

Letter to William Thompson, 5 February 1859

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[0001]

being misunderstood by me - I dont blame you in the least -

Tette 5th February 1859

My Dear M^r Thompson

I have lately received notice

That M^r José M. Nunes of Kilimane had transmitted to you through M^r Bedingfeld, the sum of £20 together with the remain-ing portion of the goods left in his charge, which you agreed to receive in lieu of certain expenses you had incurred on behalf of the London Missionary Society I recollect appropriating to my own use only a blanket - a bed & some shirts, so I hope you will realize sufficient by the remainder, to refund the price of the preserved possessions too, which on a promise of paying for them to Com^{re} Trotter I allowed Lieut^t Peyton to use.

I had but little time to think over the statements you made while I was in Cape Town, and part of which you were good enough to put on paper. You considered that my financial account was with the Board in London from June 1852” Pity you did not tell me so; for having recieved a letter of much later date giving me certain financial

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information, and as I understood promising me more, I made the mistake of asking you for [^] [it to serve as] data in order to a clear settlement with both ”Board & your-self. You refused, but sent them long afterwards notwithstanding. and with the account exhibiting an amount of grumpiness on account of my silence, which my previous acquaintance with you did not lead me to expect. You had been obliged to borrow my book you told me. This made me enquire at the Admiralty and I found that the

parcel had come just a day too late for
the [^] [preceding] mail - The tone in which the accounts
were given induced me also to send a
friend to make enquiry at the channel
through which it [they] had come - The result was
a statement that the goods left at Kilimane,
part of which I now have sent you,
were my own property and "everything
claimed of me by Thompson had
been paid by the mission." I have
explained the silence - a document I wished
to send to you was partly transcribed when
a dangerous miscarriage prevented its
completion and M^{rs} L. could not get
a letter for which you had applied out
of the hands of the worthies in Bloomfield
Friends sometimes make allowances.

You acted honourably and you have incurred the displeasure
of those who followed another course in London while it confirms the
estimate I had formed of their animus, claims my sympathy, D. Livingstone

[0003] I do not wish to enter on any dis-
cussion, or say one word to wound your
feelings, but think it would be unfair
to you to allow you to go on with the
impression that I "misunderstood" you.
In various other quarters attempts were
made to lug forward the society, and except
at Leeds where money designed for me
personally was sent elsewhere, every such
attempt was as abortive as you found
your own. All you advance by way
of covering your defeat is purely making
a virtue of necessity. The appeal was
so obviously for the society alone, that
the executive at home published it
verbatim without however asking me
to pay for it or defraying the expense
of publication themselves, and as for
the large pamphlet, "another of the same"
was published in London and as it turned
out to the private pecuniary benefit
of men as nearly related to the society
as yourself, and equally loud in their
assertions of wishing to serve me &
the Mission. I was not asked to
defray the expense of publication -

I knew nothing of these matters of
yours [^] [while] in London, till your account
came so they had no influence on my

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[non-]correspondence. I am sorry you put yourself in such a false position.

You did not bring forward your claim in the usual way and to my astonishment you shrank from allowing it to be so brought before the committee - It seemed as if you then only perceived its true nature. Had you even placed it before me in a fair manner I would have paid all instantly but having chosen to assume a claim which never existed in as far as I am concerned I naturally felt strong dislike to being made to pay for puffing myself I have never shewn any desire to be puffed even though it should be done gratuitously.

You need not consider the money sent as from me - but from the society the executive of which, I consider most unrighteously, refused to pay your outlay. I never used any of the money of the society except for what I considered missionary purposes. This I might still have used in the same way, but prefer its going to pay a society's just debt, or back to its funds - I hope that my remarks may not appear offensive - As I have already said I am anxious to avoid wounding your feelings but having enjoyed pretty large experience at home in society's doings [^] [under the present executive] I thought fairest to state frankly that you were far from