

## Letter to John Kirk 2, 21 October 1864

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[0001]

You might consult D<sup>r</sup> Smith with

21 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1864

My Dear Kirk

I am very sorry

to hear your determination

not to engage in

the proposed work

for I am quite sure

that you would

give information

to the world of great

value - and besides

making your

name better known

you would be in a

[0002]

advantage and to him and Lady Smith

fair way of getting

something better -

You will excuse me

if I urge you to re-

consider the subject

I am purposely avoiding

anything like scientific

description having

said in the introduction

that it is hoped that

you will give the botany

and natural history

of the Expedition (in

the way that Darwin

did of the Beagles voyage)

I mention sometimes

that certain beasts were

seen or killed and

[0003]

you will kindly remember me

always when possible  
use we - referring to  
you & myself as D<sup>r</sup> L  
and D<sup>r</sup> K. and I  
would give you the  
proof sheets that you  
might see if I en-  
croached too much  
on your province -  
and give you any  
information I could  
on the habits of some  
of the animals -  
though I daresay you  
know more on  
that subject than  
I do. Your Botanical  
knowledge is not  
elementary and  
I thought Welwatsch's  
was frightfully so - all  
the works on natural  
history would be at your  
disposal, and by due  
acknowledgement  
you could work up most  
of the [popular] information they  
contain & the authors  
be thankful. You may  
see what can be done  
though not in an open  
above board line as yours  
would be, by Routledge's  
natural history I think  
he calls it. You had  
better think over the  
matter again and if  
you change your mind  
please let me know