

C/o Rev. J. Moleko,  
P.O. Genesa,  
via Vryburg, C.  
South Africa

Miss D.G. Brackett,  
International African Institute,  
Seymour House,  
Waterloo Place,  
London, S.W.1  
England.

[Jan. 1939?]

Dear Miss Brackett,

I promised to write you from the field. I am sorry that I have not been able to fulfil that promise up to now. As you see I am at present at a place called ~~Vryburg~~ Genesa in the district of Vryburg. The proper name of the place is Ganyesa. That is what it is called by the Barolong, but the official name of the place is Genesa. It is about 45 miles from the nearest railway station (Vryburg), but there is a bus service ~~between~~ Ganyesa and Vryburg. It passes Ganyesa to a place called Morokweng where I was last week. This whole district is the centre of the Ratlou Barolong who are supposed to be the senior section of the tribe I am studying. Whatever wisdom the Barolong may possess, they did not do themselves a good turn when they decided to come and live in these parts. The country is very dry and sandy, being on the edge of the Kalahari. To carry on agriculture in these parts is heartrending, because of the scanty rains fall. The grazing, however, seems to be good, and in spite of the drought the cattle do not look at all bad. But one pities the poor animals when one sees how they suffer for lack of water. There is one well here provided by the Native Affairs Department to supply both man and beast with water. The water is got out of this well by a rather laborious method and the whole day animals come and have to wait for a long time before they can get a drink. There is a dam under construction at the present moment which will help to relieve the situation, but how slowly those tasks are performed. The people supply the labour while the government supplies the materials necessary for the work, but this the ploughing season and people are very reluctant to turn out for this work when it has rained in the direction of their fields. The Chief is very keen on the work and insists on people turning out. Although we are relatively remote from 'civilisation' there are three Missions at work here, namely the L.M.S. who were the first to come, the Church of the England and the Methodists. Between them they have destroyed all traces of original ~~religion~~ Tswana religion. They co-operate however as far as the school is concerned. There is only one united school here. I shall be leaving this week for another place. So I shall not bother to give you my address. My letters are being sent on from Fort Hare to various places. My work is proceeding satisfactorily so far. The people are very kind everywhere and are glad to give one what information they can.

I must not take up any more of your time. I hope you had a pleasant Christmas and a Happy New Year. I gather that it was a very cold Christmas. Ours you can imagine was the very opposite.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,