

Letter to Everybody in the House [Family], 28 August 1856

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[0001]

[Dedication in another hand.]

6131/1

Claremont Mauritius

28th August 1856.

My Dear Everybody in the House

I don't number this

in order to spare you the pain of blushing

black when you see how much I have

written in answer to _____ I make

ready the enclosures now in consequence

of having missed a mail this morning

Another will start in about a fortnight

You will see I wrote one at Quilimane

and another at Tete. At Quilimane

I remained 6 weeks and then H. M.

Brig Frolic came and took me off.

the Bar of that port is very bad

she was 12 days off the port before

we knew she was there and it was

only by her firing two guns to recal

[0002]

the boats attempting to cross the bar that we

knew of her presence. She is a fine

large ship of 16 guns & 130 men. We came

to St Augustine's Bay Madagascar

to water and thence to this island where

I have been kindly recieved by Major

General Hay who commands the forces

and am now in his house. I wait

for the arrival of the Commodore &

intend after seeing him to proceed to

Ceylon, thence to Aden up the red sea

to Suez through the isthmus and

along the Mediterraeen home. this

is by far the shortest route from

East Africa. I shall come and see

you as soon as I can but my stay

will be short and incognito. I hate
all fuss, and you will oblige me by
telling no one. I cannot preach
nor speak in public. If I can stop two

[0003]

days with you that will be all at first.

x x x x x x x x

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[0004]

~~prayer to God decide for yourselves.~~

~~I cannot urge you but do not understand~~

~~how you managed to give up your~~

~~own connections on receiving the~~

~~opinions of others. Anything I thought~~

~~my duty I would do it in the face~~

~~of all opinions that could be~~

~~heaped against me. Unless proof~~

~~were given that the knowledge on~~

~~which my judgement was formed~~

~~was fallacious. No one asserted~~

~~in your case that to working people~~

~~the new world was worse than the~~

~~old~~

This is a fine island. the cultivation

is sugar chiefly. It is the fabulous

scene of the fine tale Paul & Virginia

I am very well not quite however

Affectionately
David Livingston