Letter to John Kirk 2, 1 September 1864

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My Dear D<u>r</u> Kirk

I am glad to hear that you are enjoying yourself so famously I too had a turn in the Highlands by Staffa & Iona & Ulva & Mull. the weather was delightful and my native air quite set me up again. I got a free passage & a ticket [0002]"at any time to & from any place" See what it is to come from such ancestors -! My ancestral Hall presents walls only which have never been high & the corn patches were small but I was glad I saw it. I had a very delightful trip and today have sat down to my speech the thought of which always brings a cold shiver [0003]over me. I shall say that you will be there & hold forth on the botany & natural history - Shall I?

I intended to have gone into Syme's

hands ere now but dont like to get my infirmities put into the News papers. The bleeding has stopped & I feel very well. Syme said that he believed it was a mistake to think the haemorrhoids [0004]relieved the portal system. I know it relieved headache in me often -Thomas is much better and at Youngs I am going to Bath of course - Worse luck. the Portuguese Duprat & Laviadio have been at Waller pumping him as to whether I shall be at Bath. Waller says now for shot grape & cannister - Rowley wanted Wikatani & Chuma home from Bombay to lionaze with them Ever &c David Livingstone