

Messrs Hodgson, Broadbent & Stubbell explored the Bechuana country with the desire to find a Mission Field which would enable them to commence their labours where 'Christ had not been named' they avoid interfering with the ground more to the westward in which the L. & S. Missionaries, Moffat & Hamilton, were already patiently & zealously pursuing the great objects of their Mission. But at this time the whole country towards the north-east was in a state of war & confusion, arising from the causes mentioned in a previous chapter. Hence these brethren with their wives & families, found no resting place, having for a long period no other home than their waggon & being continually exposed to many 'perils' among the heathen & from the lions & the wild beasts, which at that time ranged over the country in great numbers. Messrs Hodgson & Broadbent, were, however, at length enabled to commence an important mission at a large native town called "Mekwasee" (Makwasee) far up the bank of the Vual River with the Barotzy tribe of Bechuana. The mission & people were soon afterwards broken away & scattered by powerful warlike tribes, but they rallied again & in more than 25 years this tribe has chiefly resided at Tshab Ncher, where there is now a town with nearly 10000 inhabitants. The missionaries removed from the Vual river in 1833.

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Mosoka was the Chief, who was subject slightly to harshness, but not saying that he "knew him this cow to milk". The houses of these Bechuana or Barotzy were by far the best native buildings I had seen having raised plastered walls about four or five feet high & the roof being brought down two feet over the wall outside, so as to perform the part of a verandah; having also a good reed enclosure outside to serve as a kitchen. They were not all like the bold naked before I had been accustomed to see. The people were the tanners & skiners of the country. They obtained the skins & hides of wild animals of which there were many in the country at the time. These they 'trayed' or made soft, by greasing, beating & rubbing; after which they sewed them into karosses or large skin blankets.