

Forbes scriptural economy documents

A. FIGURE - THE SPACE OF A DAY

1. A letter

RM to DF senior, 3 May 1909, Forbes Box 1/85

Office of the Resident Magistrate,
Ermelo.
3rd May, 1909.

D. Forbes, Esq.,
Athole,
P.O. Amsterdam,
Ermelo District.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo forwarding cheque, in favour of the Manager of the Land Bank, for £17-10-0 in payment of interest due by you on your loan from the Bank.

I enclose official receipt therefor.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant

Resident Magistrate
?EB ?Shiving

P.S. I have also enclosed the notice addressed to you by the Bank.

2. A ledger [extract]

Forbes Box 39, Ledger 1908-1909

April	26 A Harper for cash to pay	
	Kafir wages	40.0.0
May	3 SD Straker, on aaccount of James Forbes	5.0.0
	3 Macintosk & Kennerley for drawing up the Antenumptial contract between Mr Mawson & Kitty	7.17.0

3. A diary-entry

Forbes Box 24, diary 3 May 1909

3 May 1909

Mr Evans left with Dave gone as far as Jim place with him in the motor car he expected to be back tonight Mr Evans is going the whole way to Johannesburg in the motor car.

Jim and Maggie been over to Amsterdam to pay taxes they paid for five fresh boys and Jim paid the taxes for his Kafirs

Jim paid Mrs Straker for the hire of Newsteen £8 for the winter I also paid 3/- balance on the raisens

?Mobin went to look for the 7 lost sheep & has not found them

A Mr Pienaar here to get the brands outside the fence he says he has his sheep at Kliprug (Tosens place) and they are dying he says he has lost 30 in ten days I told him he could not have it wanted it myself he said his she would die but I said I was not going to let my sheep die to let him have a brand

Monshie been with the police to identify the men with the wagon who went through the wire fence he identified to man the third was in Ermelo.

Mr Harper said he counted six places where the wire had been cut on the post road

39 – 60

B. THE PROJECTS

1. The pass

Forbes Box 38, pass 13 November 1876

Pass for 2 Kaffirs

Please pass the bearers 2 Kaffirs with parcels for Mr Forbes at
New Scotland, from
Mrs McCorkindale
Pretoria Nov 13th 1876
they have a pass in Dutch

2. Umquaka's letter

Forbes Box 7/229

Athole
11th July 1886

My dear Kitty

Tis the first time I have written to you. When is your ma getting the Doctor? here we are all quite well and happy. I hear from your mama that you are beginning to like England I am waiting every post to hear when you are coming back you must come down as nice as when you started, not come back as white as ghost as though you had been sick, else your wife Fass wont know you Kitty, and she don't forget you Kitty she never cries for you because David told her he was going to fetch you. I miss ?ol Davie very much here

I will be so glad to hear what month you think of coming back as we have been so long together I did not think we should have parted so soon How is it that Maggie never thinks of Kaffas I have written to you this time but I dont know when I shall be able to write again. You say that I never write to you but you know very well I cant write or read. We are comencing the house to thatch it and how would you like to be here when the house is all pulled about. It's a good thing you folks are not here while the house is all pulled about. Well Kitty since my house broke I dont sleep nicely of a night I am so frightened I cant get one to mend it for me I hear that fellow that

broke my house is coming back. I mentioned it to Fred about getting some one to mend it for me but he has not done so I suppose I shall have to wait till you folks come back Its such a pity I cant get it mentioned though I have got money they wont mend it The dress you sent was a very long time coming I only got it now Monday, I was very glad to get it its fits her nicely, if it come a little later it would not fit at all, many thanks for it Kitty. I would have written by last Sunday up at Mrs Strakers, but she was too busy she told me she was going to write her letter on Sunday as she had so much to write about. Mr Phillips offered to write for me but I dont like to let a gentleman

write my letter for me. I been to Westoe on Sunday with all my three children I think Mrs Straker will be here on Tuesday to get the things put right for thatching I shall be glad to get it thatched before the rains commence I sent yesterday to a kaffir girl for some strings as there was not enough there were two new Kaffirs from Swazie land sent for the come and help ?Truie take the thatch off but they would not come so when they come we will drive them away. Very much thanks for the letter You must not get tired of writing to me I am not tired of thinking of you all. Aunt Sarah is very good to me here and she always wants me to go there but its too far for me to walk.

but she does everything for me if I only send up to her. Kabase always wants to know when you will write to him So if you can let one of the boys write to him tis a shame of you Kitty none of you write to Kafase because every post he looks out for a letter he is getting a big man now he is not as lazy as he used to be, he is stone riding now because Kabase thinks you have quite forgotten him except when you send him the card but he is not at home now he is away with ?Truie's son but I am sorry I sent him, so I am, they offered him a shilling a day, & I thought it would be earning a little money for himself at the Komatie they told me they would

only be away a week and they have been nearly two weeks. many thanks to Davie for sending me coffee and sugar When is he going to write to me? it was a shame to ask

his mother to write to me as he was there because he was too lazy, please tell your ma not to write to me for his turn as her is big enough to do so for himself. How is old Jim? I heard he was very sick from Stoffie Bresler they write to him all right and I know Jim will not write to ~~him~~ me You must learn fast with the fiddle so that you can play me some songs when you come back to Athole.

