

Letter to Joseph D. Hooker, 28 December 1857

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[0001]

Burnbank
Hamilton N.B.
28th Dec^r
1857

My Dear Hooker

I took a run down
here to spend Christmas
& newyearsday with
my mother & family
and got yours of 24th just this morning.

D^r Nichol has offered
himself as a candidate
for Naval service
and will be guided

[0002]

by Sir John Liddel
as to his future plans
Had he said that
he would be guided
by Sir William
Hooker I would have
been content, but
it being plainly out
of the question for
my expedition
going a begging to
Sir John Liddel
I am glad to recieve
unexceptionable

[0003]

recommendations from
Christison - Balfour
and Geo. Wilson
of a D^r John Kirk
who has already done
a little in Economic
botany in the East
” Kirk is an excellent
medical man, says

Balfour, young -
active & enthusiastic
He is a good Botanist
& gained the first
prizes for examination
in the Botanical class
[0004]
& the first prize for
dissections of plants
was attached to the medical
staff at Renkioi during
the Crimean War and
he made good botanical
observations on the Flora
of mount Ida &c which
he read to the Botanical
Society of Edinburgh
He afterwards travelled
through Egypt & Palestine
with a friend of Balfour's
as medical adviser &
made himself always
agreeable &c &c.

[0005]
From what is said
of him I mean to
see him. I only
wish you or your
father could see him as well.

Murchison must
have heard of Nichol's
preferences from
some other quarter
I never mentioned
them. Indeed did
not know them
till Saturday (26th)
[0006]
and up to that time
was bent on having
Nichol. but felt
a little desirous
of knowing some
what of his ante
cedents before
recommending him
to Lord Clarendon.
He seems to have
been down in

Edinburgh & to have
spoken so as that
[0007]
he would make the
African expedition
an alternative only
Kirk is so highly
recommended that
I feel drawn to him
rather. I shall ask
Murchison to
send on Balfour's
letter to you. I am
rather late but
with the best
wishes of the season
I send a literary
[0008]
curiosity to M^{rs}
Hooker which
I recieved this
morning as a
Christmas present

I shall return
to London by the
end of this week
and am ever
Your Affectionate
Friend

David Livingstone