

Letter to Pye Brothers

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Kongone Harbour

31st July 1859

Mess^{rs} 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
the attention it merited

Your Obedient Servant

David Livingstone