

## Letter to Roderick I. Murchison, 18 June, 17 July 1864

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[0001]

Poonah 18<sup>th</sup> June 1864

My Dear Sir Roderick

We arrived at Bombay on the

13<sup>th</sup> current after a passage of forty four from Zanzibar, and very thank-I feel to be again on solid ground. Zanzibar we went along the

African coast for the sake of the of a current of at least one miles a day. If Solomon's went down to Sofalla, as some, they could not have done [against this current] in the South West Monsoon. went along beautifully till we past the Line then fell into a region which Captain Maury south of the Equator. Altogether had 24 1/2 days calm, the sea as as glass, and as we had one stoker with us we could

[0002] steam more than nine or ten hours a time. By patience & perseverance have at last got over our 2500 - but I now feel at as great a as ever. I came here to sell the but with that comes the idea giving up Africa before accom-something against the slave trade thought of it makes me actually feel if I could not lie in my grave peace with all the evils I know on. That which makes it doubly is the fact that while Lord 's policy has, to a very extent, been successful on West Coast - The same measures been in operation here - the same [expense and] same dangers incurred - the same services performed by H M on this coast, and all has been ineffectual by dirty dribble

[0003] the Portuguese convict population, by no means represent either best or half best of the statesmen Lisbon. the country is to be shut now more closely than ever. unless we have an [English] trading settle-some where on the the mainland their power. ~~Without it~~ all measures will continue. would willingly have up some of the rivers instead coming here - but I had only three men - a stoker - a sailor and a carpenter; and seven Zambesians sailor & stoker had severe illnesses the way and it would have been to go up a strange river the Juba - - - short handed. The two men had moreover volunteered accompany me to Bombay though had served some years with us.

[0004]

[already] so it would not have been right to have them elsewhere. Our engineer at Zanzibar for a situation on sugar plantation, and I had either to the risk of a pretty long voyage in little Lady of Nyassa or wait at

Zanzibar till the monsoon changes in. She is a first rate little seaboat rose on the huge waves of the Bay

of Bengal [Indian ocean] like a little duck - but she not intended for sailing. the sails very simple and the screws drag in water as if we had another boat in.

I have some hesitation too because Baron Van der Decken intends to the rivers. but my object is not much exploration as to set in train by merchants & others which eventually work out the slave trade. would not forestall him or do anything and I wish I had five conversation with you about. The Mission of the Universities was a disappointment to me. they have all -

too fine gentlemen I fear for the work civilising. Kind love to Lady M. from yours affectionately  
David Livingstone

Malta 17<sup>th</sup> July. I come home to consult friends as to my work. I did not sell the steamer  
- could

[0005] it in my heart to give up Africa & now run

[0006] intending to be back again in four months  
& will too if I can make up the means. D. L.