

2687 Yale Station,
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn., U.S.A.
October 29, 1933.

Dear Mrs Githens, Thank you very much for your letter of the 19th ult. I did not reply to your letter immediately on receiving it, because I knew that I was due to go to Boston shortly after that, and I wanted to write after I had been there. Perhaps you will have heard by now that I was invited to attend the 124th annual meeting of the American Board Mission and to speak there for a few minutes on the South African situation. The Le Roys very kindly invited me to come and stay with at Auburndale while I was out at Boston, and they took to see all the famous historical sites connected with the birth of American Liberty. The Liebenbergs went with me to Boston and also stayed with the LeRoy. The American Board meeting was held on October 24, and the public gathering took place at the Harvard Church at Brookline. I met several friends there, including Miss Dorothy Cushing, Miss Emerson, Mrs Hicks, and some very fine people connected with the Church at Malden who told me that they had heard from you about me and hoped that I would come over to visit them in the near future. There were five speakers at the meeting, a Chinese lady, an Indian, a missionary on furlough from Turkey, Dr Holt of Chicago and myself. I hope we made the right impression. In my remarks I tried to stress the fact that in criticism of Missions, as we are so apt to do these days, we must be on our guard against sweeping generalisations which do not apply to all Missions, and that 100 years of Mission work had only been sufficient for a preliminary survey of the field. Now was not the time for abandoning work for which such valuable lives had been given in the past. The nationals in the foreign fields, especially in Africa were not quite ready either financially or otherwise to take over the work and before handing over the work to such agencies as the local governments, one had to be reasonably sure that it would be carried on in the same spirit. Well I must not give you the lecture, because you do not need it, but everywhere here I find a very definite misconception regarding Mission work. The students in the University, for instance, seem so convinced that the missionary movement is a mistake, if not a fraud, and some of them would like me to believe that the Christian religion, at any rate the missionary's interpretation of it, has been so discredited in the West, that we ought not to go on believing in people who have failed to convert their own society. Now I cannot for the life of me see their argument that because the majority of the people of the West may not be living up to Christian principles, that therefore those principles are necessarily invalidated, and we have all kinds of arguments here. Still I find it very interesting to see how the development of a material civilisation can easily become divorced from spiritual development. We in Africa want your Material culture; it represents a tremendous advance on our material culture. But for us all culture has always been one. We made no difference between spiritual and material, and today we are faced with the possibility of separating those two. I believe that the right kind of missionary is the only person in the West who represents such a combination, such as unity as we would like to have preserved. As long as the missionary movement stresses the spiritual as something which should permeate all life, so long will it have force both in the foreign field and here at home.

And how is the school getting on? I have been hearing a good deal about it from Mrs Matthews who keeps me well informed. I have been very fortunate, for since my arrival I have had a letter from her every week. I am so glad to hear that she is managing the work fairly well, for I was very anxious about her all the way from Africa to America. I shall certainly return to Africa as soon as my work here will permit. So far I have been getting on

satisfactorily in my work, although I find it a little difficult to accustom to the American point of view in Education. There is a tremendous emphasis on the use-value of education, which is very wholesome and helps to keep our feet on the ground; but I do think there is not quite enough idealism in the whole thing, and enough appreciation of the fact that they may be other values besides the use-value. Well, to get a different point of view is exactly the reason why we are all here. When I left home, I was so terribly worried by the fact that I would have to pass an examination in French before I would be allowed to work on the MaA. I worked on the French before I left and all the way here, and I am glad to say that I was able to satisfy the requirement. So that hurdle has been got over.

Since coming here I have met the Bunkers and Mrs Scott. The Bunkers are at Fairfield and I believe Mr Bunker is hoping to get a Church soon. Dr Loram gets a lot of visitors from South Africa and almost every week we meet somebody at his house who takes us right back home. The Liebenbergs live not far from the Graduate School where I live, and we meet quite often.

There are so many things to be seen here that it would be easy for one to become absorbed in them and neglect his work. Still they are all a part of one's education, and I am therefore taking advantage of attending the best musical shows, lectures, sports meetings, etc. Football is the rage just now, and yesterday we went to see the Yale-Army game which was an exciting affair, although Yale lost.

It is beginning to get cold, and we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing and feeling the effects of real snow, although our rooms are so well heated that one will have to go outside to feel the cold.

I suppose by the time this reaches you, you will be getting ready for examinations. I do hope the students, especially the Matric. students, will do themselves credit and the school credit. When is "Iso Lomuzi" coming out? I am looking forward to it, as well to all other items of information about dear old Adams. I am sure I have taken up too much of your time. I must stop now. Do give my kind regards to all members of the Staff. Tell them not to think ill of me if I do not write to them all individually. I am constantly thinking of them all, and of all the kindnesses they have shown me in the past. Mrs Matthews gets news of all I do here and will be able to keep them informed. Anyway a word from any of them will be very much appreciated. With best wishes to Mr Githens and Ruth,

Yours sincerely,