

Letter to John Kirk 2, 1 January 1866

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[0001]

Who wrote the letter from Zanzibar von
Schifter seems to have skedaddled hela

Bombay, New years
day 1866

Private

Many happy returns
of this day to you
My Dear Kirk. The
Governor sent for
me yesterday and
from the contents of
your letter which I
recieved the day
before I guessed the
purpose. He said that
he wished to ask me
about you. He knew
that I had always
spoken very handsome-
ly about you but the
were sometimes pri-
vate circumstances

[0002]

[...] the telegram went off yesterday

in a man's character
which unless called
upon to reveal no
one would think of
mentioning. there may
be something (here I put
in the word "cranky")
yes something that
though not prominent
might render him an
inconvenient public
servant. I replied
in terms that I need
not repeat that I

knew no defect of
character or temper
you got on well with
people but were firm
in doing your duty &c.

[0003]

I thanked His Excellency & told him I had written
to you. He is a real good fellow - is blamed
for being too polite but is firm enough

and I felt certain that
from your hatred to
the slave trade and
knowledge of the
whole subject you
would be invaluable
at Zanzibar. He
said that it was a
great recommendation
that I wished you to
be there and he would
have much pleasure
in telegraphing to
you today and he
wished me to write
a letter to you to go
by next mail. I do
this now and as
I am to go by tomorrow

[0004]

when necessary. I go positively tomorrow

morning in the Thule
I can only congratulate
you on your appoint-
ment.

I have spoken to
Tracey to shew you
kindness here - the
hotels are horribly
dear, and he will do his
duty. He is big brother
to Tracey of the
Orestes. You should
call on Michael Scott
of the same firm with
Tracey & a leading

man here now in
London. and it would
be well to see Fleming

[0005]

Fraser is said to be
out of his house now
and Alex ^r Brown
the head of the firm
here & a very good fellow
tells me that they are
to have nothing to do
with the Arabs but to
hire labour in the
open market. I shall
mention your
coming to him - and
to M^r Lidderdale the
head of Remington &co
who is a great florist
The Scotch are clannish
and will save you
much expense.

[0006]

I have been thinking
if we could get an
Arab settlement near
mouth of the Rovuma
positively free to all
and without slavery
it might be a step
in advance. It might
be a way of establishing
the sultan's brother.
Turn this over in
your mind. He is
here now (Poonah)
was operated on for
elephantiasis scroti
successfully and
gave D^r Mackenzie
a fine Damascus sword