

## Letter to George Back, 17 February 1858

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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

[0001]

18 Hart St  
Bloomsbury  
17 Feby 1858  
Dear Sir George  
I am ashamed  
of my manners  
since my return  
to England, I never  
called nor thanked  
you for your  
kind gift, though  
if you will only

[0002]

believe me I shall  
tell you how it is  
I have appeared so  
unnatural. The  
first part of my  
sojourn in England  
was so taken up  
with the book -  
the second with  
the speechifying  
and the third  
with preparation

[0003]

for leaving that  
I must have seemed  
to those who do not  
make allowances  
as decidedly wanting  
in common  
politeness But  
I can honestly say  
that I deeply feel  
the sympathy you  
have manifested  
for my work  
and I thank you

[0004]

most heartily for  
the friendship which  
you and Lady Back  
have shewn. If  
ever I return you  
will find me  
a more natural man  
than I have been  
this time. If not  
may we through  
mercy meet each  
other in Heaven

I am gratefully  
yours

David Livingstone

[0005]

Sir George Back  
109 Gloucester Place  
Portman SquareLondon