

Letter to Unknown, 7 February 1871

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Unpublished letter of
D^r Livingstone
February 7th 1871.

Manyema
(Bearing on the
for: office question
of salary)

Being unable to
carry paper in this damp
climate I have given the
Foreign Office only one sheet
of closely written matter
much like what I have
given you but ending
with the following sentence

"I would fain erase
Your Lordship's approba-
tion of my labour
but the under secretary's
Murray's impertinent
letter forbids any
Government

[0002]

Government from allowing
me any claim no matter
what services I may render"

M^r Murray's "ungracious
and unjust" effusion
contained internal evidence
that a statesman like
Lord Russell knew nothing
of it for we might bind
down future [...]
to give but never not to
give this could only
emanate from what
the office slang calls
"a safeman". He
withdrew the most
offensive part by sending
a copy without it, but
had not the Grace to

say, it was withdrawn
My

[0003]

My first effort
if I get home, will not
be to speak to geographers
but to bring the impertinent
letter before Parliament.
"You have no claim
"for pay as consul, and
"Your consulate will at
"once cease on reaching
"the Coast but you will
"have no claim whatever":
This was substantially
the letter and one of the
most exhuberantimper-
tinence that ever left the
Foreign or any other office
On my first appointment
Lord Clarendon's words
imply increase of salary.
I have a Despatch of -
Lord

[0004]

Lord Malmesbury -
stating his conviction
that my salary was far
too low: My Foreign
Office instructions tell me
to take my steamer to
Rovuma, does that not
imply the duty to share
in my loss by her?

D^r Miller got from Lord
Russell £800 a year for
scientific research and
no consular duties in
Madagascar. While he
intended to give me only
£500 a year if I settled
anywhere. I mean to claim
any salary increased during
the whole of the time from
1864

[0005]

1864 onwards. I may
not get it tho'. Thornton's
brother got his even for
going with von der Decken.
That letter with the
foolish instructions
of self elected busy
bodies worried in spite
of every effort to be
philosophical and the
worry is embittered by
remembering that good
Lord Palmerston sent
M^r Hayward to ask me
"what he could do as he
"was anxious to serve me".

My mind was so sorely
jaded by that last book
and the wickedness of
the

[0006]

the Portuguese doings, that
I never thought of ought
but my work. He
meant something for
myself but I wanted the
Ports of East Africa to be
opened to free commerce
My only solace was Sir
Francis Beaufort's words
to the Arctic Explorers. -
"Remember gentlemen you
"are going on discovery and
"not on survey" as if to me
(signed) David Livingstone

:

A Despatch among the lost 40
was a supplement to that from
Bangalosa and a very good one
It would have given you an idea
of the watershed such as no-
theorist ever dreamed.
I have a copy in Ujiji in my
journal.