

## Letter to Edmund St. John Garforth, 16 March 1866

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

Zanzibar 16 March 1866

Lieut Garforth R N

Commanding H.M.S. Penguin

Sir

I have the honour to bring to your notice the state of the Expedition with which I am entrusted by H.M Government, & to beg you to take it with your kind consideration with a view to render us what aid may be in your power.

We were detained a long time at Bombay waiting for the Man of War appointed by the Commodore to convey us to the East Coast - that detention was not so injurious to us as that which we have suffered here, for though the whole party has been provided

[0002]  
liberally for by His Highness the Sultan, many of us have suffered severely from fever & all are daily becoming physically much less fit for the arduous duties before us - This deterioration arises solely from want of Employment in an unhealthy climate - and if we remain much longer I fear that we shall be obliged to abandon the work entrusted to us by Government.

In addition to the failure of health in ourselves personally we have lost ten beasts of

burden - others are sick  
& as I know nothing more conducive  
[0003]  
to recovery for ourselves &  
animals than active Em-  
ployment I crave the  
favour of your assistance  
as far as the Rovuma  
& I earnestly hope that  
the aid which you can most  
effectually render, may not  
seriously interfere with your  
other duties on the coast.  
From the uniform readiness  
with which the Admiralty  
have always granted me  
all the assistance in their  
power I feel positive that  
their Lordships would promptly  
approve of your lending me a  
helping hand -  
[0004]

I have the honour to be  
Sir  
Your most obedient Servant

David Livingstone

H.M. Consul

David Livingstone