

He took me to his hut & gave me a drink of amasi.

The old mission house stands about 200 yards from the church & is completely in ruins. A new house will be built but not on the same site. Meanwhile Mr. S. & family are living in a mud hut & tents with much dis-comfort. It is only just to state here that from Mr. S. a complete stranger I received the greatest kindness. He put a horse at my disposal for a week or more so as to be able to visit the other stations. He impressed me as the greatest man in the U. P. staff. I was glad to hear he is held in the highest esteem by the natives.

Columba. U. P.

After the meeting at Tutura was over Mr. Auld, Mr. Lundie & I rode to Columba & arrived about 6.30 p.m. For a time while we were on the main road ^{Mr. L. & I} ~~we~~ rode hard & left Auld behind who is considered a fast rider. At the top of a hill where we got a glimpse of

of the Indian Ocean we left the road & took the footpath. Between there & Columbia the country is intersected by many valleys often richly wooded.

In some of these the grass & reeds grew so high as almost to hide our horses. Past several kraals with barking dogs we rode & at last came in sight of the church & mission house. It was welcome for I had rode nearly 40 miles & felt very tired. The house I found full & got a bed on the sofa.

Mr. Lundie & family were there, also Miss Birkenhead of Lemgwali & Miss Soga. Some of the children had to sleep in the waggon outside so great was the pressure.

Next morning Mr. Auld had to start early for an outstation & left Mr. Lundie to show me round the place. It is situated on the Kohongaba River whose banks are beautifully wooded. The church is a plain rough structure capable of seating 200. Great difficulties were experienced in building it. Much discov-

tent prevailed bursting out in a war. Labours were not to be had so Mr. A. & L. built it mostly with their own hands working 4 days a week & evangelising the rest. The first church which they attempted to build was blown down & not having money to pay for it a second time, they had to do it mostly themselves. The church inside was clean & tidy. Several texts in Kafir adorned the walls, one above the platform being "Enter his gates with praise."

For fully 4 years Mr. A. & L. lived in huts of wattle & daub. It was most interesting to see the hovel & hear the rough experiences passed through during rainy & windy nights. Now both have got modern & commodious houses.

There I saw a scriptural illustration of The lodge in the garden of cucumbers. A hut was built on a knoll overlooking a large garden. It is sometimes made, by putting a hoop at the top of a ladder. It thus is a

a protection from wild animals. The lodge is used to ~~house~~ ^{observe} those that are in the garden & those that wd. come. They never give over watching until the harvest is reaped & until the sun has set when the birds go to rest. Notice how this applies to the heart.

The day was extremely hot which made walking most tiresome. After a visit to John Soga's shop & garden where we got some fruit. I rested until dinner time. Shortly after dinner I left in the company of Mr.

Lundie for Ndhlambu. He accompanied me along the footpath for an hour under a scorching sun. I scarcely had a hotter ride in South Africa. When within sight of the hill where we left the road the day before we parted. Before this in my wanderings I was generally with some one. For three hours I was alone riding with Sispenca. I must owe God's great goodness to me & the needs of Africa. In it I turned my

thoughts homeward & wondered how all were. In this district my horse was well acquainted & ~~it~~ seemed determined he would go off by a sidepath. At one he made a sudden bolt & threw me right off at a tangent. He stood still until I got mounted again none the worse of my fall. Rising ground lay for a long way before me & before half an hour was over I had run him so hard that he did not seek to halt again. With a face red & glowing I arrived at Cap. Blyth about 6 p.m. Mr. B. - after I rested asked me to play a game at lawn tennis. Very tired I managed two & went for supper. Cap. B. had to leave on business that day; but returned next morning before I left.

After I had said good night to the family I took a short walk down the garden in the darkness. As I stepped off the verandah something puffed at me which I thought was not a cat, but I passed on. On returning I

Heard

the same sound. I went to my bedroom & got a candle; hanging it over the verandah I saw a large snake coiled up. I called young Mr. Blyth who came with a lantern & struck it a blow making it leap half across the path. With a second stroke he killed it & there lay a horrid looking puff-adder one of the most deadly snakes. I put it into brandy & took it with me next day.

Duffbank

Next morning
22nd Jan I left Capt. Blyth after breakfast & rode over the heights by a footpath to Iheka. On the way I met several natives who gave the usual salutation "molo inkos" in a polite way. At the hotel I got the horse fed & some refreshment. Near this place some of the first engagements were fought during the last war 1848. About 11 a.m. we started for Idutywa. The country is mostly flat with bare hills. A more