

Letter to William Thompson, 17, 18 September 1856

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[0001]

Claremont Mauritius
17thSept^r 1856

My Dear M^r Thompson

I have as you will
see by the date remained here considerably
longer than I intended, but having
arrived ~~here~~ with a severe affection
of the spleen a consequence of the
Fever in the Quilimane delta and
finding that this climate [^][was] proving
curative I have delayed my departure
till the present time. I have been
most kindly and hospitably entertained
by May or General May and as his
house is situated about five miles
from Port Luis and on an elevated
spot with a cool climate it has
answered the end of completely
curing me. I had but two returns
[0002]

of tertian and the pain in the spleen
is quite gone. I am ready to go
back to Africa again. Thanks to
the Author of all our mercies, not
forgetting the good kindhearted
man with whom I am living

I have had another object in
view besides health viz. a wish
to see the Commodore and thank
him for his kindness. I wished
also to talk to him about Africa
as I intend to work still in that
poor troddendown country even
without the aid of our Society
if I can only get back again
I got a letter at Quilimane. The only
one since I saw you last and I am
[0003]
informed that "the Directors are restricted
in their power of aiding plans connected

only remotely with the speed of the gospel”
And also that even ”though certain obstacles
(as fever, Tsetse &c) should prove sur-
-mountable the financial circumstances
of the Society are not such as to warrant
the hope that it would be in a position
within any definite period to undertake
untried remote and difficult fields of
labour” As these statements are
embalmed in some flattering sentences
of approbation respecting my late
efforts in opening up the continent
to the sympathies of the friends of
christianity I suppose that it is
intended to send me to some of the
tried, neat, and easy fields where I
may wax fat and kick like Jeshurun
[0004]

as the proposition to leave the untried
remote and difficult fields of labour
as they have been ever since our
saviour died for the poor sinners
who inhabit them involves my
certain severance from the L.M.S.
and the attempt to support myself
and return in the best way I can
I have given a certificate to George
Fleming for the money viz. 500
Spanish dollars and fifty sovereigns
which you sent and which I told
you in another letter I meant to
retain for the homeward voyage
I go ”overland” because I have a
hope of a free passage part of
the way. If I am not successful
in obtaining that then there will be
but little over
[0005]

2^D

I leave a waggon and about 18 oxen
at Linyanti, another at Cape Town
which does not seem to have been
repaired according to promise &
will not sell for much. I managed
to get through all my clothing &c &c.
before I got to Quilimane but have
a sextant chronometer watch and
double barrelled gun and about
£50 of debts of honour to black men

so am not exactly in the position
of the prodigal returning to his father
but am poorer considerably
than when I landed in Africa
some sixteen years ago. Yet I shall
leave you without abuse of any sort.
the Directors have always treated me
well and I shall always remember
you all with affection
[0006]

I am sorry Fleming was engaged
so firmly as in the agreement - I
cannot get rid of it. He was entered
as Captain's servant at Quilimane
and receives about [^] *[Note: about £2 per month]* a day for that
but says "that is nothing, he is
engaged at £10. per month till he
gets to the Cape" and will insist on
the fulfillment of the written agreement
I wished to make an arrangement
with a Captain going to the Cape
whereby his services would be taken
as part of his passage money but
he objects to this because "they would
make him do everything" i.e.
in working the ship. I proposed
to stipulate for personal service
alone to the Captain but he said
to let the passage be paid and

[about £2 per month]
[0007]

no terms made respecting his service
the agreement specifies services to
Captain Peyton and that he is to be
under my controul but he sticks
to the £10 per month as the part most
agreeable to his ideas of the proper ful-
fillment of his duties. I would
have sent him off at once on
our arrival here but the com-
modore was expected daily and
Captain Peyton wished to take
him to the Cape free of expense.
It is unfortunate that Fleming was
engaged at all as he is a most
unlikely person to go anywhere in
the face of danger but this you

could not know, and I should
probably [^][have] been as much mislead in
respect to his travelling abilities as
you but for my intercourse with him
[0008]

on the way to Linyanti. He requires one
on whom he can lean - deprived of
that he has no self reliance whatever.

I am sorry too that my statements
respecting going to England were not
more specific thereby causing you
much anxiety on my account

I thank you most heartily and
sincerely for all the trouble you
put yourself to and pray that
God may abundantly reward you

Affectionaly yours

David Livingston

I enclose a certificate in the way of
business. The lists are left at Quilimane
I took a part of the articles for
immediate use

28th Put Fleming on board the
Irene today & paid £10 for his passage
[0009]

Claremont Mauritius
17thSept^r 1856

I do hereby certify that I recieved
from the Rev^d William Thompson
as agent for the London Missionary
Society the sum of five hundred
(500) Spanish dollars and fifty (50)
sovereigns, while I was at the
village of Quilimane. And also
goods as clothing for myself -
beads, writing materials &c. to the
value of - (as per accounts left at
Quilimane)

(signed)

David Livingston

I have paid £10. for his [^][Fleming's] passage to
the Cape - DL.