

## Letter to Richard Thornton, 25 June 1859

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[0001]

Tette 25 June 1859

M<sup>r</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> 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.

seeing 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 14<sup>th</sup> March  
last and you were ordered  
to proceed with this work.  
you returned from it on  
the 3<sup>d</sup> 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<sup>r</sup> Richard Thornton

Tette

D<sup>r</sup> Livingstone