

## Letter to John Murray III, 31 May 1857

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[0001]

Hadley Green

31<sup>st</sup> May 1857

My Dear M<sup>r</sup> Murray

I was extremely  
surprised and pained  
by the utterly unwarrantable  
liberties taken by the  
person you employed  
on my copy. I cannot  
believe that you are  
aware of them as you  
heard what M<sup>r</sup> Elwin  
said about the pleasure  
he experienced in  
reading what I had  
written in my own  
[0002]

style. I have the  
opinions of Prof. Owen  
Sir Roderick Murchison  
M<sup>r</sup> Elvin & M<sup>r</sup> Binney  
that it is more likely  
to be popular and  
saleable than if diluted  
or emasculated as  
this man has impudently  
presumed to do. It  
is therefore both for  
your advantage &  
mine that I reject  
in toto every change  
introduced in red ink  
[0003]

I am sorry you have  
been at the expense of  
employing this man  
I will refund all  
you have expended  
on him if you please  
but my dear friend

every iota of his  
labour must go. I  
cannot and will  
not submit any one  
comma even to his  
judgment. The parts  
in which I have  
incorporated the  
corrections of

[0004]

Mr Binney can and  
must stand as I have  
put them. I have  
come to the conclusion  
since reading Kane's  
book today - set your  
man to that and I  
affirm he would  
erase & transpose  
more than in mine  
and yet that is popular  
I think I may declare  
to you that you  
will not find me  
cantankerous or

[0005]

unreasonable or  
difficult to deal  
with in any other  
matter but I must  
positively resist  
any attempts to tamper  
with or emasculate  
the book I am  
sure you have not  
looked at this  
impudent fellows  
work seriously  
It is quite abominable  
and no earthly con-  
sideration will

[0006]

make me succumb  
to make the work  
a mere primer  
I fear, by the explanation  
I have given wherever  
obscure was marked  
it will even now  
partake of too much  
of the penny primer

character. Many  
of the corrections  
already put in are  
not given in Kaness  
and my book will  
[0007]  
be read by persons  
in much the same  
position as to intelligence as the readers  
of his.

I send this before  
me but come up  
on Monday [myself] - I can  
get a man who  
has some sympathy  
with African travel  
Galton for instance  
or Dr Archer. All  
the emendations  
I introduced in black  
ink must be retained  
[0008]

All those in red are nil  
I would not for anything  
else give you one  
moments pain but  
this is a case in which  
your interests will  
suffer as well as  
mine if allowed  
to go on. I can not  
& will not submit  
to this unknown  
I would do anything  
else for you but  
this you cant be  
aware of

David Livingstone