

Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 8 December 1840

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

On board the "George"
Off Gravesend 8th Dec
1840

My Dear Friend

At length I am afloat and
our vessel is fast getting under weigh in order to
convey me away far from happy England. I have
no doubt but you now associate me in your thoughts
with the little place which I now occupy & should like
to know how I like my new mode of life. I am
thankful to be able to say that the only report I can
as yet make is good, for though every thing on
board is in confusion & must for some time
remain so, as all hands are employed in getting
the vessel in sailing order. Yet I am well pleased
with our accommodation & passed as comfortable
a night in my little berth as ever I did any where else

I dont know much of our fellow passengers, as we
have only exchanged a few words, but all seem
willing to be pleased so I hope we shall go on together
comfortably - We have two ladies & two gentlemen besides
ourselves. one of the latter is D^r Grant, a newly fledged
assistant surgeon in the army, quite green & but lately
extricated from the eggshell. I think the majority of
us are Scotch but we are none the better for that

We left London yesterday at 10 A.M. & got on board
here about 4 P.M. & now at 12 noon the seamen are

[0002]

busy weighing anchor & hoisting the sails - while I write
just now she has begun to move. I hope we shall have
no need again for the anchor untill we reach Simon's Bay
at the Cape

I dont ~~plæe~~ attach much importance to the state
of my feelings, but cannot refrain from alluding to them
now in [my present] circumstances as I know you will
feel with me. When I look back on all the way
by which the Lord has led me I see nothing but
manifestations of His Goodness & Paternal care. Every
step of my way has been strewd with mercies & now
greater than all he has counted me faithful, putting
me into the ministry & sends me as a messenger of
mercy to the heathen. How much reason have S. & I have
no doubt but you on reviewing your lives, feel constrained

to say Bless the Lord oh my soul & all that is within me
be stored up to magnify & bless the holy name. & Remem-
ber me in your prayers that the loving kindness of the
Lord may [have] the effect on my mind which he intended & that
I may live entirely consecrated to his glory - I do feel I
think grateful at present but I know the deceitful nature
of my heart & am afraid ~~that~~ lest I forget my obligations
to the grace of the Lord Jesus.

I could have written you this morning but there is a
probability that those which I did send may not be put
into the post office. The price of them being a
temptation to the cupidity of the watermen by whom we send them
I wrote M^{rs} Moore & paid a man handsomely to take
it ashore - but as the same man would not take the

[0003]

captains wife ashore without being paid the exorbitant sum
of 1/2 a guinea for about a mile & a half, I suspect he would
destroy our letters - This I shall transmit by the Pilot, when
he leaves us in the Downs

All hands being employed about the vessel at present we
have not yet got to our luggage as it is stowed away
I cant yet from personal inspection acknowledge your
bounty contained in the box you sent last to the Mission
House. I beg leave again return you my warmest
thanks for all your kindness which I feel persuaded
has made an impression on my heart which shall
never be effaced - May the Lord Jesus himself reward
you with peace & prosperity - & shew mercy to every member
of your family

Instead of sending your letters to D^r Phillip. Please address
to the care of Rev^d Adam Robson - Port Elizabeth, Algoa
Bay- sending them either to the Mission House or M^{rs}
Sewell's- If you write a month after this I may
recieve your letter when I arrive at Algoa Bay. As
we may be detained some time at the Cape - I need scarcely
say that when I write to you I shall speak with freedom
& of course mention things which are not designed to be
seen by any but those whom I write

I like M^{rs} Ross better now that I see more of her
we are in fact now so much in contact with each
other that if she were disagreeable, I should not fail to
discover it - seems willing to oblige & be friendly. I hope we
shall have no reason to complain of each other

Please present my esteem to M^{iss} Marshall, Miss Mary,
M^{iss} Mary Ruffle & M^{iss} Stubbing & the boys to whom I am known
May the Divine presence be with them all & His grace touch
All their hearts & [...]

[0004]

Paid

M^r B. Pyne

Wildingtree

Ongar

Essex