

## Letter to Joseph D. Hooker, 28 December 1857

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[0001]

Burnbank  
Hamilton N.B.  
28<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>  
1857

My Dear Hooker

I took a run down  
here to spend Christmas  
& newyearsday with  
my mother & family  
and got yours of 24<sup>th</sup> just this morning.

D<sup>r</sup> Nichol has offered  
himself as a candidate  
for Naval service  
and will be guided  
[0002]  
by Sir John Liddel  
as to his future plans  
Had he said that  
he would be guided  
by Sir William  
Hooker I would have  
been content, but  
it being plainly out  
of the question for  
my expedition  
going a begging to  
Sir John Liddel  
I am glad to recieve  
unexceptionable  
[0003]

recommendations from  
Christison - Balfour  
and Geo. Wilson  
of a D<sup>r</sup> John Kirk  
who has already done  
a little in Economic  
botany in the East  
” Kirk is an excellent  
medical man, says  
Balfour, young -

active & enthusiastic  
He is a good Botanist  
& gained the first  
prizes for examination  
in the Botanical class  
[0004]  
& the first prize for  
dissections of plants  
was attached to the medical  
staff at Renkioi during  
the Crimean War and  
he made good botanical  
observations on the Flora  
of mount Ida &c which  
he read to the Botanical  
Society of Edinburgh  
He afterwards travelled  
through Egypt & Palestine  
with a friend of Balfour's  
as medical adviser &  
made himself always  
agreeable &c &c.

[0005]  
From what is said  
of him I mean to  
see him. I only  
wish you or your  
father could see him as well.

Murchison must  
have heard of Nichol's  
preferences from  
some other quarter  
I never mentioned  
them. Indeed did  
not know them  
till Saturday (26<sup>th</sup>)  
[0006]  
and up to that time  
was bent on having  
Nichol. but felt  
a little desirous  
of knowing some  
what of his ante  
cedents before  
recommending him  
to Lord Clarendon.  
He seems to have  
been down in  
Edinburgh & to have

spoken so as that  
[0007]  
he would make the  
African expedition  
an alternative only  
Kirk is so highly  
recommended that  
I feel drawn to him  
rather. I shall ask  
Murchison to  
send on Balfour's  
letter to you. I am  
rather late but  
with the best  
wishes of the season  
I send a literary  
[0008]  
curiosity to M<sup>rs</sup>  
Hooker which  
I recieved this  
morning as a  
Christmas present

I shall return  
to London by the  
end of this week  
and am ever  
Your Affectionate  
Friend

David Livingstone