

## Letter to [Edgar L.] Layard, 7 April 1860

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))  
[0001]

Senna 7<sup>th</sup> April

1860

Private

My Dear M<sup>r</sup> Layard  
In reply to your  
enquiry about snails I have to  
confess that there is a singular  
and blessed scarcity of them here.  
I can recollect having seen only  
nine species - of these one is  
a black velveteen coated individual  
without shell, and another very  
like that yellow civilized snail  
which we used to see when  
"daisies & buttercups gladdened  
our sight" He is houseless too.  
Whether this scarcity arises from  
the tremendous grass burnings  
[0002]

that annually sweep over the land,  
or from [the] want [of] enterprise (in the  
animals) which has consigned this  
fine country to paltry peddling  
in ivory & sneaking dealing in  
in human flesh, I cannot pretend  
to say, but if you are fond of  
throwing snails into your dissenting  
neighbour's garden, you need not  
come here. It would be all up with  
you. but I shall try & send you  
a few some day.

D<sup>r</sup> Kirk got away a good  
botanical collection and M<sup>r</sup> C Livingstone  
a good many birds. but it has  
been uphill work - want of room  
and perpetual damp in our wretched  
asthmatic steamer seriously im-  
peded every effort. But if we live,

we shall do something more, i.e. we  
shall try & try again  
[0003]

Thanks for the Pinches - the good  
old fellow swam ashore seven  
miles west of where he  
was sent afloat! letters lost.  
I am &c  
D. Livingstone

We leave our craft at Tette  
if she floats so long she is  
completely done. A better  
vessel is necessary before  
any collection can be made  
Thanks for the zoological information