

Letter to John Murray III, 22 May [1857]

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[0001]

57 Sloane St

22 May

My Dear M^r Murray

M^r Clowes has

just sent me proofs
of the plates or
drawings. the
lion encountre
is absolutely
abominable
I entreat you
by all thats good

[0002]

to suppress it
Every one who
knows what
a lion is will
die with laughing
at it. Its the
greatest bungle
Wolf ever made
I told him about
and I told him
the proportions
were much too
great on the side

[0003]

of the lion. Its
like a dray horse
over me. It really
must hurt the
book to make
a lion look larger
than a hippopotamus
I am quite distressed
about it.
or at least make the lion smaller

Would the style
in which Andersson's
plates are got up
not superior to
this? Of course

[0004]

I am no judge of
this point but
of the lion I am
I think.

Is it impossible
to put on a rag
round the lions
of these fellows?
All wear something
except the Batoka
I refer to the
elephant hunt
to make the fellows
all stark naked

[0005]

is worse than
talking about Urine
and yet your
critic turned up
the white of his
eyes at that

The reception
at Shinte's which
came to day is
very poor
I have made
some notes
for the artist

Pray dont think me unreasonable
you may ask Vardon if you doubt

[0006]

My men ought
to be close to me
two ficus or
banian trees
in the place and
the roofs of the
huts seen over
the walls on one
side as I have
indicated. the
musical instrument
when seen
side ways is

[0007]
thus

The keys are beaten
with drumsticks.
The drum slung on
the neck & beaten
with the hands.

Have you
any of the permanent
copy set up. I
would like to
see whether your

[0008]
in the corrections
introduced by your
corrector
he is
a man who has
sympathy in
such a book

I dont send back
the plates to M^r
Clowes but to
you begging mercy
against being caricatured

D. Livingstone