

## Letter to Joseph D. Hooker, 11 July 1857

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

Hadley Green  
Barnet 11<sup>th</sup> July  
1857

My Dear D<sup>r</sup> Hooker  
I beg to  
return you my  
hearty thanks for  
your note and  
the trouble you  
have been at  
in deciphering

[0002]

the mere fragments  
submitted to you  
Your willingness  
to examine anything  
botanical will  
certainly make  
me more anxious  
to secure something  
for you in Africa  
more worthy of  
your time

[0003]

We get meal of  
a kind of millet  
in Londa which  
I think is the  
lesser bird seed  
It grows on a  
high stalk in this  
way. the seeds are  
small & a slight tinge  
of slate colour  
on the outer scale  
What is the botanical  
name for it It is  
so extensively cultiv-

[0004]

in Africa I think  
you must know  
The Holcus Sorghum  
is the most general  
article in use. We  
speak of it as Caffre  
corn Is that  
correct.

There are two kinds  
of Manioc. One  
sweet the other  
bitter & poisonous  
they are both  
mentioned in a

[0005]  
work by Daniel  
on the West Coast  
but I have not that  
work nearer at  
hand than Linyanti  
so I beg to trouble  
you to tell me  
the proper names  
of the two species  
of Manioc, the  
Jatropha Manihot  
and -

As I am boring

I think I have any claim on your time  
or attention - I am only putting you in the  
way of doing an act of charity to yours &c  
David Livingstone

[0006]

with questions  
Have you the  
proper names  
for the melons  
which form  
such an important  
article of support  
on the Kalahari  
Desert and of  
one there which  
has the flavour  
of an apple

[0007]

What is the name  
of the Palm which  
when the leaves  
are broken off  
gives the idea  
of it being triangular

The ends of the  
leaf stalks stick  
on and give it  
the appearance  
referred to.

[0008]  
A fruit mentioned at the  
end of Bowdichs  
work with Meuse  
by the name Masuka  
was found by  
me in very large  
quantities. It is  
good. As it seems  
know can I have  
the proper name  
Now please just  
attend or not to these  
questions as it is con  
venient - though I send  
them it is not because