

Piise.

On the 6th of Jan I left Burnshill & was taken to Piise 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 Gummie & Amatola 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 & there with kraals. There we joined the main road between King William's Town & Alice. About 4 miles from Piise there is a good hotel with a old lady Mrs. Crewe quite a character in her way. Just after leaving this place the road in to Piise is one of the worst in the colony. The peculiar ground called corduroy is composed of rough hillocks & ridges. No satisfactory account has been given of the cause of it. Some say

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 worm or ant work. Jocularly Mr. Ross said "Solomon's workmen came to dig for gold there." I thought they had left little behind them if any was found. ~~But~~ ^{scarcely} we went along over the ridges & ruts & got a sight of Pirie Church about ~~six~~ miles distant. Situated on the top of a hill it has a most commanding prospect. About 11 a.m. we drove up to the house & were welcomed by Mr. Ross - Mr. Ross appearing a few minutes later.

The neatly thatched house with overhanging eaves is quite quaint. There underneath on several seats many a pleasant chat I had.

The object of Mr. Stuart's visit was to attend a meeting in the church summoned by the Presbytery to be

the people to give more for education & gospel support. Mr. Makiwane native pastor at Macfarlane joined us soon after our arrival. Mr. Moir of Lovedale was expected but not having come I had to take his place.

About 1 p.m. we all went up & found a good meeting assembled. The women sat on one side the men on the other. Several red heathen 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 Jaru-pronounced Jachu 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 intensely black & anything but prepossessing or handsome.

Each of us gave his speech mine being interpreted by Mr. Ross. Afterwards replies & questions were permitted.

One pled the scarcity of food & hunger 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 Jaru shook his hand in the air & 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. Whenever a person is asked to take part he does it frankly & readily. Many at home might take a lesson from them.

A pleasant evening was spent afterward hearing stories & accounts of the work around Parie from Miss Blain.

Next morning Mr. Ross Mr. Stuart & I

started for King Williams Town to attend the Meeting of Presbytery. On my return to Pirie I took more extensive notes & these will come in their own place

Meeting of Presbyteries of Free & U. P. Churches in King Williams Town
4th Jan 1885.

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 I met Dr. Stewart, Mr. Moir, Mr. Laren, Young, Ross, Mzimba & Makivane.

Isols Chumba Mission was much discussed & a strong minute sent to the Foreign Missions Committee not to remove Mr. Stuart from Burnhill.

The Union between the churches was then taken up & a conference arranged for. This conference took place. Minutes of former meeting was read over by Mr. Auld Clerk of U. P. Presbytery.

Mr. P. Davidson then led by a paper