

## Letter to John Kirk 2, 1 January 1866

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))  
[0001]

Bombay, New years  
day 1866

Private

Many happy returns  
of this day to you  
My Dear Kirk. The  
Governor sent for  
me yesterday and  
from the contents of  
your letter which I  
recieved the day  
before I guessed the  
purpose. He said that  
he wished to ask me  
about you. He knew  
that I had always  
spoken very handsome-  
ly about you but the[re]  
were sometimes pri-  
vate circumstances  
in a man's character  
which unless called  
upon to reveal no  
one would think of  
mentioning. there may  
be something (here I put  
in the word "cranky")  
yes something that  
though not prominent  
might render him an  
inconvenient public  
servant. I replied  
in terms that I need  
not repeat that I  
knew no defect of  
character or temper  
you got on well with  
people but were firm  
in doing your duty &c.  
[0002]  
and I felt certain that

from your hatred to  
the slave trade and  
knowledge of the  
whole subject you  
would be invaluable  
at Zanzibar. He  
said that it was a  
great recommendation  
that I wished you to  
be there and he would  
have much pleasure  
in telegraphing to  
you today and he  
wished me to write  
a letter to you to go  
by next mail. I do  
this now and as  
I am to go by tomorrow  
[0003]  
morning in the Thule  
I can only congratulate  
you on your appoint-  
ment.

I have spoken to  
Tracey to shew you  
kindness here - the  
hotels are horribly  
dear, and he will do his  
duty. He is big brother  
to Tracey of the  
Orestes. You should  
call on Michael Scott  
of the same firm with  
Tracey & a leading  
man here now in  
London. and it would  
be well to see Fleming  
[0004]  
Fraser is said to be  
out of his house now  
and Alex <sup>r</sup> Brown  
the head of the firm  
here & a very good fellow  
tells me that they are  
to have nothing to do  
with the Arabs but to  
hire labour in the  
open market. I shall  
mention your  
coming to him - and

to M<sup>r</sup> Lidderdale the  
head of Remington &co  
who is a great florist  
The Scotch are clannish  
and will save you  
much expense.  
[0005]

I have been thinking  
if we could get an  
Arab settlement near  
mouth of the Rovuma  
positively free to all  
and without slavery  
it might be a step  
in advance. It might  
be a way of establishing  
the sultan's brother.  
Turn this over in  
your mind. He is  
here now ( Poonah)  
was operated on for  
elephantiasis scroti  
successfully and  
gave D<sup>r</sup> Mackenzie  
a fine Damascus sword

Who wrote the letter from Zanzibar von  
Schifter seems to have skedaddled hela

[...] the telegram went off yesterday

I thanked His Excellency & told him I had written  
to you. He is a real good fellow - is blamed  
for being too polite but is firm enough  
when necessary. I go positively tomorrow