

Letter to Richard Owen, 29 March 1841

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Cape Town 29th March 1841

R. Owen Esq^r.

Sir

I take the liberty to inform you yesterday I presented to Colonel Bell the Hon^{le}. Secretary the Colony, your letter respecting the boxes sent out the College for facilitating the collection of anatomical . And today I received from him the following . " Colonel Bell begs to inform M^r Livingston in to his note of yesterday that there are at least boxes at Gov^t House which answer the descrip- tion given by Proffessor Owen, being addressed to Sir Benjamin D'Urban, and marked "Glass" recommend Mr Livingston to make application the subject to His Excellency's Private Secretary Gov^t House- presenting at the same time, the Proffessor's letter which is herewith enclosed for that " - &c

I understand there are three of them & as far as them is concerned nothing has been . This is really too bad but what else can we from those who seem to make money chief end of pursuit. Their leisure moments

[0002] devoted to something very different from lending hand to the cause of science

I have do doubt but that I shall be put in of the "cases" And as the mail for England made up tonight I lose no time in letting you my success, and also the prospect of ultimate in obtaining what you wish - I am infor-by those who have travelled extensively through the Colony that it is by no means uncommon for "Bushmen" to bring the eggs of ostriches for sale the waggons of travellers, and these frequently in a of incubation. And I likewise observe great of the shells for sale in Cape Town, these objects of curiosity for sailors &c &c - The Cape -Eater is reported to be delicious as food & no doubt searched after by the natives on this account I suppose by offering a larger price than usual the former and placing a sum on the whole or only the uteri of the latter, I may soon in obtaining all we require.

You may rely upon me that I shall lose no ~~unnecessary~~ time unnecessarily but will make every to effect our purpose that may be consistent the chief object of my mission to this country

[0003] pursuits are not the end for which I have come , but the evangelization & civilization of the people to this I hope to devote most of my energies.

While however I make the latter my chief object I mean attend a little to the former as a means of relaxation if now or at any future time you should wish that can be obtained in my part of the . Please, Do not hesitate to make what use choose of my services. A note, addressed (Rev)D. Livingston, Bichuana Country: care of (Rev.) A. , Port Elizabeth, Algoa Bay, S.A. and handed the Mission House, Blomfield (St.)to any of the , will in due time reach me -

I have been longer in my passage hither than I at [...] . The delay having been caused by the splitting one of our masts which obliged us to put into De Janeiro to refit. The same accident detains here and if we go on at this slow rate, I do see that we can reach Lattakoo in much than 4 months from this date. The length of time must elapse before I can transmit the boxes to the coast is rather discouraging but I earnestly to get one of them replenished before I pass the of the Colony in which case I suppose it

~~would~~ will reach you before the termination of the present . If however it is later Do not

suppose I have

[0004] have forgotten my intentions But believe me
ever yours with much respect

David Livingston

R. Owen Esq^r

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single

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