

Letter to Joseph D. Hooker, 11 July 1857

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[0001]

Hadley Green
Barnet 11th July
1857

My Dear D^r Hooker

I beg to
return you my
hearty thanks for
your note and
the trouble you
have been at
in deciphering
[0002]

the mere fragments
submitted to you
Your willingness
to examine anything
botanical will
certainly make
me more anxious
to secure something
for you in Africa
more worthy of
your time
[0003]

We get meal of
a kind of millet
in Londa which
I think is the
lesser bird seed
It grows on a
high stalk in this
way. the seeds are
small & a slight tinge
of slate colour
on the outer scale
What is the botanical
name for it It is
so extensively cultiv-[ated]
[0004]
in Africa I think

you must know The Holcus Sorghum
is the most general
article in use. We
speak of it as Caffre
corn Is that
correct.

There are two kinds
of Manioc. One
sweet the other
bitter & poisonous
they are both
mentioned in a
[0005]
work by Daniel
on the West Coast
but I have not that
work nearer at
hand than Linyanti
so I beg to trouble
you to tell me
the proper names
of the two species
of Manioc, the
Jatropha Manihot
and -

As I am boring
[0006]
with questions
Have you the
proper names
for the melons
which form
such an important
article of support
on the Kalahari
Desert and of
one there which
has the flavour
of an apple
[0007]
What is the name
of the Palm which
when the leaves
are broken off
gives the idea
of it being triangular

The ends of the
leaf stalks stick

on and give it
the appearance
referred to.

[0008]

A fruit mentioned at the
end of Bowdichs

work with Meuse
by the name Masuka
was found by

me in very large
quantities. It is
good. As it seems

know can I have
the proper name

Now please just
attend or not to these
questions as it is con
venient - though I send
them it is not because

I think I have any claim on your time
or attention - I am only putting you in the
way of doing an act of charity to yours &c
David Livingstone