

## Letter to [Edgar L.] Layard, 7 April 1860

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[0001]

Senna 7<sup>th</sup> April

1860

Private

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

In reply to your enquiry about snails I have to confess that there is a singular and blessed scarcity of them here. I can recollect having seen only nine species - of these one is a black velveteen coated individual without shell, and another very like that yellow civilized snail which we used to see when "daisies & buttercups gladdened our sight" He is houseless too. Whether this scarcity arises from the tremendous grass burnings

[0002]

that annually sweep over the land, or from [the] want [of] enterprise (in the animals) which has consigned this fine country to paltry peddling in ivory & sneaking dealing in human flesh, I cannot pretend to say, but if you are fond of throwing snails into your dissenting neighbour's garden, you need not come here. It would be all up with you. but I shall try & send you a few some day.

D<sup>r</sup> Kirk got away a good botanical collection and M<sup>r</sup> C Livingstone a good many birds. but it has been uphill work - want of room and perpetual damp in our wretched

asthmatic steamer seriously impeded every effort. But if we live, we shall do something more, i.e. we shall try & try again

[0003]

Thanks for the Pinches - the good old fellow swam ashore seven miles west of where he was sent afloat! letters lost.  
I am &c  
D. Livingstone

We leave our craft at Tette if she floats so long she is completely done. A better vessel is necessary before any collection can be made  
Thanks for the zoological information