

Letter to Richard Thornton, 25 June 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)
[0001]

Tette 25 June 1859

M^r R. Thornton

Sir

On our arrival here in November last, I gave you in addition to my written instructions an order to proceed with a geological examination of this district as a starting point; and that order not having been obeyed I made every allowance for your suffering from "prickly heat" and other little illnesses. But at a subsequent period I urged on you the necessity of your making some exertion to fulfill the
[0002]
object of your appointment as Mining Geologist and both D^r Kirk and I were of opinion that such exercise would have benefitted your health. You were also informed that Major Secard was ready to send you to all the interesting geological points in the district and I gave you written orders so that there should be no excuse.

according to your own report you did as little geology as possible though your people had instructions to take you to the different coal seams already known. seing you disinclined to work

at general geology, I set
you to run a shaft into
one of the coal seams to
[0003]
ascertain its quality at a proper
distance in which you told
me was 20 or 30 ~~yards~~ feet
I visited you on the 14th March
last and you were ordered
to proceed with this work.
you returned from it on
the 3^d of May having with
the people employed accomplished
only 13 feet nine inches, and
though in perfect health
you have continued
idle ever since. Hearing
that you were remaining
here idle I sent an order
from Senna for you to
go on with the geological
examination of the district
This you have not
attended to. I am therefore
compelled by your repeated
[0004]
disobedience of orders
to inform you that your
salary is stopped from
the third of May the date
at which you retired
from one duty and declined
beginning another. It is
with great reluctance
that I take this step
but your failure to do
your duty forces me
however reluctantly to
do mine to H M's
Government and separate
you from the Expedition.

I am &c

David Livingstone

H. M.'s Consul

Commanding Zambesi Expedition
[0005]

O H. M. S.

M^r Richard Thornton

Tette

D^r Livingstone