

## Letter to John Murray III, 31 May 1857

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

Hadley Green

31<sup>st</sup> May 1857

My Dear M<sup>r</sup> Murray

I was extremely surprised and pained by the utterly unwarrantable liberties taken by the person you employed on my copy. I cannot believe that you are aware of them as you heard what M<sup>r</sup> Elwin said about the pleasure he experienced in reading what I had written in my own

[0002]

style. I have the opinions of Prof. Owen Sir Roderick Murchison M<sup>r</sup> Elvin & M<sup>r</sup> Binney that it is more likely to be popular and saleable than if diluted or emasculated as this man has impudently presumed to do. It is therefore both for your advantage & mine that I reject in toto every change introduced in red ink

[0003]

I am sorry you have been at the expense of employing this man I will refund all you have expended on him if you please but my dear friend

every iota of his  
labour must go. I  
cannot and will  
not submit any one  
comma even to his  
judgment. The parts  
in which I have  
incorporated the  
corrections of

[0004]

Mr Binney can and  
must stand as I have  
put them. I have  
come to the conclusion  
since reading Kane's  
book today - set your  
man to that and I  
affirm he would  
erase & transpose  
more than in mine  
and yet that is popular  
I think I may declare  
to you that you  
will not find me  
cantankerous or

[0005]

unreasonable or  
difficult to deal  
with in any other  
matter but I must  
positively resist  
any attempts to tamper  
with or emasculate  
the book I am  
sure you have not  
looked at this  
impudent fellows  
work seriously  
It is quite abominable  
and no earthly con-  
sideration will

[0006]

make me succumb  
to make the work  
a mere primer  
I fear, by the explanation  
I have given wherever  
obscure was marked

it will even now  
partake of too much  
of the penny primer  
character. Many  
of the corrections  
already put in are  
not given in Kanes  
and my book will

[0007]  
be read by persons  
in much the same  
position as to intell-  
igence as the readers  
of his.

I send this before  
me but come up  
on Monday [myself] - I can  
get a man who  
has some sympathy  
with African travel  
Galton for instance  
or D<sup>r</sup> Archer. All  
the emendations  
I introduced in black  
ink must be retained

[0008]  
All those in red are nil  
I would not for anything  
else give you one  
moments pain but  
this is a case in which  
your interests will  
suffer as well as  
mine if allowed  
to go on. I can not  
& will not submit  
to this unknown  
I would do anything  
else for you but  
this you cant be  
aware of

David Livingstone