

3 letters to Hall from Sir Josias Cloete re the Kaffir Wars and the problems of Sir Harry Smith as governor, Cape of Good Hope; of the organisation of the army for the Crimean War; and reports of the Battle of Alma and the ravages of cholera in the Crimea

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PB1/1-3

To Dr. Hall from Sir Josiah^s Cooke
1852-4

(3 pp.)

P.B.I./1
Reg. No. 5. 20th Feb 1952

My dear Gull. - I must attempt
no apology for never once having
written to you since you left this.
You know the difficulty I am
under of doing so, as I should desire
and to write to you the mere
dry details of our military movements
as given in the official reports, would
be little else than a useless repetition.
However your two letters of the 14th & 28th
Decr both received by the Bever Handson
have awakened me from the soporific
reasoning under which I was persisting,
to myself my silence: - Nothing could
more effectually have done so than
your very kind & interesting letters
giving me so much of your intimate

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domestic anxieties as to your little
girl, in which your family I could have
no sympathy, because I am supposed
to be a heartless old Bachelor, and adopt
a philosophy suited to my deserted lat-
-your mistake however, in supposing as
you say, that I would laugh at your
long domestic detail of your anxieties
& Mrs. Bull's enquiries at the alarming
state of the child which you describe.

Such details are of far greater
personal interest ^{to me}. than all the
"stunning events & scenes of this horrid
War, in which every feature tends to
lower one in ones own estimation &
to open ones moral principle, rather
than to raise ones self esteem, or to
gain consideration in the eyes of the world.

As I have already told you, it will
be of little use my going over the War
events since you left us. - Our Waterbury
affairs were sad failures & the loss of
such a splendid fellow as Fordyce & such
a promising one as Wilmat all the
month of September & all the ultimate
success of our Paper Campaigns, can
never compensate. Since these sad
catastrophes, events have moved on
somewhat better, indeed our Rice Expedition
was particularly successful, & altho' a
man, I was opposed to, as it left the
most dangerous plots open in the
Colony, but of which fortunately the
Coffers did not avail themselves, I believe
its effects have been most favorable
towards bringing matters to a close.
Having swept off & destroyed at least

30,000 H^d of Cattle from Kruken County
to show that we had but to set about
Cattle taking, to succeed: - We met ^{organised}
the general devastation of their crops
which were numerous beyond any ^{known}
for many years: - This destruction
of their extensive corn fields, as we
call them has occupied 2000 Men
during the whole of this month, & I
may imagine what 4000 Men will
do working with a will for 30 days.

This I believe has been most effectually
done, & we are to have the Reapers
in on the 1st Prox: - to reap them &
march the whole of our large Force
with an extensive Command of
Burgess on the 6th towards the
Waterkloof & beginning with this

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stronghold of Macosmo, sweep it effectually
& drive the combined Lots & Caffers
across the river, the firm ultimatum
of his Regt's resolves. - There will be
some broken heads in the Waterkloof, as
Macosmo has declared his determination
to hold it against our united force
but as Sir Henry's is going to take
the Chief command, there will be
no "dilly dallying" & the service will I
am sure be well done, for he certainly
does understand his field work, &
his eye will make commanders
act themselves & do, & not talk of doing.

The War with Sarrakilli in Caffelands
has virtually ceased, from the middle
of January, when they told Donnelly
Colman marching through the
Debe Pass, that the "road was open"

& they meant to have no more fighting,
there has in reality no opposition been
shown to either our columns, our
letter parties or our Messengers, by
the Caffers. - Parr J. Davidson of
the 43^d was shot above Bailey's
grave, by a party no doubt Eotties
firing into the Camp at night,
the bullets had crept up in the
Committes which surrounded the
Camp, & whilst Davidson was dressing
the wounds of one of the Men, he
was shot through the head by two
balls at the same instant.

