

Letter to [Benjamin T. Pyne], 2 April 1852

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[0001]

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1852

My Dear Friends

We are at present
engaged in preparation for the
voyage of my wife and family to
England. The particular ship is
not yet decided upon - but three
are daily expected from India
and as soon as either of these
comes into the Bay, we shall
make the necessary arrangements
We have been here a fortnight
and busy all the time with the
outfit. The expense has been
borne by our friend Oswel
and he has fitted them all out
in a way rather too splendid
for a poor missionary's family
[0002]

but all has been given with so
much good will it was impossible
to refuse. He goes by the present
steamer the "Harbinger" which will
sail tomorrow at twelve A.M.
He will if well receive them on
their arrival in England and
we shall write by next steamer
stating the name of the vessel
by which they sail. I have told
you our plans already, but
we find it difficult to arrange
as to where they will stay in
England because we dont
know how much the Directors'
will allow for their maintenance
I think England must be
chosen for their first year, &
Essex is the county with which
I am best acquainted, but

I am puzzled to know how
[0003]
much per annum is requisite
for plain living and schooling
Would it be troubling you too much
to send a statement of how much
would be necessary for three months
say, or until M^{rs} L. became
acquainted with the modes
of living, schooling &c. I am
not aware whether M^{rs} Pyne
still receives children as
boarders. Perhaps if you left
a note on the subject at
the mission House M^{rs} L. would
be enabled to act on the inform-
-ation. The children have endured
so much heat of late, they will
require the constant attentions
of their mother. If your circum-
-stances had been the same as
they formerly were, I should have
felt no hesitation in telling
my wife to go to your house
[0004]

till she had received the knowledge
necessary for further arrangements.
Information & advice are
now all I can expect and
for these M^{rs} L. will be
extremely obliged.

We feel very unwilling that Agnes
should be left at Walthamstow
school. We should like her to be
with M^{rs} Pyne if she still keeps
a school. They will require all
of them to choose new fathers
& mothers in England. I fear
they will forget us. At all events
we can do no more for them
than pray for them. The Directors
must pay for their education
The want of knowledge of how
much they will be willing
to give makes me close this
in uncertainty.

Affectionately yours

David Livingstone