

Letter to [Benjamin T. Pyne], 2 April 1852

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[0001]

Cape Town 2^d April

1852

My Dear Friends

We are at present engaged in preparation for the voyage of my wife and family to England. The particular ship is not yet decided upon - but three are daily expected from India and as soon as either of these comes into the Bay, we shall make the necessary arrangements. We have been here a fortnight and busy all the time with the outfit. The expense has been borne by our friend Oswel and he has fitted them all out in a way rather too splendid for a poor missionary's family [0002]

but all has been given with so much good will it was impossible to refuse. He goes by the present steamer the "Harbinger" which will sail tomorrow at twelve A.M. He will if well receive them on their arrival in England and we shall write by next steamer stating the name of the vessel by which they sail. I have told you our plans already, but we find it difficult to arrange as to where they will stay in England because we don't know how much the Directors' will allow for their maintenance. I think England must be chosen for their first year, & Essex is the county with which I am best acquainted, but

I am puzzled to know how
[0003]
much per annum is requisite
for plain living and schooling
Would it be troubling you too much
to send a statement of how much
would be necessary for three months
say, or until M^{rs} L. became
acquainted with the modes
of living, schooling &c. I am
not aware whether M^{rs} Pyne
still recieves children as
boarders. Perhaps if you left
a note on the subject at
the mission House M^{rs} L. would
be enabled to act on the inform-
-ation. The children have endured
so much heat of late, they will
require the constant attentions
of their mother. If your circum-
-stances had been the same as
they formerly were, I should have
felt no hesitation in telling
my wife to go to your house

[0004]
till she had recieved the knowledge
necessary for further arrangements.
Information & advice are
now all I can expect and
for these M^{rs} L. will be
extremely obliged.

We feel very unwilling that Agnes
should be left at Walthamstow
school. We should like her to be
with M^{rs} Pyne if she still keeps
a school. They will require all
of them to choose new fathers
& mothers in England. I fear
they will forget us. At all events
we can do no more for them
than pray for them. The Directors
must pay for their education
The want of knowledge of how
much they will be willing
to give makes me close this
in uncertainty.

Affectionately yours

David Livingstone