

## Letter to Pye Brothers, 31 July 1859

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[0001]

Kongone Harbour

31<sup>st</sup> July 1859

Mess<sup>rs</sup> Pye, Brothers

Sir

As you kindly  
undertook the examination  
of the Buaze which I  
brought home in 1856  
and reported favourably  
there on though the specimen  
was too small for  
any manufacture,

[0002]

I have taken the liberty  
to transmit through the  
Foreign Office a box  
and two barrels of the  
same fibre in the hope  
that it may be con-  
venient for you to  
convert a portion of it  
into cloth, or other  
materials proper for  
a thorough trial of its  
properties. The seed  
contains a valuable  
oil for painting and  
the plant itself grows

[0003]

on soil unfit for other  
cultivation and no pains  
are required in rearing  
the crop as it yields by  
being pollarded. Seeds  
have been sent to Natal  
and India and should

you be able to produce  
a fabric of finer and  
stronger quality than flax,  
there is but little doubt  
but H. M. Secretary  
of State for Foreign  
Affairs would encourage  
its production in our  
own colonies

[0004]

Your report on its strength  
bleaching properties &c  
if addressed to the Foreign  
Office would recieve  
the attention it merited

Your Obedient Servant

David Livingstone