Letter to Robert Cooke, 22 April 1865

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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Man Alive - that terrible 600!! pages and I have been toiling like a galley slave to bring it up to 450 and all the while fearing to think of my men & steamer waiting for me at Bombay & one of them dead [0002]I have spread it so evenly over the whole I don't see at present what I can leave out save the "conclusion" and "appendix" I put in a great many parts with great care & thought only to lengthen it, but we shall see what can be done. I shall [0003]write to Oswell today about it. Is it absolutely necessary to curtail more than what I have mentioned. The "Conclusion" gives a summary of results and the book would be the better of it

I shall go up to town about Tuesday next, and will see you about this which has struck "me all of a heap" [0004]

Till then believe me My Dear Cooke

Yours ever

David Livingstone

Speke has 650 pages or 612 to end of his narrative. might not Milton be a little more sparing with his Mss

Some of the drawings are Wallers & some Mellers. I shall tell you which is which Have you a receipt for Baines drawings