

Letter to John Washington, 12 February 1858

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

18 Hart St.

Bloomsbury

12 Feby 1858

Private

Dear Capⁿ Washington

I beg leave to
forward to you
M^r Baines' formal
application for
a sum to be
paid statedly to
his mother, and
feel sure that
[0002]
you will do kindly
do what you
can to forward
his laudable
desire.

The complaint
of M^r Welsh about
the chronometer
having run down
was frivolous.
I wrote a sharp
letter to M^r Charles
Livingstone on
[0003]
recieving the report
and on further
investigation felt
ashamed that I had done it. The watch
did not run
down but stopped
and evoked the ejaculation
"Hallo! have I
forgot to wind

it up” on trial
with the key
[0004]
it was found
wound up. Captⁿ
Haig asked if it
had been neglected
and recieved the
reply No. M^r
Welsh overhearing
this infers & the
inference is gravely
reported to you
as a fact. I was very much
[0005]
annoyed by the
idea that my
brother was
careless in the
performance of
his duty. He
walked all the
way from
Highbury to this
about midnight
and back again
after recieving
[0006]
my note and
after spending
a sleepless night
(I was out till
(12 1/2) was here
again early this
morning to
explain.

I should
like to know
if our magnetical
[0007]
observations
will come through
M^r Welsh’s
hands - He stated
that M^r C. Livingstone
was ignorant
of logarithms.
Now M^r Welsh
never said a
word to him

about them
and he [M^r L.] is moreover
[0008]

(though perhaps a
little rusty from
disuse) thoroughly
educated being
B.A. of his
college. If there
is not a sacred
regard to truth in
those to whom our
observations [may] come
the zeal of the Expedition
for magnetism will
undoubtedly sink to
zero perhaps below it
[0009]

I write you because
as I am to be
introduced to her Majesty tomorrow
besides the dinner
in the evening
I fear I may
not have the
pleasure of
waiting on you
till Monday
[0010]

Will you kindly
aid me about
the chronometer?

I have thought
a box one
will be preferable
A note from
you to the Astronomer
Royal and
if necessary

[0011]
an order for
one of the tried
ones to be
paid for (£30
or a bit more)
by me. The
lady came this
morning and
wished me
to go & buy it
at once

[0012]

I send all my
packages to
Liverpool tomorrow
(Saturday) and
will visit my
children for the
last time on t

I am &c

David Livingstone