

STUART, MARY

5.6.1903

File 60, nbk. 26, pp. 2-3.

Also present: Socwatsha kaPhaphu, Ndukwana kaMbengwana

2 Per Mother, Socwatsha and Ndukwana.¹

No one ever *gives one a pinch of snuff* (*tshiyela's one ugwayi*) without *landulaing* and saying, 'I do not take snuff' ('*A ngi bemi*').² Tshaka once sent out 2 oxen which were to be driven from place to place until someone, on being asked to give the spokesman *snuff*, would not begin by saying, '*A ngi bemi*,' and then end off by giving him snuff. Tshaka contended every man in the country began by denying that he had snuff before consenting to give some. Mother mentioned this incident, which both Socwatsha and Ndukwana knew about. Ndukwana says that a person who, on being asked nowadays for snuff, begins by saying, 'I do not snuff,' and then

3 *gives some*, will sometimes be told, 'Well, you would never have received Tshaka's cattle.' That is now a proverb. N. believes some person was an exception to the rule at the time in question (Tshaka's), whereupon the 2 cattle were given to him.

Notes

¹ Mary Stuart (1846-1918) was James's mother. Socwatsha kaPhaphu and Ndukwana kaMbengwana were others of Stuart's informants. The former was an employee of the Native Affairs Department in Natal, the latter was in the employ of Stuart. Socwatsha's testimony appears in the present volume; Ndukwana's testimony appears in *Stuart Archive*, vol. 4.

² Bryant, *Dictionary*, p. 349, gives the verb *ukulandula* as 'Reply in the negative, generally; hence, plead non-possession or non-existence of anything ... asked for'.