

Letter to [Edgar L.] Layard, 7 April 1860

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Senna 7th April

1860

Private

My Dear M^r Layard

In reply to your

enquiry about snails I have to confess that there is a singular and blessed scarcity of them here.

I can recollect having seen only nine species - of these one is a black velveteen coated individual without shell, and another very like that yellow civilized snail which we used to see when "daisies & buttercups gladdened our sight" He is houseless too. Whether this scarcity arises from the tremendous grass burnings

[0002]

that annually sweep over the land, or from [the] want [of] enterprise (in the animals) which has consigned this fine country to paltry peddling in ivory & sneaking dealing in human flesh, I cannot pretend to say, but if you are fond of throwing snails into your dissenting neighbour's garden, you need not come here. It would be all up with you. but I shall try & send you a few some day.

D^r Kirk got away a good botanical collection and M^r C Livingstone a good many birds. but it has been uphill work - want of room and perpetual damp in our wretched asthmatic steamer seriously impeded every effort. But if we live, we shall do something more, i.e. we shall try & try again

[0003]

Thanks for the Pinches - the good
old fellow swam ashore seven
miles west of where he
was sent afloat! letters lost.

I am &c

D. Livingstone

We leave our craft at Tette
if she floats so long she is
completely done. A better
vessel is necessary before
any collection can be made
Thanks for the zoological information