

Sir Alexander Johnston an Wilhelm von Humboldt, 07.10.1830

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[151r]

London
19. Great Cumberland Place
7.th October 1830

My dear Baron.

I have to thank you for a kind letter which [Baron Bulow](#) sent me from you the other day covering one for [Sir Charles Colville](#) & another for [M^r. Freeman](#). I have perused both as you desired me & have been much gratified with the contents of them. Both [Sir Charles Colville](#) & [M^r. Freeman](#) will be urged to the greatest exertions by the flattering manner in which you have expressed yourself in your letter to them relative to the Zeal & activity which they have already arrived in collecting different specimens of the various languages or rather idioms of languages which [151v] perril in [Madagascar](#). Your instructions & the manner in what you have analysed the specimens what [M^r Freeman](#) has sent you will put me <him> to the way of making the further collections which you want & will ultimately be of the greatest use in enabling all those who are employed on the same pursuits to [Madagascar](#) to procure & arrange for your inquiries a vast & useful mass of information.

I have by no means been able in endearing to procure from [Mr^s Metcalf](#) the widow of [the Missionary](#) [152r] to whom you allude an account of what [Her Husband](#) did relative to his work on the Madagacar language as well as of what she wishes to accomplish relative to it now that he is dead. I wrote to her upon the subject & received an answer of which the enclosed copy. I would have sent you this copy a long time ago had not [Rosen](#) to whom I gave it to read told me that you had written to him relative to the work that I would immediately let you know all that had passed between [Mr^s. Metcalf](#) & me about it [152v] Let me know if you wish me to take any steps about the work with [Mr^s. Metcalf](#) & I shall be most happy to execute your commands.

I have today sent off for the [Isle of France](#) your letters to [Sir Charles Colville](#) &

M^r Freeman & they will I dare say receive them in three months or perhaps - less from the present date

Lady Johnston & my daughters are delighted to hear such good accounts of Miss Humboldt to whom both they & I beg to be most kindly remembered &

I am with great esteem & regard My dear Baron

Most truly yours

Alex.^r Johnston