

A. 11

2687 Yale Station,
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn.
14-10-33

Dear Miss Cushing,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 11th inst. In reply thereto I wish to give you the following facts about myself and my work in Africa.

I was born and bred in the famous Diamond City, Kimberley, in the Cape Province of the Union of South Africa. I received my early education in Kimberley, but later went to Lovedale, the Presbyterian Mission Station, for High School work. I entered the South African Native College in 1918 and was the first African to obtain the B.A. degree of the University of South Africa. This was in 1923. In 1924 I took my Education Diploma, and it was at the end of that year that Mr A.E. Le Roy invited me to join the staff of Amamzintoti Institute to build up the High School Department. At that time there were only 25 pupils in that Department and only one class (Standard VII). This year our roll has reached 160; we have classes ranging from Standard VII up to Matriculation which is an examination preparatory for College. I am enclosing a statement from the Chief Inspector of Native Education regarding what we have been doing at Amamzintoti. In 1930 after three years study I obtained the Bachelor of Laws degree of the University of South Africa, being again the first African to gain that distinction without having left the shores of South Africa. In 1928 I married Miss Frieda Bokwe, daughter of Rev. John Knox Bokwe, one of our best known African musicians; she was at that time teaching at Inanda Seminary and had been there for three years. We have a family of three--one boy aged 4; a daughter, age 2; and a baby, age 2 months. At the beginning of this year I was offered a fellowship to come and study Education at Yale, which I readily accepted because ~~that~~ I felt that coming into contact with educational work here would help me to be more effective at Adams. I hope to return to Adams next July, as my year's leave expires on August 1, 1934. I am enclosing a picture of myself, and also one of my family which was taken by Miss Lavinia Scott on the day I left Adams in August last.

With regard to the outline of what I would like to say at the meeting, I hope to send you a detailed statement later on; but in case I do not it possible to do so before Friday, may I just mention that I want to stress the point of the valuable contribution which has been made by Missions in Africa for the amelioration of the lot of the African, not only as far as religion is concerned but also in secular matters such as helping them to adjust themselves to modern economic and social conditions. Even where other agencies have later come along and done the work perhaps more effectively, there is no phase of African advancement in which Missions have not played a noble part. There is a tendency in these days to find fault with individual Missions or with the missionary movement as a whole both on the foreign field and in the home countries; but we Africans feel that such criticisms often fail to give full value to the incalculable good which has been done by the missionary movement. No movement of this size could do what it has been able to do without making occasional mistakes, but taken as a whole this movement easily ranks as the most significant in the upliftment of the backward peoples of the world. Moreover what faults may be charged against Missions, need not be applied to every individual Mission Board. It would not be difficult at all to show, for instance, that the American Board in Natal has done significant work in almost all those fields which are generally said to be lacking in Mission work. They have stressed the necessity for using nationals in their work, and no Mission in South Africa has gone as far in the matter of delegating authority in all

phases of the work to such Africans as are able to bear the responsibility. The Social Work done by American Board missionaries such as Mr Ray Phillips, Dr J.D. Taylor, Miss Cowle, Miss Weir, Miss Wood, Miss Walbridge and others has earned for them the admiration of everybody. The Education Department counts such schools as Adams and Inanda as among the best of its schools. In the use of money these schools are also very good; they make money go as far as it can go, and at Adams in particular the buildings could not be expected to do more than the American Board missionaries make them carry. Now in the course of the last 40 years, much significant work has been done, but more needs to be done. We view with alarm the tendencies to withdraw missionaries from the field. We are not yet ready to take over the work fully. If this work is handed over ~~xx~~ to us too soon, the results will be disastrous to us and will discredit the Church far more than a prolonged stay in Africa. The missionaries on the field are in the best position to indicate to what extent the work can be handed over either to the Government or to nationals. It may be said that there is just as much work to be done here as in the Foreign field, and that therefore all our money should be spent here. Apart from the fact that that attitude is not in keeping with the spirit of Christ, it represents a turning back upon the plough and a leaving in the lurch of those who have given of their best--and angels can't do better--in the cause of the extension of the Kingdom of God and of those who have in foreign field responded to the message of the Gospel. Africans are being trained more and more to bear the financial responsibility of the work being done among them, but their economic conditions do not permit them to do all that is required. There is no knowing what the second hundred years of Missions will bring; but we have every reason to be proud of what has thus far been achieved; are we going to be unequal to the task of facing the problems raised by this preliminary survey of the field? Some of the more specific needs of Adams are as follows: More Classrooms to avoid the frequent jams which take place now owing to lack of classrooms; extra dormitories for the Boys; Jubilee Hall which was completed in 1885 is no longer suitable nor being enough to house the students of the largest Native School in Natal; more houses for married African members of the Staff--the absence of such houses gives the Principal an anxious time when he is looking for teachers; funds to improve Social work in the community around the school, etc.

I am afraid I have taken up too much of your time, but those are the lines on which I shall speak at the meeting. I shall be glad to get suggestions from you with regard to making my remarks more like what you are expecting to get in order to help on the work. I am also looking forward with pleasure to meeting you and all those who have been helping us to make our work more effective in Africa. I shall be glad to have back the photos after you have made use of them.

Yours sincerely,