

Letter to John Kirk, 13 February 1871

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3^d P.S. - 13th Feb 18[...] - The [...]rabs here all lament that Banian slaves were sent without a free Arab to superintend them - I reply that no doubt you acted on the best advice [154] you could obtain - You must not think please from what I told you in P.S. N 2 that I am grumbling at you or that I feel aught but extremely thankful to you for all your exertions in my behalf if I add that after refusing to go anywhere but back to Ujiji and telling many lies to effect an advance of pay to six dollars a month they yesterday sat still when told to tie up their bundles to march - This was unbearable so I promised the ringleader Chakanja to shoot him on the word of an Englishman if he did not at once do his duty. Muhamad swore to them that he would kill them if they wrangled with me - they then went to work I suspect that Price & Abram who with inimitable effrontery wish to go with me are at the bottom of this mutiny for Chakanja came and asked me to take them - that would be to take the fomenters of every mutiny at every Moslem camp we came to teach these Banian slaves to desert too. I have been too lenient making every allowance for their early education under slavetrading Muhamadans & receiving deserters forgiving feeding & clothing some of them 5 times over - but at last they despised running away & stood with insults telling me they would not work - It has been like Baines after confessing his theft to me twice over and offering to pay for the goods - confessing also to Rae & Charles - and Tito moreover admitting to me that he had received the goods "but they were little little" said he - Then forging that he had issued at least 12 months cabin fare for 8 persons to 3 men in 3 months - Then bedaubing me with lies to the utmost that he would like to go with me again & his confidante little M^r George was sure that with Baines to help we should lay open "all Africa" Today I am detained by one seized with choleraic purging -

I don't know what to say of Sherreef Boshier - He refused to allow more beads to come to me than 2 frasilahs of a cheap dirty red called Junduguru - by saying Manyema don't want the fine red Talaka or samsam of which there are or ought to be 6 frasilahs at Ujiji - nor would he allow a long box which I believe you packed & which has been detained for years to be opened to take out medicines & letters - though Muhamad bin Saleh (late prisoner at Cazembe's) had a note asking him

either to send it or take medicines & letters out & put them in a light tea box for carriage - The ten men came carrying next to nothing because apparently Sherreef waats to force me back by starvation - I am only about 150 miles W. N. W. of Ujiji here - I came back about a 100 more to wait for the men and they were told I was near, yet this drunken Sherreef refuses to let me have a share of my goods He kept 3 men too at Ujiji - a fourth Awathe a good-man was sick and has constantly & loudly protested against Sherreef squandering my property after he had made away with all that was given for the provisions on the way - It is now 16 months since the 15th October 1869 when they set out - I send authority by Muhamad Bogharib to take a list of all that remains and place them in Moenyeghere's tembe who I have requested to supply Awathe with provisions - Would it not be fair to stop the value of what he abstracts from my stock out of the pay of himself & [...]e accomplices - Muhamad cant be at [...] yet to come - something

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should be done to prevent wholesale plunder of English goods - now all believe that with the double pay we give we shall stand any amount of fraud meekly - In the rainy season of /67 fever without medicine produced fits of total insensibility - In /58 severe pneumonia of the right lung - I reached Ujiji like one far gone in consumption - In /70 rainy season produced choleraic purging & great emaciation & forced me to encamp for many months - now I dread travelling in the rains - I go in canoes but to Ujiji - would be all on foot - and at least four months would be lost & in four or five I hope to finish the exploration - I have a few of the beads I brought here I shall by and buy more from an Arab down the Lualaba but the price will be enormous - M Bogharib gives me a note to take 20 large copper bracelets from his men if I meet them - I give him 5 pieces Americano 5 D° Kanike & 2 frasilahs of samsam at Ujiji - He has been extremely kind all through - It is mortifying to have my goods near at hand and I must go with hard fare because this Sherreef chooses to come between them and me - no wine or spirits but I am most thankful to receive coffee & sugar - [^] [in] a second lot of things that came by Hassani to Unyembe I was down to Make believe coffee of maize and no sugar - Quinine nauseates without wine or spirits - But when I came to Ujiji I was 30 months or 2 ½ years without either tea coffee or sugar - A box of tea sent by Captain Black of the P & O company was a great boon & I fear never acknowledged for it was among the missing 40 - A letter sent to you & one to Sir Roderick from the outskirts of Manyema went to the Governors care through M. Bogharib & M bin Saleh asking you to send for vaccine virus in tubes but I fear it went the same [...]ay as the 40 - I wrote Meller also in answer to a kind note & fear it met a similar fate - tell him if you write - your wish that you were with me I have often wished that you were - the trees are mostly new to me but new plants are not numerous save climbing plants - you alone could have stood the hardships [...] have endured but you are doing more important work and my blessing on it - I dont like to make a whine over my efforts but they have made me old toothless and shaky - a dreadful old fogie - such as I used to laugh at when they shut me up with a glorious blether about [^] [something] fē[i]fty years ago - aye men were men then - (of

course)

No list of the goods sent by Hassani to Unyembe came but the men say that one box of sugar one of soap and one of sundries probably that detained unaccountably by the ill conditioned governor - Shereefs refusal to open it and give medicines & letters prevents my knowing if the two guns & pistol are in it I was uncharitable [...]nough to suspect a wor[...] to fall heir to my guns as his motive no clothing seen Sherreef may be help[...] Governor [...] avid [...] to conceal th[...]

[...]d [...]