

## Letter to George Grey, 20 October 1859

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

Published by Livingstone Online ([livingstoneonline.org](http://livingstoneonline.org)), 2017

[0001]

Shire, 20<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1859

N<sup>o</sup> 9

My Dear Sir George

We are obliged to  
dismiss two of our members,  
M<sup>r</sup> Thornton the geologist  
for whom I am sorry as he  
fails from sheer want of  
knowledge of the world and  
of field geology. We could  
not get him to work at all  
though he would read at  
geology for ever. He is very

[0002]

well up in school geology but never  
shewed the least heart to working  
in the field - I gave him eight  
months trial - and when I was out  
of sight nothing was done - He  
trusts to get on by dint of  
cleverness at home - not knowing  
how difficult it is to climb -  
We tried all that talking could do  
D<sup>r</sup> Kirk, My brother & myself,  
but it was impossible to stir  
him up from a state of  
inveterate laziness.

We are obliged to send M<sup>r</sup>  
Baines away too. He worked  
well but having had fever

[0003]

I thought it kind to leave him at  
Tette during the unhealthy months  
and not expose him to the lower  
Shire whither with D<sup>r</sup> Kirk I  
proceeded myself - As soon as

my back was turned he  
associated with certain "ticket  
of leave" Portuguese and made  
away with nearly all our  
provisions - four barrels of  
loaf sugar - butter - cheese  
hams - &c &c - I put it to his  
head having been affected  
by fever but he had stolen  
from his fellow members  
private property - marked his

[0004]

name on the articles, and while  
giving or selling our provisions  
took precious good care of all  
he had appropriated and of his  
own private-property, so I could  
not give him the benefit of a  
doubt I previously held - He  
confessed to some of his thefts -  
With D<sup>r</sup> Kirk M<sup>r</sup> C. Livingstone  
& M<sup>r</sup> Rae the Expedition is  
more easily moved about  
I could not send detached parties  
out but had to go everywhere  
myself and defection has  
been the consequence - Were we  
within jurisdiction of courts of  
law I would certainly deliver  
Baines over to Justice  
D. Livingstone