

Letter to John Kirk 2, 8 June 1865

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Burnbank Road

Hamilton 8th June

1865

My Dear Kirk

I took a run over
to Youngs a week ago
and thence went to
Edinburgh to talk to
Lord Dalhousie
but was unfortunate
enough to find him
at the Assembly on
the last day of meeting.
When that was over
I was too fatigued
with padding about
to feel that I could
appear to advantage

[0002]

and it was too late
for a call besides - I
had to come away here
for I had promised
to come back. My
mother being very
far gone, I fear sinking
gradually - and not
long for this world.
She had Bronchitis.
The lower part of the
lungs seems to be
impervious. and
she feels as if choking
At her age, 82, no
hope of recovery can
be entertained. I have
got Stewart to make
enquiries as to Lord

[0003]

Dalhousies's whereabouts
without saying what
my object is, and

if I can leave my
poor mother will
make a journey to
where he may be

I was just an afternoon
& morning at
Youngs, and did not
see your brother or
the new works.

I have written to
Sunley for Johanna
men. It does not
seem feasible to go
into Mombassa &
hand oneself & goods
over to people of
whom we know next

[0004]

to nothing & on whom
we have no hold. I may
get a few of some other
tribe of Indians from
Sir Bartle Frere as a
body guard. He is a
very able man without
doubt, and has worked
himself up by sheer
ability alone - so not-
withstanding anything
to the contrary, I think
there will be no mistake
in placing some reliance
on him.

Tom's complaint
comes back if he
overexerts himself,
which from feeling
hearty & strong he is
rather induced to do, or

[0005]

If I get to Edinburgh soon I will
call on your mother David Livingstone

if he gets cold. He has
grown a great deal
& is growing fast.
He got a prize for
drawing yesterday.

The picture was
exhibited, and is very
much better than I
had any idea of. He
must be taking
after his father! who
is great in that line!!
Oswell got prizes
for being dux in
six departments -
yesterday I went to
see the distribution.
German - Geography
scriptural knowledge

[0006]

French & Latin & The
recitations in German
& English far exceeded
anything I ever saw
when I was a boy.
We hear nothing of poor
Bob & I fear never
will. I think that
it cannot be denied
that the confederates
treated their prisoners
cruelly. They had not
rations enough for
their soldiers, and we
cannot wonder that
they starved their
prisoners. It would be
a pity if they hung
Davis, but I cannot
conceive why he
is so lauded as a

[0007]

high minded gentleman
He fought that he & others
might be served with -
out
paying servants
wages. We dont call a
man a gentleman
who can't & wont pay
his way. The South
has a gigantic task now
in undoing all that
slavery has done in

debasing these millions
of negroes. Of course
they wont work now
nor should I if I had
been a slave.

I got my evidence
to correct but had
already corrected it
in a copy of M^r Arthur
Mills & trusted him
to deliver it but

[0008]

he has forgotten & it
will go uncorrected
with several mistakes
in it which I regret
but I recommended
the keeping up the
settlements. The words
”strong native princes!!
Do they mean to hold
up bellows like
Daliomey Docemo
King Peppel &c. If so
that is a mistake
A strong middle class
of christian traders
should be formed
and though not equal to
a middle class elsewhere
they would be pre
vented by Each other
from glaring wrongs