How are you all getting on write and tell me. I think of all of you but when

I think of your ma I dont think I shall see her again, she must not come back thin but as fat as when she left here I suppose you dont eat there like you did here that will make you thin and white I thought you folks would have your photoes taken before now but I know you are in mourning the Mill House is full of mealies and there is only half the mealies in, what is lef we are going to pit in the waggon shed I suppose they are so plentiful because there were none used green. Pity we cant sell them but malies are very cheap and plentiful. But it is a good thing I cant write to you Kitty as because I would not write as you. James † Big Jim's

time will soon be up now for him to come home I will be very glad to see all of you come back again. Every wagon ?Timfry sees he thinks it is your waggon coming back because he thinks very much about Davie. But Fred is always teasing him and tells him Davie is never coming back and of course he believes it. I cant keep Scotia in order he is such a little monkey if they were at home you could keep him in order well enough. Fancy one day he sent ?Timfry for a box of matches in Fred's bedroom, and they made a fire just beside the craal wall and of course the fire went blazing up and rushed down to my house I did not know what was up but the Kaffirs beat it out love to all of you folks, from Umquaka

3. Glimpses of Bismark

(a) Letter [extracts]

SS to KF, 16 July 1889, Forbes Box 8/111

July 16 / 89

Dear Kate

Gabas come up yesterday with a note from David written from Te annemess store asking Bob to go up to Athole & hand to the labmbs as he 'Dave' may not be back for a few weeks

Jim & his family were over on Sunday...

... I am going to Athole to see about killing the pigs Bismark is at the reef butchering the pigs

... I have only had a short letter from Maggie since you left I sent for your post this week so as to send you the papers the daily mercury came addressed to Mrs David Forbes & the 3 others to D Forbes

There is a letter to Dave in Auntie Lizzy hand writing but he is away we are having lots of wind

With lots of love from your sister
Sarah

(b) Ledger 1
Forbes Box 39 small ledger

16 May 1912

May 16 James Forbes to pay Bismark for ox sold 6.10.

(c) Ledger 2
Forbes Box 39 small ledger

May 1913 Cash paid out
Bismark wages 5 “ “

(d) Tasks
Box 40 Varia

Bismark	}	
Tudela	}	working waggon
Prorega	}	
Lima ^Ionbol^	}	

(e) The census [undated, 1903 or after]
Forbes Box 40 Varia

Bismark
1 Wife
2 Children

(f) Diary-entry
Forbes Box 28, 1916 diary

14 Nov 1916

Eleven years since My Husband died

Maggie went to finish picking the orange trees and to plant those that Nellie is planting at her place planted the different sort of oranges where the tobacco was

Mr Kusnor & the butcher from Piet Retief here to get fat cattle had none to sell

Bismark finished planting the fields on one side the road also Nellies field

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C. FIGURE - THE WORLD AND THE WORD

1. Joshua Straker to David Forbes senior, 21 April 1881, Forbes Box 7/199 [extracts]

I send the table please give the bearers two sythes & hayfork ... The nigger started this morning for Camden I do not think he will be back till Saturday morning as I sent an order for my horse that Tosene sent me. Sewell writes that David is loaded for [Lake] Chrissie but does not say from where...

2. Sarah Purcocks to Kate Forbes, 6 September 1871, Forbes Box 7/145 [extracts]

Brother David has such a bad hand Kate thinks it is a blood boil... our girl has run away & Mother has so much to do having only ?Kaffalia that I must come home some times... Really you are blessed with as bright a set of ?Nigers as any man could well have. They had not even thatched the hut or finished the ditch till Kate went down & neither are quite finished yet. They could not even keep the cattle out of the field... Father & David have about 80 to 100 skins... We are in mourning for Uncle... You would really pity poor Duncan [an ox] with the weight he has to carry... Today is pig killing David killed Kate one last week

3. David Forbes senior to David Forbes junior, 20 August 1894, Forbes Box 8/254 [extracts]

I expect the Transvaal have been told they can do as they like in the matter they will have a free hand like Rhodes... I think that certainly the Swazis will have to give way as all the native tribes are being taken over by some power of other they are considered to be in the way of civilization Its rather rough on the niggers but he is a low rascal. Jackyll is here just now and has told Nellie that a fellow named "Jack" who has come from their kraal to live at Williams is a sheep stealer and that he has carried sheep up to their kraal all the way from here and made Williams boy help him to catch them and asked /Tunjeens wife to help him but she refused. Jackyll also says to get rid of ?Tunjeen as he is bad and his mother is the worst of the lot I will get that boy ?over and see what I can get out of him. I would like to convict him if possible

but in any case he must clear out but I believe the most of the Kafirs are a bad lot
Swazis are born thieves and liars...

/ends