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Report to the Council on the Arrangements for the Funeral of Dr. Livingstone

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## ADDITIONAL NOTICES.

(Printed by order of Council.)

1.—*Report to the Council on the Arrangements for the Funeral of Dr. Livingstone.*

GENTLEMEN, 1, Savile Row, Burlington Gardens,  
April 24th, 1874.

In accordance with the Minute of Council, giving power to the President to make such arrangements, on behalf of the Society, as he might see fit for the reception and interment of the body of Dr. Livingstone, Sir Bartle nominated Colonel J. A. Grant and James Fergusson, Esq. (assisted by Mr. H. W. Bates, the Assistant-Secretary), to act for the Council in the matter; and on Mr. Fergusson afterwards wishing to retire, General Rigby was nominated to officiate in his stead.

An answer to the application made by Sir Bartle Frere to Her Majesty's Government, to defray the expenses of the funeral, was received in the afternoon of the 10th of April in the following letter:—

“MY DEAR SIR BARTLE,— “11, Downing Street, Whitehall,  
“April 10, 1864.

“I have been in communication with Mr. Disraeli, who, as you know, is out of town, on the subject of the funeral of Dr. Livingstone. The Government, being desirous to show their respect for his memory, have taken upon themselves the charge of bringing his remains to this country, and are further willing to bear the necessary expenses attending their interment. They do not, however, purpose to take upon themselves the arrangements of the funeral, which they think should be left to the family or friends of the deceased; and they consider that the most convenient course for them to adopt will be to make a grant of a fixed sum (250*l.*), to be applied in such manner as the friends think best.

“Understanding that the Royal Geographical Society have interested themselves in the matter, I shall feel obliged by your informing me whether they will take charge of the arrangements. In that case the sum I have named shall be placed at their disposal.

“I remain

“Yours very faithfully,

(Signed) “STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

“*The Right Hon. Sir H. Bartle Frere, K.C.B.*”

Sir Bartle having accepted the charge of the arrangements in the name of the Society, the Committee, consisting of Mr. W. F. VOL. XVIII. 2 I

Webb (of Newstead Abbey), acting (together with Sir Bartle Frere) with full powers on behalf of the family, the Rev. Horace Waller (also on behalf of the family and friends), and General C. P. Rigby, and Colonel J. A. Grant, c.B., assisted by Mr. Bates, were called together. The formal consent of the Dean of Westminster to the interment of the body in the Abbey had been received some days previously; and it was now arranged that Mr. Banting's estimate for the funeral should be accepted; that General Rigby and Colonel Grant should proceed to Southampton, to receive the body on behalf of the Council, and, in accordance with the directions of the Foreign Office, that it should lie in the rooms of the Society pending the arrangements of the funeral in London, and that Mr. Webb should invite Sir William Fergusson, the eminent surgeon, to examine and identify the body on its arrival.

The following Report renders an account of the proceedings of the Council Delegates in Southampton.

1, Savile Row, Burlington Gardens, W.

SIR,

April 24th, 1874.

I have the honour to report for the information of the Council that Colonel Grant, c.B., and myself proceeded to Southampton on the 12th inst., in order to receive charge, on behalf of the Council, of the remains of the late Dr. Livingstone, which were expected to arrive per P. & O. Company's steamer *Malwa* on the following day.

We reported our arrival to the Mayor of Southampton, and that gentleman treated us, and the other members of our Committee, with the greatest attention and hospitality. His Worship had engaged ten rooms for our accommodation at the South-Western Hotel, and insisted on considering us as his guests during our stay.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. Hall, who was deputed to represent the P. & O. Company on the occasion, also liberally provided us with steamers, both to meet the *Malwa* and to land the remains, and the Company would make no charge.

The South-Western Railway Company also provided a special train, free of charge, for the conveyance of the body and cortège to London.

The Mayor and Corporation attended in their robes, and received the body with the utmost solemnity, and the town was thronged by a vast assemblage of people, who showed marked respect to the funeral procession.

We feel deeply indebted to the Worshipful the Mayor for his great hospitality and sympathy, and to the Corporation of Southampton for the admirable arrangements they made.

C. P. RIGBY.

The body arrived in London at a little after 3 P.M. on Wednesday the 15th, and the surgical examination was performed on the same day in the Council Room, between the hours of 5 and 7; there being present, besides Sir William Fergusson and his two assistants, Dr. J. Kirk and Dr. Loudon (the family surgeon from Hamilton, in Lanarkshire.)

The following report of the examination, by Sir William Fergusson, is extracted from 'The Lancet' of April 18, 1874:—

"EXAMINATION AND VERIFICATION OF THE BODY OF THE LATE  
DR. LIVINGSTONE.

*"To the Editor of 'The Lancet.'*

SIR,—For many years there has probably been no single individual on whom a greater amount of interest has been concentrated throughout the world than Livingstone. Naturally the excitement has been greatest in Britain. In America it has perhaps been all but equal; and wherever British interests extend, the doings, and latterly the fate, of this remarkable man have thrilled alike on the hearts and tongues of all who prize some of the most marked features of modern civilisation. Giving every credit to our great philanthropists, to our Houses of Lords and Commons, no single human being has struck more deeply at the roots of all that remained in modern times of the curse of slavery than this simple-minded, noble-hearted missionary, who has served God and man with such force, power, and enduring energy, as have never perhaps been exceeded by any other human being.

"It is not in the province of such a journal as yours to comment specially on such themes, and much less is it in mine to refer specially to them in your pages. I cannot, however, but remind you that Livingstone, besides his holy occupation, belonged to our profession. In my own mind I have a strong impression that a considerable portion of his great works resulted from that part of the education which he imbibed in our professional schools, and I therefore look with pride to the fact that his name must ever be enrolled as one of the most remarkable men in our ranks.

