

n.d. (belongs to the letter from Mombasa, 18.12.1856)

**Extract from a letter of Lieut. Colonel Hamerton**

A small notice is to be sent this evening to Mombas with important news for the Jemadar, & on Thursday next the Imam's Bark Soliman will sail from this for Mombas, conveying a store of provisions, also powder shot & muskets with other ammunition of War, & letters to the chief men at Mombas to hold the port against all corners – keep all this to yourself & the news I am now going to give you & of course to Mr. Rebmann & Mr. Daimler. I have with sincere sorrow to inform you that His Highness the Imam is dead – he died at sea aboard his frigate the Queen Victoria on the morning of Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of last month at half-past 8 o'clock in 7°12 S. latitude & 51°12 E. longitude on the passage from Muskat to Zanzibar – he was taken ill on the 10<sup>th</sup> of last Sept. & continued to grow worse until the 13<sup>th</sup> of the same month, when dysentery set in which terminated his life as I have above written; great fears are entertained as to the succession, & many competitors for the sovereignty are likely to start up & fearful disorder, murder & bloodshed may be expected – the authorities here will hold all the strong holds in the African possessions – against all hands – the Imam's death will not be known at Muskat for perhaps three or two months – when God alone knows what may happen.

Now my dear Mr. Rebmann attend to what I now write you – I do not consider it at all safe for you to remain at Mombas, for none can tell what turn affairs may take when the death of the Imam is known in Arabia – but one thing I well know, that a very ill feeling exists in the minds of many persons of influence against the Mission in East Africa – it was only the kindhearted & ever to be respected old Imam's influence that enabled the Mission to locate in East Africa against the wishes of all Arabs – that influence does not now exist, & I assure you that four years ago you would have all been forced to leave Mombas, only for the kindness of the dear old Imam – “