

Letter to John Kirk 2 and Robert L. Playfair

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Copy.
30.5.69

From Jno Kirk, Esq Polit Agent & Her Majesty's
Consul, Zanzibar to C. Gonne, Esq Sec^y
to Gov^r of Bombay

I have the to enclose herewith for
the information of the Right Hon^{ble} the Governor
in Council, the copy of a letter from D^r
Livingstone dated 30th May 1869 and
received at Zanzibar this evening.

The requests made by D^r Livingstone
in a previous communication that reached
on the 7th ult having been already complied
with I shall lose no time in supplying
the things herein demanded. There will
however be some difficulty in getting
faithful men as the Arabs of Unyanyembe
being of the El Haothi tribe are by no
means loyal subjects of Syud Majid, and,
as D^rLivingstone tells us still engaged
in the slave trade.

Dated 30thMay 1869
from D^r David Livingstone
to Jno Kirk, Esq Polit Agent, Zanzibar

This notes goes by Inusa Kamaals,
who was employed by Koorji to drive the
buffaloes hither, but by overdriving them
unmercifully in the sun, and tying them
up to save trouble in herding, they all
died before he got to Unyanyembe. He
witnessed the plundering of my goods

[0002]

and got a share of them, and I have
given him beads and cloth sufficient to buy
provisions for himself on the way back
to Zanzibar. He has done nothing here.
He neither went near the goods here, nor

tried to prevent their being stolen in the way. I supposed that pay for four months in coming other four of rest and four in going back would be ample, but I leave this to your decision. I could not employ him to carry my mail back nor can I say anything to him, for he at once goes to the Ujijians and gives his own version of all he hears. He is untruthful and ill conditioned, and would hand off the mail to anyone who wished to destroy it. The people here are like the Kilwa traders, haters of the English. Those Zanzibar men whom I met between this and Nyassa were gentlemen and traded with . ere, as in the haunts of the Kilwa horders, slaving is a series of forays, and they dread exposure by my letters. No-one will take charge of them. I have got Thani bin Suellim to take a mail privately for transmission to Unyanyembe. It contains a cheque on Ritchie, Stewart & Co. of Bombay, for Rupees 2000 and some forty letters written during my slow recovery. I fear it may never reach you. A party was sent to the coast two months ago. One man volunteered to take a letter secretly but his master warned them all not to

[0003]

do so because I might write something he did not like. He went out with the party and gave orders to the head man to destroy any letter he might detect on the way. Thus, though I am good friends outwardly with them all, I can get no help in procuring carriers, and as you will see if the mail comes to hand I send to Zanzibar for fifteen good boat men to act as carriers if required, 30 pieces of Meritrane, 40 pieces of Kimitra, 12 Farasalas of the beds called Jannsam, shoes &c. and I have written to Syud Majid begging two of his guard to see to the safety of the goods here into Thani bin Suellim's hands or into those of Mahomed bin Saleh.

As to the work to be done by me it is only to connect the sources which I have discovered from 500 to 700 miles

south of Speke and Baker's with their Nile. The volume of water which flows north from Lat. 12° south is so large I suspect, that I have been working at the sources of the Congo as well as those of the Nile. I have to go down the eastern line of drainage to Baker's turning point. Tanganyika, Nyige, Chowambe (Baker's?) are one water, and the head of it is 300 miles south of this. The western and central lines of drainage converge into an unvisited lake west or south-west of this. The outflow of this, whether to Congo or Nile I have to ascertain. The people west of

[0004]

this, called Manyema, are cannibals if Arabs speak truly. I may have to go there first, and down Tanganyika, if I come out uneaten, and find my new squad from Zanzibar. I earnestly hope that you will do what you can to help me with the goods and men. £400 to be sent by M^r Young must surely have come to you through Heming and Co.

P.S. A long box paid for to Ujiji was left at Unyanyembe and so with other boxes.