Senolili & his own party are
for accepting the terms offered them
& trekking across the River, & there to be

recognised the other Jaykas object
to leaving their beloved Amatoles.
These are the present prospects before
us, whether they promise immediate
Peace or protracted War, you must
judge, I think myself, the war is
drawing to a satisfactory close &
that before the end of April, we
shall be in a condition to report
the war to have ceased. - although
there may still be a lurking party
here & there to be got rid of. So
much for the War! - Our friends
the apt Commissioners were dispatched
as you know to Blain Fontain, and
Bugg has done uncommon good service
by conciliating the Trans Vaal Doppers
with whom he had a melting parting scene

both sides swearing eternal friendship
& good feeling - as long as it lasts -
hence the present good is the great
axiom in modern Politics, & that has
certainly been attained. Lord Grey had
ordered the Sovereignty to be given up, &
although Bagg started with the full
determination to do so, he found on
getting to Pacemphlat, that we were
so committed, that there were so
many large interests to be considered
that such heavy indemnities would
have to ~~be~~ made that he was
forced to abandon all hopes of being
able to carry into effect Lord Grey's
intentions & his own previous views.
Proskis however has up to the
present moment, rejected our overtures
to meet Bagg for the settlement of

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his differences with Moroka, (Warden
Jensen) on whose account we have
got into all this mess. Poor
Linnæus had gone to see Moroka
and I still hope to see the question
amicably arranged, so that we may have
a general Peace the moment the faghar
strike. - Our party here are all pretty
well, & all frequently becoming a
little stars that give a Melon for a
& I have more than all felt your
loss. - Sir Henry has been very well
indeed since you left, up to the
middle of January, all Dec. he was
better than ~~he has been since~~
his return to the Colony, lately the
hot weather has I fear been too much
for him, & he suffers frequently from
both his Head Aches & general derangement
of system. I only hope our Expedition to the

Waterloo want be too much for him
I need not tell you what he has had
to contend with in very remarkable shape
What with a Sec: of State, bearing in

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~~1852~~
1854
Sold

Dr. Hall M.D.

Prof. of Surg. of Hospitals

Bombay

Mount Malabar



patient & grumpy because impropriety
could be done - a council not true to
him - Council in the Field! Oh ye Gods!!
I wonder he bears up against it all so well
Remember me most kindly to Mrs. Hall
& if you see Mr. Goldsmith mention to her
the agreeable recollection I hold of her acquaintance
& believe me my dear fellow
Yours very sincerely
M. Curtis

that much remained still
to be done before Sebastopol
& the fleet were over. - How
is it that Espartero is not named
in the Dispatch, if left at Tarragona
which I infer, he will be previous.
I was glad to see that Cathcart
had joined, tell me what you
think of him, & whether he is
as highly thought of in the Army
as he was with us. Seymour you
will have been glad to meet
again. He is so good a fellow, remember
me to him & to all few Cathcart's staff
as well as to Sir Geo. Baines & tell
him I went over with the fleet
as soon as it was able to quit her
anchorage, but she was not in Spain
when and where with Mr. Hall & that
that I may go & see her. Believe
me very dear friend
Yours truly
H. Hall

U. S. Club London ^{PBI/2}
9th October 1854.

My dear Hall,

Just returned from a two
months tour to the Continent,
I arrived in London at the very
time of the intense anxiety felt
by all classes, under the heavy
expectation of receiving Lord
Raglan's Dispatch of the Battle
of Albuera. This interesting report
has now been published, & a
more quiet, judiciously &
soldierlike Dispatch, detailing
a great battle & a signal victory
has seldom appeared, all
classes & professions are equal
in

in their praise both of the
talent of the Chief & the
gallantry of the troops, which
even the disappointments
caused by previous lies so
ingeniously fabricated & more
ingeniously propagated from
different quarters by that
cursed electric telegraph, have
not been able to damp.

Having thus given vent to
the absorbing anxieties of
the day, I will thank you
for your very interesting letter
from Varna, of the 8th August
which I received at Geneva. -
I only hope there is another

writing long as the modern distance

of yr accounts of propping events
on its way to me, for knowing
the love of facts you possess &
the true perception you have
of all that bears "inflated"
obscuring, or savour of romance
it is very satisfactory to have
a little reason & common sense
~~and~~ amidst the high colouring
of sanguine minds.

That dreadful scourge the
Cholera still hangs about
our Army & had it was for
a gallant fellow like poor
Wellerly to be struck down by
it, the day after such a glorious
day as the 20th proved to be.
I infer from the fact or Rumour
having fallen into our hands

it would be scarcely supplanting the
place of this ^{late} general, a threat of
a Genl. Officer so recently come in chief
of an Army engaged in terminating
successfully a difficult War, to place him
in the subordinate position of a
Division Genl. with five Generals &
sixth Generals too, Senior to him.
He starts next week, taking Seymour
with him as his left wing Genl. - Chief
of the Artillery & private of the Guards, his
A.D.C. He wanted me much to go
with him but my rank precluded
my holding any place in a Division.
Thus it is that I am always either
too old or too young to be posted,
difficulties that never occur with
the "drifted few" for whom there
is always an easy road to
promotion, & road now made
so wide by the Military Com.
- misper

Private

(2 pp.)

