

## Letter to William Thompson, 17, 18 September 1856

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[0001]

Claremont Mauritius  
17<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1856

My dear M<sup>r</sup> Thompson

I have as you will  
see by the date remained here considerably  
longer than I intended, but having  
arrived ~~here~~ with a severe affection  
of the spleen a consequence of the  
Fever in the Quilimane delta and  
finding that this climate ^ was proving  
curative I have delayed my departure  
till the present time. I have been  
most kindly and hospitably entertained  
by Major General Hay and as his  
house is situated about five miles  
from Port Luis and on an elevated  
spot with a cool climate it has  
answered the end of completely  
curing me. I had but two returns

[0002]

of tertian and the pain in the spleen  
is quite gone. I am ready to go  
back to Africa again. Thanks to  
the Author of all our mercies, not  
forgetting the good kindhearted  
man with whom I am living

I have had another object in  
view besides health viz. a wish  
to see the Commodore and thank  
him for his kindness. I wished  
also to talk to him about Africa  
as I intend to work still in that  
poor trodden down country even  
without the aid of our Society  
if I can only get back again  
I got a letter at Quilimane. The only  
one since I saw you last and I am

[0003]

informed that "the Directors are restricted in their power of aiding plans connected only remotely with the spread of the gospel" And also that even "though certain obstacles (as fever, Tsetse &c) should prove surmountable the financial circumstances of the Society are not such as to warrant the hope that it would be in a position within any definite period to undertake untried remote and difficult fields of labour" As these statements are embalmed in some flattering sentences of approbation respecting my late efforts in opening up the continent to the sympathies of the friends of christianity I suppose that it is intended to send me to some of the tried, neat, and easy fields where I may wax fat and kick like Jeshurun

[0004]

As the proposition to leave the untried remote and difficult fields of labour as they have been ever since our saviour died for the poor sinners who inhabit them involves my certain severance from the L.M.S. and the attempt to support myself and return in the best way I can I have given a certificate to George Fleming for the money viz. 500 Spanish dollars and fifty sovereigns which you sent and which I told you in another letter I meant to retain for the homeward voyage I go "overland" because I have a hope of a free passage part of the way. If I am not successful in obtaining that then there will be but little over

[0005]

2<sup>d</sup>

I leave a waggon and about 18 oxen at Linyanti, another at Cape Town

which does not seem to have been repaired according to promise & will not sell for much. I managed to get through all my clothing &c &c. before I got to Quilimane but have a sextant chronometer watch and double barrelled gun and about £50 of debts of honour to black men so am not exactly in the position of the prodigal returning to his father but am poorer considerably than when I landed in Africa some sixteen years ago. Yet I shall leave you without abuse of any sort. the Directors have always treated me well and I shall always remember you all with affection

[0006]

I am sorry Fleming was engaged so firmly as in the agreement - I cannot get rid of it. He was entered as Captain's servant at Quilimane and receives about 1/6 ^[about £2 per month] a day for that but says "that is nothing, he is engaged at £10. per month till he gets to the Cape" and will insist on the fulfillment of the written agreement I wished to make an arrangement with a Captain going to the Cape whereby his services would be taken as part of his passage money but he objects to this because "they would make him do everything" i.e. in working the ship. I proposed to stipulate for personal service alone to the Captain but he said to let the passage be paid and

[0007]

no terms made respecting his service the agreement specifies services to Captain Peyton and that he is to be under my controul but he sticks to the £10 per month as the part most agreeable to his ideas of the proper fulfillment of his duties. I would

have sent him off at once on  
our arrival here but the com-  
modore was expected daily and  
Captain Peyton wished to take  
him to the Cape free of expense.  
It is unfortunate that Fleming was  
engaged at all as he is a most  
unlikely person to go anywhere in  
the face of danger but this you  
could not know, and I should  
probably ^ have been as much mislead in  
respect to his travelling abilities as  
you but for my intercourse with him

[0008]

in the way to Linyanti. He requires one  
on whom he can lean - deprived of  
that he has no self reliance whatever.  
I am sorry too that my statements  
respecting going to England were not  
more specific thereby causing you  
much anxiety on my account  
I thank you most heartily and  
sincerely for all the trouble you  
put yourself to and pray that  
God may abundantly reward you

Affectionaly yours

David Livingston

I enclose a certificate in the way of  
business. The lists are left at Quilimane  
I took a part of the articles for  
immediate use[.]

28<sup>th</sup> Put George Fleming on board the  
Irene today & paid £10 for his passage

[0009]

Claremont Mauritius

17<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> 1856

I do hereby certify that I recieved  
from the Rev<sup>d</sup> William Thompson  
as agent for the London Missionary  
Society the sum of five hundred  
(500) Spanish dollars and fifty (50)  
sovereigns, while I was at the  
village of Quilimane. And also  
goods as clothing for myself -  
beads, writing materials &c. to the

value of - (as per accounts left at  
Quilimane)

(signed)

David Livingston

I have paid £10. for his ^ Fleming's passage to  
the Cape - DL.