

Letter to John Kirk 2, 21 October 1864

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[0001]

21 Oct^r 1864

My Dear Kirk

I am very sorry
to hear your determination
not to engage in
the proposed work
for I am quite sure
that you would
give information
to the world of great
value - and besides
making your
name better known
you would be in a

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fair way of getting
something better -
You will excuse me
if I urge you to re-
consider the subject
I am purposely avoiding
anything like scientific
description having
said in the introduction
that it is hoped that
you will give the botany
and natural history
of the Expedition (in
the way that Darwin
did of the Beagles voyage)
I mention sometimes
that certain beasts were
seen or killed and

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always when possible
use we - referring to
you & myself as D^r L
and D^r K. and I
would give you the

proof sheets that you
might see if I en-
croached too much
on your province -
and give you any
information I could
on the habits of some
of the animals -
though I daresay you
know more on
that subject than
I do. Your Botanical
knowledge is not
elementary and
I thought Welwatsch's
was frightfully so - all
the works on natural
history would be at your
disposal, and by due
acknowledgement
you could work up most
of the [popular] information they
contain & the authors
be thankful. You may
see what can be done
though not in an open
above board line as yours
would be, by Routledge's
natural history I think
he calls it. You had
better think over the
matter again and if
you change your mind
please let me know

You might consult D^rSmithwith

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advantage and to him and Lady Smith

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you will kindly remember me