

## Letter to John Kirk, 13 December 1865

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[0001]

[ms 17/3] Bombay 13 Dec  
1865

My Dear Kirk

In reference to  
my last I find that  
Dr. Birdwood can  
not say more till  
he has seen the  
Governor and that  
will probably be  
between the 15<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
currt - He complains  
of getting worse  
so I think is not  
likely to stay long  
in this country -  
[0002]

I gave you as fair  
an account as I  
could of the advantage[...]  
and disadvantages  
of the situation (if  
offered) I would take  
it only as a stepping  
stone if nothing  
better offers - I think  
that the practice would  
in time surpass any  
thing in a country  
town but I dont know  
much in that line - If  
the Governor invites  
you I suppose he would  
do you a good turn  
[0003]

if opportunity offered  
afterwards but this is  
merely conjecture -

I am in daily  
expectation of others  
to embark on the Thule

by which ship I am to  
go but probably the  
Governor will come  
about 15<sup>th</sup> & give  
the necessary orders  
to sail - I am very  
tired of doing nothinG

The Africans who  
came with me have  
lost the peculiar odour  
and now emit the  
peculiar Indian mousey  
or aloetic smell !!

[0004]

I have observed it ever  
since my return and  
they complain of  
weakness - The Arabs  
imbibe the African  
odour on the continent  
& you remember what  
we imbibed at Kongone -

Grant has been feasted  
at Calcutta - Scotchmen  
predominate there as  
well as here and all are  
pretty clannish - no  
news from the coast  
for a long time - the weather  
is now cool & pleasant  
here - but I wish I were  
away to my work

Very Affectly yours

David Livingstone