. School life has not many variations, and there is not much to report. The Bishop writes to say that two Swazi boys are coming to the College. This is very encouraging. The Nondweni gold fields are going ahead rapidly and there are over 100 Europeans now working there. I try to visit as many as I can when I am there for Service, but the work there will require a resident priest very soon if the development continues at its present rate. The little Church hut shows signs of decay. But the white people ought to be in a position to help themselves, and from what I have seen, I quite think they will contribute well towards building a Church and providing the stipend for a Clergyman. The curse of the place is drink. When I was last there I heard of a young fellow who I knew pretty well who had succumbed to the tempter, and in a few weeks had lost his berth and spent all the savings of a year. It was his way of commemorating Christmas!

We are all very well here with the exception of our two little ones, who have whooping cough, there is quite an epidemic of the complaint in the district. Medical work takes up a fair amount of time. Yesterday I had to go over to the Court House and while there I met one of Ketchwayo's brothers who had come in from Eshowe to see his brother Mtange, who lives near here and is ill. Several of the chiefs were there and had a consultation in the magistrate's private room. How they talked! They would persist in believing that his illness was due to an "umtakati" i.e. evil-doer, and they would like, if they could, to smell him out. But the strong arm of British rule prevents the occurrence of such bloodthirsty scenes as were only too common when work first began at Kwamagwaza. These Zulu princes are, physically, fine men, and certainly look as if born to command.

Our new address will be:-

Ndwandwe

Nongoma

Via Eshowe, Zululand, S. Africa

² Map:

http://www.historicalpapers.wits.ac.za/?inventory_enhanced/U/Collections&c=125130/R/AB2925-D3-1