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TOMSENI

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TOM SENI

A. 71/32-3

27.12.00

Had conversation this afternoon with Tomseni the headman in charge of that portion of Chief Sibamu's tribe which falls in Klip River Divn. Ndukwana present Mabindela present part of time. Sibamu, he says, would be under 32 years of age (i.e. younger than Dinuzulu). His S's, father was Manzezulu son of Mpikeleli son of Putini son of Matshoba whose father might have been Luhlwasi (or some name very like that) as this word is used in bonga-ing (sibongo). The tribal sibongo is a ba kwa Mazibuko. Tribe came from Engcaka. Langalibalele lived at same locality. Siyepu is Langalibalele's successor, his tribe and Sibamu's are on very friendly terms, having intermarried to a large extent in the past and in recent times. Tomseni would be about 48 years of age and was born when soldiers were taken by one Thompson to Bloemfontein. Mabindela was born at the time of Matshana's impi. Tomseni has one wife and married a second quite lately. By his first wife he had 8 children, all girls, six of whom are living. Paid 7 head of cattle as lobola for second wife, could not on account of rinderpest pay full amount, but will do so at a later time for he promised to do so and this promise was recorded in the Court Office records. His women do not wear European clothing. Proposes to sew on a headring soon. Mabindela left his home on the approach of the Boers last year, because he had been so friendly with the English. T. remained and decided to risk everything. Did not like being inactive during War and allow Boers to plunder them whenever they saw fit. Mabindela lives on Morton Green's farm. Mr Green said that he would not require natives on his farm to pay any rent this year seeing the hardships lately suffered by them on account of the Boers. Tomseni lives on a farm near by belonging to another European, he is required to pay rent.

(in presence of Ndakwana)

saw Mabindela he said when at home he does not at all times wear nothing but mutshaxe + no clothing; sometimes he wears his old clothes. When he gets home after a hot ride he throws off coat + waistcoat and near sun-set will take off trousers + put mutsha on. Women never dress in the European fashion. Says J. Bob Kumalo is probably the wealthiest Koluva in Ladysmith, he also has his clothes ~~to~~ made by tailor. William Africa is another native well-off. Mabindela sold me a white shield, a hand-broom, + some bead-work. His women do not object to his marrying as many wives as he likes. Sometimes strikes one of his wives, she may run away but comes back again. Rules his women in a firm kind manner. Has lately deflowered a Koluva girl (dressed) ^{(of Nobamba (Weenen))} told his wives but they had no fault to find. Case may come to Court, remarkable, as M. observes, because this girl is dressed whereas other women are not dressed in European way. Leads a happy married existence.

26.12.00

Yesterday I went on a visit to Mr. Troughton. I sent word to John Kumalo + he came to see me about 1.30 P.M. (I arrived at J's about 12.30^{P.M.} or so). I told J. K., who was with Mabaso, that I would pay him a visit in the afternoon in a private sort of way. At 5.20 or so P.M. I arrived at J. K.'s house and to my surprise found there two Europeans ^(brothers who lived nearby) (I could not catch names). Solomon Kumalo introduced me to them. They said they had been asked to come and have a glass of wine. I said a few words to them in English and they left. This is the first instance I know of at which Europeans have been invited to a native's house ^{for the purpose of} and then being introduced to another visitor. I had asked J. K. before not to make any display.

I have noticed several incidents in connection with the keeping of Xmas. Kumalo's wife Elizabeth asked me for a Xmas box, so also did Nukani, then this morning about 8 police came into Bennett's office and asked for Govt. dolls not klabia them as in Zululand. Yesterday at Enkhlonkhwini Mr. Troughton gave the children at the school re (Miss Cooke's) a treat + distributed presents. These are influences which teach natives to expect and to beg.

J. K.'s room was well furnished, carpet, chair, large table, cupboard, pictures, photos re. House of well-cut sods + zinc roof. I was given a nice cup of tea by Elizabeth who knew my mother as a girl also Uncle J. and my grandmother (Mrs. Taylor, but as Mrs. Shepstone). E. had print dress on but, I think no boots or slippers.

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~~29.12.00~~ Had a conversation, by appointment, with John Kumalo, Solomon Mabaso,
 and Lazarus Mxaba, - Ndukwana also present: took place this day Saturday, 29.12.00
 at my room No 12 Royal Hotel, Ladysmith 3.15 P.m. - 6.15 P.m. - I did not know quite how to
 begin, ^(after consulting Ndukwana yesterday) so I asked the 3 men to name a subject for discussion. This is the first occasion
 of my meeting the last of the 3. ^(ie Mxaba) He had a great deal to do with Sir J. Shepstone whose
 messenger he afterwards became in connection with various important matters ~~on~~
~~relating to~~ ~~connected with~~ Cetshwayo and otherwise. Is aged 60, having been born, as he says, in
 1839. Is older than Henriquez, William, and Offy Shepstone, also their sister Mombaze
 all of whom he remembers as children. Has been to England. - The subject was proposed
 by Mxaba and was this "What is the cause of Europeans not amalgamating with
 Europeans, why do not the two races merge into one another and become or tend
 to become one instead of ^(the two) living apart?" I explained that this was a very great
 subject to which no answer could be given unless the whole conditions of the pro-