

Letter to George E. Seward, 25 September 1867

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Lopone 25 Sept^r 1867

My Dear Seward

I wrote you by a man called Magera Mufupi from Molemba requesting a lot of goods to be sent to Ujiji exactly the same as those already sent by Koroje and which I hear have safely reached their destination. Should that letter have miscarried you will take this as supplying its place and Koroje's books will guide you as to the sort of goods needed. The medicines were the most important want. A war detained me 3 1/2 months and during that time I was most kindly treated by the heads of an Arab party namely Hamees Wadim Tagh, Syde bin Alli and Hamidi Mohamed. The chief Msama attacked [them] as he has done native traders before, plundered and killed some of their people, but got the worst of it at last. I heard but one side of the story, but several collateral circumstances lead me to believe that Msama was to blame. Hamees lost a good deal of property there and again at Hara by an accidental fire - Syde's property - beads, cloth &c suffered severely by Msama's treachery and Hamidi was also a considerable sufferer. Yet they tried to make peace, and the peace-making was a tedious process. I ought to have said that the peace-making detained me 3 1/2 months - drinking blood! don't shudder my dear fellow it is in Homoeopathic doses only. I should prefer it to another part of the negotiation, marrying Msama's daughter, though she was good looking enough. I came riding pick a back on a man's shoulders; I then visited Msama

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His people were excessively suspicious, examining my clothes to see if I had no guns concealed! I had good reasons for not going round about his country but cannot enter into them now. I think that letters will reach you from Ujiji

sooner than by this party, which is still going West. I might have gone thither in a dhow last week but have work here still.

One of the Nassick boys has left us and will probably try to draw on your charity. His complaint is dislike to work, he says that he is a shoemaker & has been a nuisance all along. Hamees says that he will take him to you. I say let him go where he likes - he was determined not to work. He used to abuse me in Hindustani to let the others know how bold he was. I think he has a smack of idiocy but it is often assumed. Don't trouble yourself with him. When he left the coast he told me to take my gun and shoot him if I insisted on the very easy work of leading a mule and did not allow him to load it with a big bag of maize he had bought as private stores. I tried a simple instrument in the shape of a stick to his back. He did not venture to rebel again but was a nuisance by remaining behind on the march and at last gave his load to a country lad and went off to collect mushrooms.

[He] came up with his bonnet full of them but minus his bundle which contained all our medicines tools and six large table cloths. This was in a part so densely covered with forest no pursuit could be made. Like many of low intellect he was excessively greedy and careful of all he could

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call his own; all he had collected at Zanzibar and on the journey was carefully stowed away in his bundle and he wore a rag only. He seemed never to think that he had done wrong in losing the goods. He next persuaded another man to run away with him, this other put down a box containing three chronometers in the jungle and ran off. When sent for they had no complaint to make. I offered to remedy anything wrong but they had no fault to find with anything. Their plan was to beg! I showed the folly of losing his pay &c &c. This fellow called Baraka has put his plan into operation again. He will be a slave to the Arab slaves and get a share of their food. I suspect that he was drunk with pombe and burned his thighs, by which he was idle 3 1/2 months. He was well when we started but had no load. He came 2 hours and

turned back. Hamees says that he will take him to you but you will not incur any expense on my account. I told Hamees to let him go where he liked.

The buffaloes all died on the way to Ujiji and there I hear the dried flesh awaits my arrival. I send a note to His Highness Said Majid by this same opportunity acknowledging the kindness of his people. I also give notes to the three head Arabs as a sort of testimonials. They have behaved like gentlemen all through.

I wish you to give Hamees a long single barrelled rifle if it has come from Bombay; if not then one of the new breech loaders I left in a box soldered up in a tin at the Consulate. Could you bestow one of your old rifles on

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Hamidi; a good one. I have not said anything to him but to Hamees I have explained.

My love to M^{rs} Seward and D^r Kirk

From Yours affectionately

(S^d) David Livingstone