

Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 8 December 1840

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

On board the "George" Gravesend 8th Dec
1840

My Dear Friend

At length I am afloat and vessel is fast getting under weigh in order to me away far from happy England. I have doubt but you now associate me in your thoughts the little place which I now occupy & should like know how I like my new mode of life. I am to be able to say that the only report I can yet make is good, for though every thing on is in confusion & must for some time so, as all hands are employed in getting vessel in sailing order. Yet I am well pleased our accommodation & passed as comfortable night in my little berth as ever I did any where else

I dont know much of our fellow passengers, as we only exchanged a few words, but all seem to be pleased so I hope we shall go on together - We have two ladies & two gentlemen besides . one of the latter is D^r Grant, a newly fledged surgeon in the army, quite green & but lately from the eggshell. I think the majority of are Scotch but we are none the better for that

We left London yesterday at 10 A.M. & got on board about 4 P.M. & now at 12 noon the seamen are

[0002] weighing anchor & hoisting the sails - while I write now she has begun to move. I hope we shall have need again for the anchor untill we reach Simon's Bay the Cape

I dont ~~plae~~ attach much importance to the state my feelings, but cannot refrain from alluding to them in [my present] circumstances as I know you will with me. When I look back on all the way which the Lord has led me I see nothing but of His Goodness & Paternal care. Every of my way has been strewd with mercies & now than all he has counted me faithful, putting into the ministry & sends me as a messenger of to the heathen. How much reason have S. & I have doubt but you on reviewing your lives, feel constrained say Bless the Lord oh my soul & all that is within me stored up to magnify & bless the holy name. & Remem-me in your prayers that the loving kindness of the may [have] the effect on my mind which he intended & that may live entirely consecrated to his glory - I do feel I grateful at present but I know the deceitful nature my heart & am afraid ~~that~~ lest I forget my obligations to the grace of the Lord Jesus.

I could have written you this morning but there is a that those which I did send may not be put the post office. The price of them being a temptation to the cupidity of the watermen by whom we send them wrote M^{rs} Moore & paid a man handsomely to take ashore - but as the same man would not take the

[0003] wife ashore without being paid the exorbitant sum 1/2 a guinea for about a mile & a half, I suspect he would destroy our letters - This I shall transmit by the Pilot, when leaves us in the Downs

All hands being employed about the vessel at present we not yet got to our luggage as it is stowed away cant yet from personal inspection acknowledge your contained in the box you sent last to the Mission . I beg leave again return you my warmest for all your kindness which I feel persuaded made an impression on my heart which shall be effaced. the Lord Jesus himself reward with peace & prosperity - & shew mercy to every member your family

Instead of sending your letters to D^r Phillip. Please address the care of Rev^d Adam Robson - Port Elizabeth, Algoa - sending them either to the Mission House or M^{rs} 's- If you write a month after this I may your letter when I arrive at Algoa Bay. As may be detained some time at the Cape - I need scarcely that when I write to you I shall speak with freedom & of course mention things which are not designed to be by any but those whom I write

I like M^{rs} Ross better now that I see more of her are in fact now so much in contact with each that if she were disagreeable, I should not fail to it - seems willing to oblige & be friendly. I hope we have no reason to complain of each other

Please present my esteem to M^{iss} Marshall, Miss Mary, M^{iss} Mary Ruffle & M^{iss} Stubbing & the boys to whom I am known the Divine presence be with them all & His grace touch their hearts & [...]

[0004]

Paid

M^r B. Pyne

Wildingtree

Ongar

Essex