

## Letter to John Kirk 2

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[0001]

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My Dear Kirk

I am very sorry  
to hear your determination  
not to engage in  
the proposed work  
for I am quite sure  
that you would  
give information  
to the world of great  
value - and besides  
making your  
name better known  
you would be in a

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fair way of getting  
something better -  
You will excuse me  
if I urge you to re-  
consider the subject  
I am purposely avoiding  
anything like scientific  
description having  
said in the introduction  
that it is hoped that  
you will give the botany  
and natural history  
of the Expedition (in  
the way that Darwin  
did of the Beagle 's voyage)  
I mention sometimes  
that certain beasts were  
seen or killed and

[0003]

always when possible  
use we - referring to  
you & myself as D<sup>r</sup> L  
and D<sup>r</sup> K. and I  
would give you the  
proof sheets that you

might see if I en-  
croached too much  
on your province -  
and give you any  
information I could  
on the habits of some  
of the animals -  
though I daresay you  
know more on  
that subject than  
I do. Your Botanical  
knowledge is not  
elementary and  
I thought  
was frightfully so - all  
the works on natural  
history would be at your  
disposal, and by due  
acknowledgement  
you could work up most  
of the [popular] information they  
contain & the authors  
be thankful. You may  
see what can be done  
though not in an open  
above board line as yours  
would be, by  
natural history I think  
he calls it. You had  
better think over the  
matter again and if  
you change your mind  
please let me know .

You might consult D<sup>r</sup>Smithwith

[0004]  
advantage and to him and Lady Smith

[0005]  
you will kindly remember me .