

Letter to William Thompson, 5 February 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

being misunderstood by me - I dont blame you in the least -

Tette 5th February 1859

My Dear M^r Thompson

I have lately received notice
That M^r José M. Nunes of Kilimane had
transmitted to you through M^r Bedingfeld,
the sum of £20 together with the remain-
-ing portion of the goods left in his charge,
which you agreed to receive in lieu of
certain expenses you had incurred on
behalf of the London Missionary Society
I recollect appropriating to my own use
only a blanket - a bed & some shirts, so
I hope you will realize sufficient by
the remainder, to refund the price of the
preserved possessions too, which on a
promise of paying for them to Com^{re}
Trotter I allowed Lieut^t Peyton to
use.

I had but little time to think over the
statements you made while I was in
Cape Town, and part of which you were
good enough to put on paper. You
considered that my financial account
was with the Board in London from
June 1852” Pity you did not tell me
so; for having recieved a letter of much
later date giving me certain financial
[0002]

information, and as I understood
promising me more, I made the mistake
of asking you for [^] [it to serve as] data in order to a
clear settlement with both ”Board & your-
self. You refused, but sent them
long afterwards notwithstanding. and
with the account exhibiting an amount
of grumpiness on account of my
silence, which my previous acquaintance
with you did not lead me to expect.
You had been obliged to borrow my

book you told me. This made me enquire at the Admiralty and I found that the parcel had come just a day too late for the [^] [preceding] mail - The tone in which the accounts were given induced me also to send a friend to make enquiry at the channel through which it [they] had come - The result was a statement that the goods left at Kilimane, part of which I now have sent you, were my own property and "everything claimed of me by Thompson had been paid by the mission." I have explained the silence - a document I wished to send to you was partly transcribed when a dangerous miscarriage prevented its completion and M^{rs} L. could not get a letter for which you had applied out of the hands of the worthies in Bloomfield Friends sometimes make allowances.

You acted honourably and you have incurred the displeasure of those who followed another course in London while it confirms the estimate I had formed of their animus, claims my sympathy, D. Livingstone [0003]

I do not wish to enter on any discussion, or say one word to wound your feelings, but think it would be unfair to you to allow you to go on with the impression that I "misunderstood" you. In various other quarters attempts were made to lug forward the society, and except at Leeds where money designed for me personally was sent elsewhere, every such attempt was as abortive as you found your own. All you advance by way of covering your defeat is purely making a virtue of necessity. The appeal was so obviously for the society alone, that the executive at home published it verbatim without however asking me to pay for it or defraying the expense of publication themselves, and as for the large pamphlet, "another of the same" was published in London and as it turned out to the private pecuniary benefit of men as nearly related to the society as yourself, and equally loud in their assertions of wishing to serve me & the Mission. I was not asked to defray the expense of publication -

I knew nothing of these matters of
yours [^] [while] in London, till your account
came so they had no influence on my
[0004]

[non-]correspondence. I am sorry you put
yourself in such a false position.

You did not bring forward your
claim in the usual way and to my
astonishment you shrank from
allowing it to be so brought before the
committee - It seemed as if you
then only perceived its true nature.

Had you even placed it before me in a fair
manner I would have paid all instantly
but having chosen to assume a claim
which never existed in as far as I am
concerned I naturally felt strong dislike
to being made to pay for puffing myself
I have never shewn any desire to be puffed
even though it should be done gratuitously.

You need not consider the money sent
as from me - but from the society the executive
of which, I consider most unrighteously,
refused to pay your outlay. I never
used any of the money of the society except
for what I considered missionary
purposes. This I might still have used
in the same way, but prefer its going
to pay a society's just debt, or back to its
funds - I hope that my remarks may not
appear offensive - As I have already said
I am anxious to avoid wounding your feelings
but having enjoyed pretty large experience at
home in society's doings [^] [under the present executive] I thought fairest to
state frankly that you were far from