

## Letter to William J. Hooker

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

57 Sloane St

16<sup>th</sup> May

1857

Dear Sir

I fully  
intended to accept  
your very kind  
invitation today  
but I feel for  
the first time  
since I came home

[0002]

the effects of  
overwork in  
great lassitude  
and a feeling  
of illness. I attended  
the Anniversary  
of the London  
Missionary Society  
on Thursday and  
have hurt my  
throat in trying  
to speechify to

[0003]

upwards of 2000  
people a work  
for which I  
have always  
believed I was  
never intended .  
It is not the speaking  
so much as the  
sitting sweating  
in agony about  
what you will  
say for hours

beforehand. I would  
be ashamed to

[0004]  
meet Lady Hooker  
in this state so I  
now (4 O clock)  
beg you to allow  
me to come next  
[^][Friday or] Saturday instead  
~~of this~~ . We shall  
be sure to come  
on either the one  
day or the other .  
Please do not trouble  
yourself to write  
again, but accept  
my hearty thanks  
for the invitation . D. Livingstone

The Portuguese Government has  
ordered my men to be supported by Mosambique  
Province