U.S. Club London

PB1/3

28th July 1854.

My dear Subl. Many thanks for
your letter dated Parma 3rd Inst. I am
very well with my dear bought
experience, imagine all you say of
the general state of confusion of the
several depts of an Army hurried
off in the way you was for the sake
of momentary effect, & like all trap
trap movements would be exposed
in all their nakedness, as many of
our old friend Sir Harrys were, when
they had to stand a working test.
I was thought quite a Malcontent
& a species of Rebel, when on my
first arriving, I found all the
people gave most in their expectation
of the immediate & annihilating effects
of our magnificent armaments.

my telling them that they were
dreaming that none of their expectations
would be realized, that the SIMD was
misleading the public that it was
one thing to send off ships & soldiers &
another to have a working Army, that
it would take months before the Army
would be in a fit State to strike a blow
& that they must not be surprised if
even the dearest people before any
thing any scheme could be undertaken
People were ready to stone me, & I
was almost insulted by drawing
room Servants for holding such opinions.
I have ~~some~~ had never known
the difficulties of setting an Army in
motion, at a great distance from
their recruit, & the whirling
rapidity with which every thing is
done

in this mighty country they imagined
could be equally applied in conducting
the operations of War. Then too, came
the total want of officering in the
organization of the Staff of the Army,
of which the Authorities are I think
now becoming aware: & when I ~~once~~^{once}
saw the fittest men ^{then} to be placed
at the head of the Army was other
"D. Hall", my friend stated! - Well
we must hope for the best now
& that after all break head day
courage & determination will prevail
us through the difficulties, aided by
John Bull, inexhaustible Power!
I believe it was from a conviction
that matters wanted after himself
that my friend Genl. Cathcart was
prepared to proceed to the Army in com-
mand of a Division, that however must
be a more nominal position for it

to be employed, besides which if I
prop myself upon the authorities
I became responsible for the
results & I do not conscientiously believe
myself to be sufficiently qualified for
the command of a Brigade, both
from age & want of practice in that
line of the service. They may however
offer me something else then the
responsibility is theirs & must only
do my best to justify their choice.
Remember me to all my old
Cape fellow campaigners & tell
Eyre & Welladay to write to me.
Mr Stary goes to Schullar in January
and I suppose starting for the
Caribbean next week, if they do
not lay an embargo on me.
Write to me, to the care of Sir John
Kirkland, C. Post Office &
Bellevue New York dear fellows
Always Yours sincerely
James Clarke

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that a previous exhibition of getting
well be unfolded are long. - Michel
had in vain urged his claims to
be employed. They would have been
at any price, it is a pity that a
man of his decided talents should
be set aside, tho' one can scarcely be
surprised at it, as he is unfortunately
one of those clever men, not satisfied
by being so, but he makes those about
him feel that they are not so &
that is the secret why no one will
employ him. He never was known
to approve or give credit to any one
or to any thing done by his superiors
& that is a fatal propensity to a
man whose prospects depend
on the good opinion of those
who hold power. - Mackinnon

our great Patrol Capt. I see frequently
at the Club. They have given him
the distinguished Cross pension
of £100 a year. He tells me that he
suffers so from neuralgia, that he
is not able to serve. - But what say
you, of George Napier having in
addition to the C. B. been made
a Queen's A.D.C. thus getting the
rank of Colonel over some 2000
Col. - After telling me that they
did not know what they could
do for me, I was suddenly summoned
to make my appearance at the
Palace, as the Queen intended to
bring me, all I had to do was
to ~~be~~ ^{be} ~~hurry~~ off as directed & was
decided tonight before I could
say "trap struck". Some of my
Mil. friends say I might not to

have accepted to part by an ^{advance} ~~advance~~
I answer that I had no opinion on
the matter & was not for me to judge
in what manner H. M. was to convey
a public mark of her approval of my
services. It was done besides in
the handsomest manner by a
letter to me from the Duke of Newcastle
in which the Sum (£104) was paid
from the Treasury. - I shall
take advice from what you say
"that I am a sensible fellow in
not subjecting myself to the dis-
agreeables of the Campaign in
which you are engaged". I am told
that if I were to join the Army I
might get a Brigade or be otherwise
posted with the Army but as they
know me my claims & my services
I think it is for them to offer
not for me to go & make interest