

Mombas, Oct. 6 1852

Dear Sir!

Soon after I had despatched my letter to Mr. Venn in which are also a few lines addressed to yourself, Mrs Rebmann reminded me of an explanation which we ought to have given you with respect to the different orders for provisions, the bills of which will most likely come to your hands only within a month or two of each other, so that you could perhaps not help thinking us rather extravagant – which idea will however be dissolved by stating to you the actual state of things – As to the order we gave to Mr. Young in London, we must wait for it a whole year which we have immediately wanted to be supplied - on account of which we gave an order to Mr. Isenberg at Bombay. But this order being rather precarious & doubtful (last year we did not get anything from there) we sent a third order to Mr. Lieder at Cairo, who formerly performed the same kind office to the Missionary in Abessinia, for which purpose I have authorized him to draw on you the sum of £12. Again it must be remembered that the articles wished for in the 3 different orders are not quite the same – things being obtainable at one place, which are not so at another. Mrs. Rebmann, who still suffers from fever & had only today another attack of it, made for weeks her breakfast & tea, & sometimes even her dinner, on a country vegetable (cassada) & salted fish, as it is brought from Arabia (most likely shark) but as a female, you can well imagine, requires more European comfort than we do. What is so easily to be got in England, bread & butter, is not so here. Flour we usually have indeed, but very often it is sour & so much we never have as to allow us to make bread throughout the year. Add to this that if you had to bake your own bread, you would sometimes rather be without it. And bake we must ourselves if we want to ensure a tolerable bread.

Butter also can be obtained, but from the uncleanliness of the Natives & the tropical climate, it is scarcely eatable. We hope therefore that you will not be angry with us on account of our orders.

We came yesterday here to Mombas for a little change of air & hearing today from the Banian that a messenger is going to Zanzibar tomorrow.

I availed myself of the opportunity to address these lines to you. Tomorrow we intend to go back to Kisuludini in [and] Rabbai.

Hoping for your kind sympathy with a prayer for those in the wilderness

Allow me to remain yours truly & respectfully

J. Rebman