

Letter to George Grey, 20 October 1859

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

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[0001]

Shire, 20th Oct^r 1859

N^o 9

My Dear Sir George

We are obliged to
dismiss two of our members,
M^r 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

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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^r Kirk, My brother & myself,
but it was impossible to stir
him up from a state of
inveterate laziness.

We are obliged to send M^r
Baines away too. He worked
well but having had fever

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I thought it kind to leave him at
Tette during the unhealthy months
and not expose him to the lower
Shire whither with D^r 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

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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^r Kirk M^r C. Livingstone
& M^r 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