

Letter to John Kirk 2, October 1867

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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To D^r Kirk H.M's V. Consul Zanzibar.

Lopone Oct. 1867

My dear Kirk,

I write a mere note at present as I expect to send letters from Ujiji in a month or two and the party that takes this is still going west. The Arabs are very much more careful not to frighten the people than we ever were, messages and presents are sent on ahead and explanations given till it is tiresome to listen to the details. The bearer of this Leyd hi Ali is anxious to be introduced to you and as he has been extremely kind to me I can recommend him as a very different sort of man from the cruel Kilwa traders who have strewed the road to Nyassa with human bones; I have been with this party upwards of four months and whatever they may be elsewhere their conduct has been good during that period, this man has been kind and very hospitable to me personally so

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so you may look on him as one of my friends. I hope you keep your health? Having no medicine mine is poorly when not travelling. You will see the worthy who lost our medicine box, his head is of the shape always figured by Grant, he has run away twice, had no complaint to make of me, but to his companions said he did not like work, prefers begging from the Arab slaves in exchange for bringing fire wood and water. There was some pleasure to in bringing me to a stand still I was so short handed Fancy him lying down in the jungle and having us shooting, firing for him while he rested. I had a bad lot this time - they nearly all took after the wretched sepoys.

With Every good wish
Very affectionately yours
(signed) David Livingstone.
Received at Zanzibar 11th Aug. 1868