

Letter to George E. Seward, 25 September 1867

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Lopone 25 Sept^r 1867

My Dear Seward

I wrote you by a man called Magera from Molemba requesting a lot of goods be sent to Ujiji exactly the same as those sent by Koroje and which I hear have reached their destination. Should that letter miscarried you will take this as supplying place and Koroje's books will guide you as the sort of goods needed. The medicines the most important want. A war detained me 3 1/2 months and during that time I was most kindly by the heads of an Arab party namely Hamees Wadim Tagh, Syde bin Alli and

Hamidi Mohamed. The chief Msama attacked

[them] as he has done native traders before, plundered killed some of their people, but got the of it at last. I heard but one side the story, but several collateral circumstances me to believe that Msama was to blame.

Hamees lost a good deal of property there again at Hara by an accidental fire -

Syde's property - beads, cloth &c suffered severely Msama's treachery and Hamidi was also a sufferer. Yet they tried to make , and the peace-making was a tedious process. ought to have said that the peace-making detained 3 1/2 months - drinking blood! don't shudder dear fellow it is in Homoeopathic doses only. should prefer it to another part of the negotiation, marrying Msama's daughter, though she was looking enough. I came riding pick a back a man's shoulders; I then visited Msama

[0002] people were excessively suspicious, examining my to see if I had no guns concealed! had good reasons for not going round about country but cannot enter into them now. think that letters will reach you from Ujiji than by this party, which is still going . I might have gone thither in a dhow week but have work here still.

One of the Nassick boys has left us and probably try to draw on your charity. His is dislike to work, he says that he a shoemaker & has been a nuisance all along.

Hamees says that he will take him to you. say let him go where he likes - he was deter-not to work. He used to abuse me Hindustani to let the others know how bold was. I think he has a smack of idiocy but is often assumed. Don't trouble yourself him. When he left the coast he told me take my gun and shoot him if I insisted the very easy work of leading a mule and not allow him to load it with a big bag of he had bought as private stores. I tried a instrument in the shape of a stick to back. He did not venture to rebel again was a nuisance by remaining behind on march and at last gave his load to a lad and went off to collect mushrooms.

[He] up with his bonnet full of them but minus bundle which contained all our medicines tools six large table cloths. This was in a part densely covered with forest no pursuit could be . Like many of low intellect he was greedy and careful of all he could

[0003] his own; all he had collected at Zanzibar on the journey was carefully stowed away in bundle and he wore a rag only. He seemed to think that he had done wrong in losing goods. He next persuaded another man to away with him, this other put down a box three chronometers in the jungle and off. When sent for they had no complaint to . I offered to remedy anything wrong but had no fault to find with anything. Their was to beg! I showed the folly of losing pay &c &c. This fellow called Baraka has his plan into operation again. He

will be a to the Arab slaves and get a share of food. I suspect that he was drunk pombe and burned his thighs, by which was idle 3 1/2 months. He was well when we but had no load. He came 2 hours and back. Hamees says that he will take him to but you will not incur any expense on my . I told Hamees to let him go where he .

The buffaloes all died on the way to Ujiji there I hear the dried flesh awaits my . I send a note to His Highness Said by this same opportunity acknowledging the of his people. I also give notes to the three Arabs as a sort of testimonials. They have like gentlemen all through.

I wish you to give Hamees a long single rifle if it has come from Bombay; if then one of the new breech loaders I left a box soldered up in a tin at the Consulate. you bestow one of your old rifles on

[0004]

Hamidi; a good one. I have not said anything him but to Hamees I have explained.

My love to M^{rs} Seward and D^r Kirk

From Yours affectionately

(S^d) David Livingstone