

Letter to Thomas Bayely and James A. Turner, 26 March 1857

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[0001]

57 Sloane St

26th March

1857

Thomas Bayely

J. Aspinal Turner Esq^{rs}

My Dear Sirs

I have thought it in order to make the to develop the trade of part of Africa to which intend soon to return as as possible to take me besides the supply cotton seed promised by Mr Clegg two or three cotton to be lent, part to the and part to native

[0002] chiefs who may be to engage in the cultivation that article. I have most in the latter but the former the country and we appear to cooperate them. I wish their[gins] to of the simplest construction strong, and as you are with these matters feel interested in the success the experiment I take the of begging your assistance you let me know the at which these and the articles designed

[0003] similar objects could be ?

2 Presses proper for expressing grinding the ground nut extract the [sweet] oil. (I dont know is preferable, grinding or expressing)

4 Ploughs of malleable iron

(double the usual strength)

(In Scotland we can get what mention for £5 each)

2 small pairs of rollers for the juice from the cane with working of the simplest for oxen

All to be of the highest and most construction

[0004]

I wish just to make a beginning certain that in so doing am effectually promoting extinction of the slave trade the temporal and spiritual of Africa. I have strongly advised by Lord Clarendon to devote attention chiefly to cotton first both on account its importance to our manufactures and the which the cultivation it in Africa must have the slave trade. this

[0005] so exactly in accordance my own convictions I mean to devote the few years of my life to that line of . A brother in America views the subject in same light intends to his church for a few for the same object I have advised him pick up some information cotton growing and come here that we may go together. I feel it to be

[0006] so much importance to one with me in whom can repose perfect confidence I mean to defray his here myself. I would him as an agent the spot to buy up any or other produce at so as to circulate the extensively that there is certain market for all the may produce.

I am anxious to secure soon as possible a

[0007] or third supply of seed because one lot get damaged or other happen and it be a mistake to to want for fresh from home.

Private I cannot but most regret that the kingdom Angola is not ours. there the of cotton planting be certain. It is prosperous but the Portuguese do nothing it except drawing large of cotton cloths as tribute the Natives - the Population

[0008] upwards of 600 000 souls & about 6 per cent slaves. labour even costs only 4 pence per day. Field labour be about half & no lack it. I mean to go to Lisbon enlist the Portuguese in the on the East side. they will us develope the trade if we to cooperate with otherwise they will play part of the "dog in the manger" have strong hopes of the of the young king is said by Prince Albert be much more enlightened

[0009] his people.

I am sorry that in adopting course I intend to pursue shall appear to some to descending from the high of a missionary the sake of promoting . Some thought so I felt it to be my to engage in exploring country but feeling that I shall be as engaged in promoting Glory of God in that

[0010] line as I was when in bricks & mortar labouring as a smith , glazier, gardener mender, doctor &c &c must bear with any that may expressed. I mention this you that you may understand what grounds I intend to . I address you jointly that you are both friendly to the objects have in view. I am &c

David Livingstone