

## Letter to John Kirk 2, 8 June 1865

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[0001]

Burnbank Road

Hamilton 8<sup>th</sup> June  
1865

My Dear Kirk

I took a run over  
to Youngs a week ago  
and thence went to  
Edinburgh to talk to  
Lord Dalhousie  
but was unfortunate  
enough to find him  
at the Assembly on  
the last day of meeting.

When that was over

I was too fatigued  
with padding about  
to feel that I could  
appear to advantage  
[0002]

and it was too late  
for a call besides - I  
had to come away here  
for I had promised  
to come back. My  
mother being very  
far gone, I fear sinking  
gradually - and not  
long for this world.

She had Bronchitis.

The lower part of the  
lungs seems to be  
impervious. and  
she feels as if choking

At her age, 82, no  
hope of recovery can  
be entertained. I have  
got Stewart to make  
enquiries as to Lord

[0003]

Dalhousies's whereabouts

without saying what  
my object is, and  
if I can leave my  
poor mother will  
make a journey to  
where he may be

I was just an afternoon  
& morning at  
Youngs, and did not  
see your brother or  
the new works.

I have written to  
Sunley for Johanna  
men. It does not  
seem feasible to go  
into Mombassa &  
hand oneself & goods  
over to people of  
whom we know next  
[0004]  
to nothing & on whom  
we have no hold. I may  
get a few of some other  
tribe of Indians from  
Sir Bartle Frere as a  
body guard. He is a  
very able man without  
doubt, and has worked  
himself up by sheer  
ability alone - so not-  
withstanding anything  
to the contrary, I think  
there will be no mistake  
in placing some reliance  
on him.

Tom's complaint  
comes back if he  
overexerts himself,  
which from feeling  
hearty & strong he is  
rather induced to do, or  
[0005]

If I get to Edinburgh soon I will  
call on your mother David Livingstone

if he gets cold. He has  
grown a great deal

& is growing fast.  
He got a prize for  
drawing yesterday.  
The picture was  
exhibited, and is very  
much better than I  
had any idea of. He  
must be taking  
after his father! who  
is great in that line!!  
Oswell got prizes  
for being dux in  
six departments -  
yesterday I went to  
see the distribution.  
German - Geography  
scriptural knowledge  
[0006]  
French & Latin & The  
recitations in German  
& English far exceeded  
anything I ever saw  
when I was a boy.  
We hear nothing of poor  
Bob & I fear never  
will. I think that  
it cannot be denied  
that the confederates  
treated their prisoners  
cruelly. They had not  
rations enough for  
their soldiers, and we  
cannot wonder that  
they starved their  
prisoners. It would be  
a pity if they hung  
Davis, but I cannot  
conceive why he  
is so lauded as a  
[0007]  
high minded gentleman  
He fought that he & others  
might be served with -  
out  
paying servants  
wages. We dont call a  
man a gentleman  
who can't & wont pay  
his way. The South  
has a gigantic task now  
in undoing all that

slavery has done in  
debasing these millions  
of negroes. Of course  
they wont work now  
nor should I if I had  
been a slave.

I got my evidence  
to correct but had  
already corrected it  
in a copy of M<sup>r</sup> Arthur  
Mills & trusted him  
to deliver it but  
[0008]  
he has forgotten & it  
will go uncorrected  
with several mistakes  
in it which I regret  
but I recommended  
the keeping up the  
settlements. The words  
”strong native princes!!  
Do they mean to hold  
up bellows like  
Daliomey Docemo  
King Peppel &c. If so  
that is a mistake  
A strong middle class  
of christian traders  
should be formed  
and though not equal to  
a middle class elsewhere  
they would be pre  
vented by Each other  
from glaring wrongs