

## Letter to [Benjamin T. Pyne], 2 April 1852

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Cape Town 2<sup>d</sup> April

1852

My Dear Friends

We are at present engaged in preparation for the voyage of my wife and family to England. The particular ship is not yet decided upon - but three are daily expected from India and as soon as either of these comes into the Bay, we shall make the necessary arrangements. We have been here a fortnight and busy all the time with the outfit. The expense has been borne by our friend Oswel and he has fitted them all out in a way rather too splendid for a poor missionary's family

[0002]

but all has been given with so much good will it was impossible to refuse. He goes by the present steamer the "Harbinger" which will sail tomorrow at twelve A.M. He will if well receive them on their arrival in England and we shall write by next steamer stating the name of the vessel by which they sail. I have told you our plans already, but we find it difficult to arrange as to where they will stay in England because we don't know how much the Directors' will allow for their maintenance. I think England must be chosen for their first year, & Essex is the county with which

I am best acquainted, but  
I am puzzled to know how  
[0003]  
much per annum is requisite  
for plain living and schooling  
Would it be troubling you too much  
to send a statement of how much  
would be necessary for three months  
say, or until M<sup>rs</sup> L. became  
acquainted with the modes  
of living, schooling &c. I am  
not aware whether M<sup>rs</sup> Pyne  
still receives children as  
boarders. Perhaps if you left  
a note on the subject at  
the mission House M<sup>rs</sup> L. would  
be enabled to act on the inform-  
-ation. The children have endured  
so much heat of late, they will  
require the constant attentions  
of their mother. If your circum-  
-stances had been the same as  
they formerly were, I should have  
felt no hesitation in telling  
my wife to go to your house  
[0004]  
till she had received the knowledge  
necessary for further arrangements.  
Information & advice are  
now all I can expect and  
for these M<sup>rs</sup> L. will be  
extremely obliged.

We feel very unwilling that Agnes  
should be left at Walthamstow  
school. We should like her to be  
with M<sup>rs</sup> Pyne if she still keeps  
a school. They will require all  
of them to choose new fathers  
& mothers in England. I fear  
they will forget us. At all events  
we can do no more for them  
than pray for them. The Directors  
must pay for their education  
The want of knowledge of how  
much they will be willing  
to give makes me close this  
in uncertainty.

Affectionately yours

David Livingstone