

Letter to H. Norton Shaw, 5 June 1857

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Hadley Green

5th June

1857

Private

My Dear D^r Shaw

I dont understand
the "adjustment"
unless it is comparison
of my positions
with those given
by Maclear. In
Angola the positions
of Ambaca
Candumba & Lombe

[0002]

were known to
be East of Golungo (15° 2' E)
Alto both from
my calculations &
a sketch I sent to
the Society. M^r Maclears
calculation made
these three positions
West of 15° 2' probably
from an error
in my transcribing
the Lunar distances
for him. Now
I suppose you

[0003]

gave M^r A. both my sketch and
M^r Maclear's
positions - I cannot
see why detecting
the discrepancy
between mine
& Maclears should

cost you so much
but I dont understand
these matters. Is
there any adjustment
of my sketch? If so
on whose authority?

[0004]

I reject those of
M^r Maclear that
do not accord with
my reckoning &
view of the country
as probably having
some errors of
transcribing in them
"If the "adjustment"
is followed on
the same principle
all the materials
being supplied by
ourselves Must
we pay for it?

[0005]

I objected to two
notes as they stood
in the journal
because he made
the corrections
in the following way.

He put down
positions according
to Maclear till
he came to Ambacca
then corrected
that to 15° 23 as
in my sketch

[0006]

without once
mentioning my
sketch or calculations
and he dealt with
Candumba and
Lombe in the same
way. He sent
me the proof
with the notes. I
added to the note
the line. "These positions
are ascertained to
be erroneous from

D^r L's own
[0007]
calculations & sketch
and not from
any other source
as none other
were ever made
in the country"

D.L.

This he did not
relish and altered
the notes somewhat
leaving my addition
out. I would not
like to hurt his
feelings in the least
but the question
seems to be this
[0008]
We give all the materials
for making the map
the true positions
with the means
of detecting discrepancies
in them Are we
to pay extras for
being so liberal?
Has he made any
[material] alteration between
my sketch and
~~my~~[the] little maps?
I did not detect
any in a cursory
glance.
[0009]

I am not sure
yet whether I can
be present on
Monday. We
are not at
work with the
proofs now
but hard at
work on new
matter, but
will take the
liberty of bring
some slips when

[0010]
I come. Is the
paper one
of interest for
Monday? When
in London at
a late meeting
I am obliged to
sleep there and
that is not
always agreeable

With kind salutations
from M^{rs} L. who
is pretty well
[0011]
here I am &c.

D. Livingstone

My little girl
has a small
ulcer or depression
on both cornea
rather alarming
as she must
use her eyes
in life. I am
going to use
a little nitrate
of silver 1 1/2 grs
to ounce of
[0012]
distilled water
this was our
most effectual
collyrium in
Africa. I give
her iron too
Do you know
anything better?

D L.