Pine.

On the 6th Jan I left Burnhills and was taken to Pine in Mr. Stuart's cart. The road for the first three miles is almost a continual ascent when we reached the top the panorama of scenery formed by the Zunie and Anatala Mountains is magnificent. It would be difficult to find a grander sight in South Africa.

From the heights we descended rapidly into the Debe Valley, a long stretch of flat country dotted here and there with kraals. There we joined the main road between King William's Town and Alice. About 4 miles from Pine there is a good hotel with a old lady, Mrs. Grewe, quite a character in her way. Just after leaving this place the road into Pine is one of the worst in the Colony. The peculiar ground called Corduroy is composed of rough hillocks and ridges. No satisfactory account has been given of this cause of it. Some day
it was caused by diggings for iron that is found on the surface. A piece of this iron I did see which was heavy seemed to be of excellent quality. Others attribute it to worn or rust work. Particularly Mr. Ross said "Solomon's workmen came to dig for gold there." I thought they had left little behind them if any was found.

we went along over the ridge and got a sight of Pine Church about 21/2 miles distant. Situated on the top of a hill it has a most commanding prospect. About 11 am we drove up to the house we were welcomed by Mr. Ross - Mrs. Ross appearing a few minutes later. The thatched house with overhanging eaves is quite quaint. There underneath on several seats was a pleasant chat that I had. The object of Mr. Stuart visit was to attend a meeting in the church summoned by the Presbytery there.
the people to give more for education. A gospel service. Mr. Makwane, native pastor at Macfarlane joined us soon after our arrival. Mr. Mair of Lovedale was expected but not having come I had to take his place. About 1 p.m. we all went up. A good meeting assembled. The women sat on one side the men on the other. Several redhees heather in their blankets were scattered through the audience. At intervals they walked coolly out for a smoke & came in with the utmost composure to their seat again. Several children squatted on the floor in front. The headman of the district Jane pronounced Jacku sat at the end of one of the seats. Age & blindness have done their work upon one who though not a Christian did much to preserve the life of Mr. Ross the father of Bryce & Richard during two wars. His face is naturally black & anything but prepossessing or handsome.
Each of us gave his speech, mine being interpreted by Mr. Ross. Afterwards replies and questions were permitted.

One pled the scarcity of food things of the people as a reason for not giving. One said, instead of the young giving themselves to mission work, they had given themselves to brandy. They got the benefit of education. What use had they made of it. Old Jim shook his hand in the air and said more were to reply. Some others made remarks admitting the truth of all that had been said. The meeting dispersed.

In the evening I was at the prayer meeting in the church. Several of the office bearers took part. This is a feature of the work deserving notice. When a person is asked to take part he does it purely freely. Many at home might take a lesson from them.

A pleasant evening was spent afterward hearing stories and accounts of the work around Paris from Miss Blair.

Next morning Mr. Ross and Mr. Stuart left.
started for King Williams Town to attend the Meeting of Presbytery. On my return to Pietermaritzburg I took more extensive notes which will come in their own place.

Meeting of Presbytery of Free & U.P. Churches in King Williams Town, 1st Jan. 1886:

Mr. Stuart & I drove to the Central Hotel where we stayed during the meetings. There many of the ministers met. Shortly after we went to St. Andrews Church where Mr. Don is Minister.

There present Mr. Stewart, Mr. Moir, Mr. Cussen, Young, Ross, Munro & Mackinnon.

Isola Chimba Mission was much discussed & a strong minute went to the Foreign Missions Committee not to remove Mr. Stuart from Burnhill.

The union between the Churches was taken up & a conference arranged for. This conference took place. Minutes of former meeting were read over by Mr. P. Clock & U.P. Presbytery. Mr. P. Davidson then led by a paper...