

Letter to John Arundel

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

At Sea, off Rio De Janeiro, 27th Jan^y

1840

Dear Sir

The sudden & unexpected departure of our Pilot at midnight rendered it impossible for us to write you from the Downs. But as we shall have an opportunity tomorrow of transmitting letters to England, you will have the kindness to take this instead.

We expect to reach Rio D' Janeiro tomorrow to which Port we are compelled to put in, in consequence of our foremast having been split by the wind a few days ago. We had only 30 days water on board when the accident happened and had we proceeded on our course to the Cape, the probability is that the first gale we encountered, taking the mast right away, should have so disabled the vessel as prevent her gaining land for perhaps double that time. As a prudential measure therefore the Captain puts in at the above named Port to get a new mast or the old one repaired & a supply of water. These objects we hope to get accomplished

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in a few days

We should have preferred proceeding direct to our destination without delay. But as circumstances have so happened, we feel pleased with the prospect of visiting that harbour. And as the Tract Society kindly furnished us with a good supply tracts for distribution we purpose supplying our countrymen connected with the British shipping with what we have left over the supply of our own vessel . And if there is an hospital for seamen, by leaving some there, we hope that some of these little messengers of mercy may impart consolation & hope to some who in health never listened to the invitations of the

gospel, and if so our short visit wont be
in vain

We had cold stormy weather for 10 days
after leaving Gravesend, but having then reached
the latitude of Lisbon we experienced a pleasant
change & ever since we have been favoured
with a most delightful Atmosphere. We have
frequently thought of you & wished that the enjoyment of these climates & the discharge of
the important
duties of your office were compatible. ou now
suffer severely from the cold fogs of London, while
we enjoy weather much more genial than even
summer in England. We hope however you
are able with some degree of comfort, still to

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discharge your very arduous duties

We have held Divine Service as often as the
weather permitted. But no change for the better
is apparent. We feel that much wisdom is
requisite in dealing with sailors. May this be
imparted to us so that our sojourn with them
may be for the glory of our Redeemer.

Our accommodation is much better than
we expected. Indeed we have great reason to
be grateful to the Giver of all good & to the Directors
as his instruments for the very many comforts
we enjoy. We hope our mercies may [...] [not]
be lost upon us, but that we may be stimulated
by them to greater devotedness in the cause of Him
who leads us with his . & t the same
time honours us to go forth to the heathen with
the good news of mercy through Christ.

Yours in the bonds of the gospel

David Livingston[e]>

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