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MAHLAKULA

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A 27/95-6

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Queen's desire; it is manifest u ba lehlile, that ba ya hlupoka; at this point
inkonzo i ba neinyane, ka ba konze kahle. What natives of Natal feel most
is this question of rents, their sorest grievance, is here.

^{14.11.00} (Per Dalizwe. 14.11.00). He yesterday heard two native girls remonstrating or protesting in a
loud voice in Ladysmith saying their letters had been withheld from them by the (English)
Postmaster, Ladysmith. Q. went towards Post O and heard the same cause of complaint from
others, including young men; they say if the P.M. has any objection to giving them their
letters why is not a separate room built next to the present post office and a native put there
to give out letters. So loud is the complaint, for it seems the P.M. has piles of native correspond-
-^{all of} -_{ence} which he does not go through when natives come for letters + when any one applies
goes through the letters he holds in his hands and says he finds nothing and says so, - so
loud is the complaint that ba zo m mangalela, probably. Before the post office left what
is at present the Telegraph Office natives had no fault to find. At other post offices natives
are permitted to go through all native correspondence and pick out their own letters, which is
done on a separate table, so they say.

Day before yesterday Q. met Nsimbi from Homoyi's near ^{+ Greytown,} Eklimbithi, who calls himself a brother
of Ngeukumana, who says rumour re girls probably having to marry British soldiers is pre-
-valent in Umvoti Dions, the notion is that an instruction on the matter will be given as
soon as the present Colonial Offices in P.M.Burg have been completed and at the conclusion
of the present hostilities (Boer War), that is shortly after Xmas next. Chiefs in Umvoti Dion
are all advising their followers to marry off their daughters and this is occurring in the
same way, with the same kind of precipitancy, as ~~is~~ when mbidhli ka Somsewu took place.
Nsimbi is a young man of about 34. He came up to seek work, but has returned home again.
This marrying off is called up here isitabataba.

^{14.11.00} I, this afternoon at 3.10 P.M., had a conversation for 15 min. with Mahlakula and Mta-
-kati, members of ch. Mbuyisagwe's tribe. The former was about 27 and latter 37 years of age.
Ndakwana was present. Mahlakula was Deft in a native civil case I tried today, deciding
against him. The subject was Kimberley, natives working there. Mahlakula has worked at
Kimberley on two occasions and intends returning there again soon. He prefers Kimberley to Johan-
-nesburg where he has also been for various reasons, one is, labourers at K. are paid at the
end of every week instead of monthly. He worked at J. before the railway reached there.
Wages at K. are 2⁵/₁₀₀ for police duty. M. worked at K. in a mine (second visit - last year)
for about 2 weeks and then became a policeman. People working in mines get higher
wages as well as occasional rewards for making good finds - sometimes as much as £3.
Natives cannot get liquor at K. as they do at J., there is no drinking in the compound
or get drunk to same extent as at J. European supervision is stricter over police + things

go better for it. Basutos, Maxosa, Hottentots & Zulus work at K. There are many Natab natives there. In magte's court some native who understands English generally does interpretation as it is required the magte being unable to speak Zulu. Natives, sometimes swallow diamonds which, if found in their excrement, natives are punished. Mtakati worked at K. a number of years ago & introduced M. to the place, took him there. One reason why both are attached like K. & want to return is because they are attached & know their masters. The impression given me by these men is that the arrangements at K. ^(re natives) are satisfactory. This talk was due to the telegram in witness to the "Daily News" interview with Rev. Moffat (v. p. 18 of ordinary N.B.). -

(per Dalizwe. 17. 11. 00) I sent Q. on a visit to country near junction of Sunday's River ^(Budeka) and Tugela, he left 14th & returned 16th (last night). I told him to acquire such information as he could. Says: - I saw chief Bander at a kraal ~~and~~ when he entered a hut in which some 15 or more headringed and other men were seated they all at once and the same time shouted out 'Bayete' to him. They treated him with great respect and were ~~widely~~ afraid of him. He is a young man ^{a little} some 22-25 years of age although with a beard & stout. He gave me a kamba with ^{a little} beer in it which he told me to finish (minga). I at first sat, ^(Enkha) ^{insema} with one leg out, one of the men directed me to draw my leg up which I did, this to show becoming respect to the chief. (I remember when ch. Meseni visited at the Residency Stanger his people kulekeli'd him with 'Bayete' whereupon we servants remonstrated with them). - I saw quite a young man during my tour with a headring newly put on, I asked how he came to have the head-ring he told me his chief Bander had juba'd him & told him to tunga. It seems Bander had ordered others too to tunga though as yet he has no headring himself. I again heard rumours about girls being required for British soldiers & that in consequence of this rumour, which some believe & others not, many girls ^{are} ~~was~~ being married off as rapidly as possible not unlike mbidhli ka S. It is called taputapa or isitabatiba. Even young girls are married off in this way. When a girl ~~has~~ kehla's she is said to tunga too (~~but~~ as men ~~are~~ said to do) and men when told to tunga are said to be jutshe'd for that purpose. - I noticed very few 'dressed' natives, most of those are still 'raw' natives and follow their old customs. They all live on farms, there are many absentee landlords there who are said to have their homes in P.M. Burg. There is much ~~scarcity~~ ^{very} little water & the crops have not yet begun to grow. The land is very stony with the Tugela running through gorges & ^(Zirogobeni) ravines. Various tribes seem to live on the land visited, a mixture of people, Bander, Mabizela, Mgodini and Sibamu. Across the Tugela where there is a dark forestlike hlanga I was told was country occupied by ch. Silwane.

(turn to p. 180.)