

Letter to [Edgar L.] Layard, 7 April 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Senna 7th April

1860

Private

My Dear M^r Layard

In reply to your

enquiry about snails I have to
confess that there is a singular
and blessed scarcity of them here.

I can recollect having seen only
nine species - of these one is
a black velveteen coated individual
without shell, and another very
like that yellow civilized snail
which we used to see when
"daisies & buttercups gladdened
our sight" He is houseless too.
Whether this scarcity arises from
the tremendous grass burnings

[0002]

that annually sweep over the land,
or from [the] want [of] enterprise (in the
animals) which has consigned this
fine country to paltry peddling
in ivory & sneaking dealing in
in human flesh, I cannot pretend
to say, but if you are fond of
throwing snails into your dissenting
neighbour's garden, you need not
come here. It would be all up with
you. but I shall try & send you
a few some day.

D^r Kirk got away a good
botanical collection and M^r C Livingstone
a good many birds. but it has
been uphill work - want of room
and perpetual damp in our wretched
asthmatic steamer seriously im-
peded every effort. But if we live,
we shall do something more, i.e. we
shall try & try again

[0003]

Thanks for the Pinches - the good
old fellow swam ashore seven
miles west of where he
was sent afloat! letters lost.
I am &c

D. Livingstone

We leave our craft at Tette
if she floats so long she is
completely done. A better
vessel is necessary before
any collection can be made
Thanks for the zoological information