

Letter to Lord John Russell, 28 November 1865

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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Bombay- 28 Nov^r 1865

My Lord, have had the honour to inform Y. L. that arrived here on the 11th Sept^r I spent time in organizing my expedition for interior of Africa, & was ready to start 6 weeks ago.

On again visiting my little steamer, I to the conclusion that she was much small to recross the 2700 miles between and the river Rovuma, & that it w^d be again to incur the risk of that - for the sake of using her on the 150 miles of that river wh^h is navigable.

I therefore waited, in the hope of hearing a passage in a man-of-war, in accordance a request made by the Forⁿ office to Admiralty, but received no information the arrival of Comm^{re} Montresora ago, when it appeared that the first proceeding to the E. Coast w^d not be for another month. H. E. Sir Bartle , however, having given me the option a passage in a small steamer, named "Thule", wh^h is to be sent in a few days as a

[0002] present this Gov^t to the Sultan of , I shall gladly avail myself of conveyance.

By the favour of H. E. the Gov^t I have 12 volunteers & a native officer from the Battalion, who having served as in the old East Indian Navy in the Persian Gulph & on the Coast of Africa are to undergo hardship, & it has been arranged that this work will as service.

In addition to these, 8 liberated Africans, have received some education at a ^t school at Nassick, and been taught & smith's work, have also to serve.

The most serious drawback to in Africa is the want of carriage & beasts of burden. The insect called

"tsetse", by destroying domestic animals, cattle to very limited areas of . As wild buffaloes are not injured the bite of this pest, it ocured to me to whether the tame buffalo of India might enjoy the same immunity, & by the very assistance of H. H. the Sultan of , who wrote an order to the Captain

[0003] one of His Ships with his own hand to what I might send on board. I 14 of these animals to be used beasts of burden, & as an experiment to see they can withstand the insect poison. The buffalo of India resembles the wild of Africa so closely that they must be than half brothers, & should we succeed introducing a beast of burden it will be a to the country, & by rendering strangers independent of native carriers blessing to travellers. The experiment at any is worth the expense.

H. E. Sir B. Frere has done everything in his to aid my progress & shewn more than I can express. Through his The Sultan of Zanzibar furnished a to all his people whom we may meet Africa. This will at least prevent hostility, & may do much more. It is a gratifying of H.H's friendship.

Some of the gentlemen of Bombay of their accord entered into a subscription in aid my expedition, & handed £645 to me. I deposited this sum with a mercantile to be used as soon as I can point out a healthy locality, in an effort to lawful commerce, & begin that system ^h

has been so eminently successful on the West

[0004] . It is probable that a mercantile will manage a matter of this kind to advantage, & spend the money to purpose than I could, because I am in the trading instinct.

The explanations pointed out in Y. L's , and in those of the Royal Soc^y will claim my earliest

& earnest attention.

I am &c

/signed/ David Livingstone