

Letter to H. Norton Shaw, 25 March [1857]

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[0001]

25 March

Sloane St.

My Dear Shaw

A few days
ago M^r Prout wrote
to me saying that
he thought I had
known that the
Directors of the Society
had placed £200
to my credit but
finding I did not
he now told me of it

[0002]

I suppose your
movement has
elicited this. I had
on my arrival £100
out of my four
years salary. M^{rs}
L having been obliged
to draw on it as all
she got after paying
for the children was
£45 per annum
which in war times
was not very fattening
that £100 finished

[0003]

and not a word said
about aught else except
commencing a new
year [(1857)] which I dont
intend to do. I was
obliged to apply first
to you then to Murray
I get what I need
there - though it is eating my book
before it is

made. I dont mean
to draw any of the
£200 or anything else
as that will be
considered a hold upon
me. And I dont think
[0004]
they have it in their
power to give me any
on the course I mean
to pursue. The Society
is to send the gospel
& nothing else

When on my way
home I asked
Tidman to send me
the address of the
authorities of the
P & O. company
as I believed they
would give me
a free passage
[0005]
on account of
my connection
with the R.G.S.
Instead of giving
me what I asked
Prout wrote to
some of the company
I dont know
whom and got
a promise of
the Passage money
back £105 which
I paid at the Pont
de Galle, Ceylon
[0006]
No more was said
or done untill a
few days ago when
Prout in his note
said Tell me to
whom you paid
the money and
we will get it
back for you
Now I dont quite
like this we will
It will be returned

not on his account
[0007]
at all. Are you
acquainted with
the P.& O. company?
This letting me alone
looks like wishing
to let me feel the
screw of want &
then come humbly
to them which
though I am as
much a missionary
as ever I dont
like to do.

I think you had
[0008]
better not do any
more about the
Fund. Though it
would be well to
have it when I
need it & not when
on the sea or where
no shops are to be
had to spend it.

I dont mean to
draw any more
from the L.M.S.

Yours &c

David Livingstone