

Letter to William S. Price, 27 September 1865

David Livingstone

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[0001]

MS 8/13
5-6-9 Bombay 27 Sept 1865

My Dear M^r Price

I was leaving
Poonah when I got your
letter of the 23 and have
been so occupied since
as to be unable to
answer [...] the questions
which the eight volunteers
naturally put -

In travelling they
will be required to act
as carriers of the calico
and beads which are
required to pay our
way - There are instruments
also - but I go in as light

[0002]

marching order as possible
I never carried a bed
nor liquor and my
men knowing that the
burdens are all for use
and like Aesop's become
[...] daily more light have
always been eager to
take as much as they
could - [...] If one has been
sick but able to walk
then they divided his
burden among them
Food from a place
where it abounded has
often been added - The

strong helping the weak -
I look to them to regulate
somethings themselves
and I find that though

[0003]

they have to [...] bear fatigue they
dont lose their spirits -
Besides carrying the
goods they are expected
after travelling about
5 hours to prepare a
sleeping place for me
and themselves - if it
is likely to rain sheds
are made with branches
of trees [...] and long grass -
when accustomed to this
all will be under shelter
in an hour & a half
or two hours - Dry wood
is always abundant &
near except when we
sleep in a village but
it must be brought in
both for cooking and
protection

[0004]

At the principal villages
we usually rest a few days
and it is sometimes
necessary that two or three
go to adjacent villages
to purchase food at a
cheaper rate than where
we may be - they are
expected to take an intelligent
[...] interest in the Expedition
get information on
every subject and whatever
happens never turn tail
and run away -

I would like them
distinctly to understand
that they are to perform
any reasonable duty for
me because the late

good bishop Mackenzie

[0005]

brought some men from
the Cape and when they got
into the country they wished
to be served rather than
serve - they expected to
have the same food as the
bishop's associates who
were clergymen gentlemen
They had boxes with them
which they could not have
carried to save their lives
If your men have luggage
of that kind it will be
necessary to leave it at
Zanzibar or other place of
security and a blanket
with spare shirts & trousers
only be taken till we see
our way clear to a more
permanent place of abode
inland -

[0006]

The country people have
a strong inclination to
detain every traveller as
long as they can at their
own village & often invent
stories of "war in front"
to effect their object -
They wish to get him to
spend all their goods in
buying food from them
I expect my men to
march when the word is
given without minding
the palavers of others - I
intend to take some
buffaloes as beasts of
burden and if they are
capable as [I] expect they
will be of withstanding

[0007]

the bite of the fly (Tsetse) they
will lighten all our labour
your men will lend a
hand with them - and
as I shall never desire
them to do anything un[-]
[-]reasonable I think that
they ought to make up
their minds to do as
they are told in all cases

If I leave Africa
without finding a place
and chief untable and
in their judgment desirable
for residence then I shall
bring them with me to
Zanzibar.

We are to have a passage
in a man of war

[0008]

probably in November
The rains begin then - just
now the feet would be
made sore by travelling
on in hot dry paths - In a
man of war they are
aware that every one
conforms to the regulations

I am going back to
Guniskind on monday
next and have to give a
little lecture on Tuesday
there - I shall be at Govern[-]
[-]ment house till monday
following & will be glad
to hear how your men
recieve this - anxiety to
avoid bishop Mackenzie's
difficulty makes me
particular in specifying the
duties - David Livingstone

[0009]

P.S. I should like
to know if any
of the men have
a knowledge of
carpentry, as it
may be necessary
to build up on a
canoe for navigating
the Lake Tangan-
-yika

[0010]

D. Livingstone
Oct. 1865

MS/ 8/13/3