

Letter to John Murray III, 31 May 1857

Livingstone, David, 1813-1873

Published by Livingstone Online (livingstoneonline.org)

[0001]

Hadley Green

31st May 1857

My Dear M^r Murray

I was extremely surprised and pained by the utterly unwarrantable liberties taken by the person you employed on my copy. I cannot believe that you are aware of them as you heard what M^r Elwin said about the pleasure he experienced in reading what I had written in my own

[0002]

style. I have the opinions of Prof. Owen Sir Roderick Murchison M^r Elvin & M^r Binney that it is more likely to be popular and saleable than if diluted or emasculated as this man has impudently presumed to do. It is therefore both for your advantage & mine that I reject in toto every change introduced in red ink

[0003]

I am sorry you have been at the expense of employing this man I will refund all you have expended on him if you please but my dear friend

every iota of his
labour must go. I
cannot and will
not submit any one
comma even to his
judgment. The parts
in which I have
incorporated the
corrections of

[0004]

M^r Binney can and
must stand as I have
put them. I have
come to the conclusion
since reading Kane's
book today - set your
man to that and I
affirm he would
erase & transpose
more than in mine
and yet that is popular
I think I may declare
to you that you
will not find me
cantankerous or

[0005]

unreasonable or
difficult to deal
with in any other
matter but I must
positively resist
any attempts to tamper
with or emasculate
the book I am
sure you have not
looked at this
impudent fellows
work seriously
It is quite abominable
and no earthly con-
sideration will

[0006]

make me succumb
to make the work
a mere primer
I fear, by the explanation
I have given wherever
obscure was marked

it will even now
partake of too much
of the penny primer
character. Many
of the corrections
already put in are
not given in Kanés
and my book will

[0007]

be read by persons
in much the same
position as to intell-
igence as the readers
of his.

I send this before
me but come up
on Monday [myself] - I can
get a man who
has some sympathy
with African travel
Galton for instance
or D^e Archer. All
the emendations
I introduced in black
ink must be retained

[0008]

All those in red are nil
I would not for anything
else give you one
moments pain but
this is a case in which
your interests will
suffer as well as
mine if allowed
to go on. I can not
& will not submit
to this unknown
I would do anything
else for you but
this you cant be
aware of

David Livingstone