Letter to Joseph D. Hooker, 16 December 1857

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20 Bedford Squ $16^{\underline{\text{th}}}$ Dec^r 1857

My Dear Hooker

I am very sorry that an engagement to dine with Lord Chancellor tomorrow (Thursday) evening will prevent my meeting you and Nichol at Burlington House [0002]I have mentioned Nichol as a proper person and as none will be appointed without my sanction it might be well for you to ask him if he would like to go and work a year or two with me so that if nothing else comes up I might be able to speak positively about him. I am [0003]writing to Edinburgh for a few of his antecedents but I have such confidence in your judgement that I am almost quite satisfied that he will be the proper man. You might expatiate a little on the disagreables

of the expedition in order to test him I am sorry that the big wigs feed came [0004] came in the way of meeting you and him, but I declined once and the Chancellor persevered by send another with the word to remind on it I suppose I must go

With kindest regards to M^{rs} H

I am &c

David Livingstone