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COLENSO, Miss

15.10.1904

File 61, nbk. 43, pp. 14-15.

Saw Miss Colenso¹ today, who tells the following: Tshaka was one day seated in his hut. It was the duty of one of his many girls or women to make the fire, but although there were many in the hut the one whose duty it was to make the fire was absent. Tshaka then said, 'Make up the fire.' No-one moved. 'Don't you hear me?' he said to those seated in the hut. And still no-one stirred. 'And what do you think I did?' said Tshaka when telling the story to others. 'I had to get up and make the fire myself!'

Miss Colenso heard the above from William Ngidi, who knew Tshaka's affairs well. Many papers, books etc. were burnt in the

Ekukanyeni (Bishopstowe) fire.

Notes

Probably Harriette Emily Colenso.

A convert of the American Zulu Mission who became a catechist and one of Bishop Colenso's assistants at the Ekukhanyeni press.

(Burnett, Anglicans in Natal, p. 71; Rees, ed., Colenso Letters, p. 93n.)