

## Letter to Benjamin T. Pyne, 30 April 1851

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org))

[0001]

Boatlanama 30<sup>th</sup> April  
1851

My very Dear Friends  
recieved a letter from M<sup>r</sup> Pyne on the 19<sup>th</sup> April  
and as we were putting our stuff into the waggons I could  
not answer it. We are now on the route to the Lake &  
are engaged in drawing water out of the deep wells of  
Boatlanama. the oxen making a dreadful lowing  
because they have been two days without water, so  
you need not expect fine writing. I expect some of them  
will tumble themselves into the wells before morning  
and force us to eat them. this will be taken back  
by a Mokalahari and I hope you will hear by it  
that I recieved your favour written it seems in a hurry  
as this is. We are going North again. the country is  
drying up. The Kolobeng is losing its pools even and  
the people must annobe whether they will or not  
there are many reasons why we should go to the  
regions beyond but yet it is a venture. We venture  
our all and who would not for such a Saviour  
"Lo I am with you." Be it so our Lord. thy presence  
is enough. We feel much when we look at  
our children going into a fever country  
But we all belong to the Great Redeemer and  
let him do what is good in his own sight  
May we all be resigned in all circumstances to his  
will. And active in our duty to him & the souls  
of the sinful brethren

[0002]

There is nothing interesting in this part of the world. All is dead  
and stagnant the fields burned up. the grass crumbles in  
the hand like powder. People lost their crops again. and  
all looking as if coming out of Typhus fever. the caffre  
war raging. The Hottentots rebelled All looks like con-  
fusion worse confounded. the Damanas on the west  
the Boers & caffres on the East and Mosilikatse shews  
some symptoms or arousing himself in the North East  
but Jehovah reigns. We may trust Him for he is  
able to set all right and He will in his own way  
the reason why I write now is a selfish one  
We wish to trouble you again. M<sup>rs</sup> Pyne's taste in choosing

dresses is so highly gauged in the interior of Africa  
we beg to put her to it again. We send a notice to  
D<sup>r</sup> Tidman that he is to pay M<sup>r</sup> Pyne £10 on demand  
and this is to be laid out in clothing for my better half  
& children. Some dresses for M<sup>rs</sup> L  
Some stuff for making boys trousers  
Lining for dresses &c &c sowing cotton  
tapers  
A piece of good flannel (Not Welsh)  
a piece of unbleached calico - (coarse)  
A piece of cap wire & ribbon  
three woven small shawls - A piece of diaper  
Regulate the amount by the money sent. And send in  
the usual way at your convenience. Dont put  
yourselves to any trouble. We shall [not] be out so soon

[0003]

as we were last year. that is if as successful as we hope  
We shall probably go beyond Sebitoane seeking an elevated  
locality. We shall of course write you on our  
return, and give you the particulars. At present we  
have nothing to speak about but our hopes &  
fears. Of these we have an assortment on hand  
and you must pray for us that we may be made  
faithful even unto death. Was Manning Prentice  
married? Sorry to hear of M<sup>r</sup> Cecil's illness but  
we can not condole with any one for we are all  
so far away. If we condoled with a widower  
he might be laughing with his new wife by  
the time we reached him. If with a widow  
she might be married to another and almost forgetting  
that she had ever had another husband or if with  
anyone else it might come upon them like ripping  
up old sores. Matters go on as usual among us  
Our children are our cue. Thankful to say all well  
they have a weary time of it in the waggon  
Kind love to all of yours. Mary &c from  
both of us. Excuse me troubling you so

Ever Affectionately

Yours

David Livingston

[0004]

Prepaid

Benjamin Pine Esqu<sup>e</sup>

Wildingtree

Ongar, Essex

England