

## MQAYIKANA

12.11.1897

File 74, pp. 66-7.

- 66 <Contact with civilized races,> Zululand. Per Mqayikana, sergeant, Zululand Police,<sup>1</sup> 12.11.1897. [Notice this date, probably the very day I made my startling announcement. 23.4.1916.]
- Mqayikana informs me of the following case of lapsing from monogamy (brought about by Christianity) into polygamy. Elias is a native who was educated and baptised at Eshowe Mission Station by the late Mr Oftebro.<sup>2</sup> He married a woman and lived for some time as a monogamist in accordance with the teaching of Christianity. He accumulated property. He remarked sometimes to Sergeant Mqayikana that it was a hard condition imposed on *kolwas*, that of being monogamists, because he had by his exertions accumulated a good deal of property, and did not see who was to 'eat' it, profit by it.
- One day he went off to trade with mealies in the Lower Umfolosi District in the Chief Somopo's location, if not at the chief's kraal, eMmangweni.<sup>3</sup> He took the opportunity of making a *temporary cattle post* (*inhlonhla*) in Somopo's location, at which he placed a considerable number of his own cattle. Some of his stock had been left with his wife at Eshowe. A man was placed in charge of the *cattle post*, which also contained goats. Elias came back to Eshowe. It should have been stated he was a member of the Zululand Police, and was in the habit of drinking. Well, after a little time he left Eshowe with the object of visiting the *cattle post*. He was away for some time before his wife sent to find out what he was doing. It appears that, seeing his extensive property, men in the neighbourhood came to *konza* to him, whilst others brought their daughters to him. He thereupon married three more women in addition to the woman left at Eshowe. He established a homestead and is, as Mqayikana believes, at present living in a state of polygamy. His answer to his first wife's enquiries was that he was not going to return, and that he had given her her share of property, which she might keep. Elias was a smart man. [I, J.S., remember seeing him. I fancy he was a sergeant in the Zululand Police and was dismissed by Commandant Mansel for drink.<sup>4</sup>]
- 67 Mqayikana assures me that although *kolwas* become monogamists they pretty well one and all practise the *hlobonga* custom with the girls. Many people do this without going so far as relapsing into polygamy.

Mqayikana informs me, on the authority of Jana ka Mkonto, living under Chief Musi (he pays hut tax at Umzinto), that a number of native *nongqayi* were enlisted in Natal about the time of Mpande's reign.<sup>5</sup> They were drilled and disciplined, and after a time they were all

## MQAYIKANA

disbanded and distributed among the magistracies, on the ground that they would be more efficient as magisterial police because they had learnt police duty. But the force ceased to exist. Mqayikana forms an opinion from this fact that white people had not at that time full confidence in the black man. The above was told to Mqayikana when he first entered the force at Eshowe about the time of Cetshwayo's coming back to Zululand.<sup>6</sup> Jana remarked then that the Zululand Police would not remain as a force for long, as the white people would disband them after Zululand had got into a more orderly condition.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>The Zululand Police, or uNongqayi, was formed in 1887 in succession to the Reserve Territory Carbineers, a force formed in 1883.

<sup>2</sup>Ommund Oftebro of the Norwegian Missionary Society established a mission at what is now Eshowe in Mpande's time, and later became overseer of his society's operations in the Zulu country. He died in 1893.

<sup>3</sup>Somopho kaSikhala was head of a section of the Thembu people.

<sup>4</sup>G. Mansel was successively commandant of the Reserve Territory Carbineers and of the Zululand Police.

<sup>5</sup>Musi kaGodolozzi was chief of a section of the Qwabe people. He died in 1892. The *nongqayi* here referred to was the Natal Native Police, a force formed by the Natal colonial government in 1848 and disbanded in 1851. Mpande ruled from 1840 to 1872.

<sup>6</sup>Cetshwayo returned to Zululand from exile in the Cape in January 1883. The Reserve Territory Carbineers was formed in April of that year.