

Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 2 December 1865

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org), 2020

[0001]

Bombay 2 Dec^r 1865

My Dear Tom

I am very glad to hear
by yours of 20 Oct^r that
you are to be associated
with such a good friend
and counsellor as M^r
Stewart - and I hope you
will strive with might
and main to improve the
opportunity afforded by
his generous aid - A
great deal depends on
yourself - and I have no
doubt but you will
exert yourself vigorously
not only to take in know[-]
ledge but to assimilate
it so as to have it at
command for use -

[0002]

If your own exertions are
not put forth your oppor-
tunities will only enable
you to furnish another
practical exposition of the
text "one cannot make a
silk purse out of a sow's
ear"

Tell Oswell to write to M^r
David Brown 19 Bucklers-
-bury - London and ask
if he remembers where
a small black tin box about
a foot square with some
India Rubber balls - fish
hooks and other little things
went - I put it out to be
sent & possibly he may

find it for you
I have too little know[-]
ledge of the German
Universities to say whether

[0003]

I like them or not. How
would you profit by a
yarn from a Hochweldge-
boren prediker vomiting
forth Vaterlandsch taal
in sounds as Euphorious
as the coupling of a cart
of coals - The Dean of
Ely said to me lately
"Have you no sons that
we could help on with
their education " If you
succeed well at Glasgow
it might be advisable
to try own English
universities but the
preperation for them
has to be very thorough
I have a little dislike to
being Germanized in
any way. Their theological
views may be pleasing

[0004]

to drones but never
suit men who are deter[-]
-mined that well their
part in life. Poor Colenso
would have been better
never to have read any of
it - nor after he had read
held up an intelligent
Zulu as his instructor.

The vigilant by which
I was to go will be a
month yet in coming
but I am going in
one of Sherard Osborne's
late Chinese fleet called
Thule - she is a present
from this Government

to the Sultan of Zanzibar
She sails soon but the
day is not yet fixed

[0005]

I am all ready and anxious 146
to be off - I have twelve
marines & one Havildar
eight Africans and two
boys Ajawas or Waiau
who once were with bishop
Mał cenzie D^r Wilson one
of the most eminent
missionaries in India
[...] the two boys ready for
for baptism. They read
English pretty well & speak
it tolerably and also
Hindustani & Marathi -
four Europeans have
volunteered but some
I had last time made
me scunner and I take
none - The Marines are
intelligent men and will
pick up some native
tongue - A few words
My love to Oswell too

[0006]

of Hindustani pocket out
of a book in Roman characters
helps me along with them
A very considerable change is
going on in India though
superficial folk would not
see or ^ they would ignore it - I went
home in the carriage of a
brahmin the other night
and he told me with pride
of many who have shaken
off caste - and said it was
a curse to the country &
must prove a hindrance
to their ever becoming a
nation - He is going to
Europe when he has seen
his daughter married - Those

who have educated thier
daughters dont like to give
them to uneducated men
This is one of the symptoms
or change taking place

[0007]

among those who are not
Christians - Manockjee
Cursetjee is a poor specimen
a fussy anthropological
sort of man - those in whom
one has more hope as re
the enlightened liberal &
rich men who groan at
the burden of caste - I was
at a Christian villiage at
Ahmedabad & was much
struck by the change that
Christianity has made in
the appearance of the women.
Their countenances shewed
peace & happiness The
women generally look
discontented. These are the
converts - The scum of
camps & cities who often
call themselves christians
are not of the number
but many think that they
are & judge all converts by

[0008]

this false standard.

Present my compts &
to Mr Stewart - Tell him
that there is a good deal
of interest here in East
Africa but it has not yet
taken any definite form
of action. I hear his friend
Mr Boyd occasionally
Fourteen buffaloes have
gone off as an experiment
with the Tsetse - They are
a slow but sure beast
of burden and as like

the wild African half brother
as can be except the
mass of horn on the fore[-]
head - My love to Anna
Mary - glad to hear she is
better and able to read -
send this to Anties with
my love - I shall write to them
another time David Livingstone