"Many doubts have attended the movements of our great explorer in his latter years, which will probably be soon cleared up, as his papers become collected and collated. And within the last few months many have hesitated to believe that he was dead. Above all, it seemed beyond ordinary probability that his remains would have been brought from Central Africa to our heart of London. That a body was on its way from this all but mythical region could hardly be doubted after the examination at Zanzibar of the remains; but many were sceptical as to this dead frame being that of Livingstone. Up to within a few days, I may say until between five and six o'clock this afternoon, even the closest believers in his story felt in the position that they could not affirm more than was the general rumour.

"Happily, it was borne in mind by many old friends that he had one condition of body which would mark the identification of his remains even if years and years had elapsed. The skeleton of the human frame being the last part which decays and falls into impalpable dust, it was thought by those who knew some part of his physical condition that if it should be proved, on anatomical examination, the remains of an old ununited fracture in his left humerus (arm bone) could be recognised, all doubt on the subject would be settled at once and for ever.

"It has fallen to my lot to have the honour of being selected to make the crucial examination to this end, and I have accordingly performed that duty.

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From what I have seen I am much impressed with the ingenious manner in which those who have contrived to secure that the body should be carried through the long distance from where Livingstone died until it could reach a place where transit was comparatively easy, accomplished their task. The lower limbs were so severed from the trunk that the length of the bulk of package was reduced to a little over four feet. The soft tissues seem to have been removed to a great extent from the bones, and these latter were so disposed that by doubling and otherwise the shortening was accomplished. The abdominal viscera were absent, and so were those of the chest, including, of course, heart and lungs. There had been made a large opening in front of the abdomen, and through that the native operators had ingeniously contrived to remove the contents of the chest, as well as of the abdomen. The skin over chest, sternum, and ribs had been untouched.

“Before these points were clearly ascertained, some coarse tapes had to be loosened, which set free some rough linen material—a striped coloured bit of cotton cloth, such as might have been an attractive material for the natives, among whom Livingstone travelled—a coarse cotton shirt, which doubtless belonged to the traveller’s scanty wardrobe, and in particular a large portion of the bark of a tree, which had formed the principal part of the package—the case thereof, no doubt. The skin of the trunk, from the pelvis to the crown of the head, had been untouched. Everywhere was that shrivelling, which might have been expected after salting, baking in the sun, and eleven months of time. The features of the face could not be recognised. The hair on the scalp was plentiful, and much longer than he wore it when last in England. A moustache could not be recognised, but whiskers were in abundance. The forehead was in shape such as we are familiar with from memory, and from the pictures and busts now extant. The circumference of the cranium, from the occiput to the brow, was  $23\frac{3}{4}$  inches, which was recognised by some present to be in accordance with such measurements when alive.

“In particular the arms attracted attention. They lay as if placed in ordinary fashion, each down by the side. The skin and tissues under were on each side shrunk almost to skeleton bulk, and at a glance to practised eyes—there were five, I may say six, professional men present—the state of the left arm was such as to convince everyone present who had examined it during life, that the limb was Livingstone’s. Exactly in the region of the attachment of the deltoid to the humerus, there were the indications of an oblique fracture. On moving the arm there were the indications of the ununited fracture. A closer investigation and dissection displayed the false joint which had long ago been so well recognised by those who had examined the arm in former days. The Rev. Dr. Moffat, and in particular, Dr. Kirk, late of Zanzibar, and Dr. Loudon, of Hamilton, in Scotland, at once recognised the condition. Having myself been consulted regarding the state of the limb when Livingstone was last in London, I was convinced that the remains of the great traveller lay before us. Thousands of heads with a like large circumference might have been under similar scrutiny; the skeletons of hundreds of thousands might have been so; the humerus in each might have been perfect; if one or both had been broken during life it would have united again in such a manner that a tyro could easily have detected the peculiarity. The condition of ununited fracture in this locality is exceedingly rare. I say this from my personal professional experience, and that such a specimen should have turned up in London from the centre of Africa, excepting in the body of Dr. Livingstone, where it was known by competent authorities to have existed, is beyond human credibility. It must not be supposed by those who are not professionally acquainted with this kind of lesion—which often causes so much interest to the practical surgeon—that a fracture and new joint of the kind now referred to could have been of recent date, or made for a purpose. There were in reality all the indi-

cations which the experienced pathologist recognises as infallible, such as the attenuated condition of the two great fragments (common under such circumstances), and the semblance of a new joint, but actually there was a small fragment detached from the others which bore out Livingstone's own view that the bones had been 'crunched into splinters.' Having had ample opportunity of examining the arm during life, and conversing with Livingstone on the subject, and being one of those who entertained hopes that the last reports of Livingstone's death might, like others, prove false, I approached the examination with an anxious feeling regarding this great and most peculiar crucial test. The first glance at the left arm set my mind at rest, and that, with the further examination, made me as positive as to the identity of these remains as that there has been among us in modern times one of the greatest men of the human race—David Livingstone.

"The accompanying extract from Dr. Livingstone's 'Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa,'\* published in 1857, will be read with peculiar interest at the present date. It bears specially upon the matter now in question. The physiology referred to has, I know, attracted special attention from the late Sir Benjamin Brodie and others, and the pathos of his statement of how he meant to have kept the tale of the occurrence 'in store to tell my grandchildren when in my dotage,' must touch the heart of all who have sympathy with the life-story of this modern hero.

"WM. FERGUSSON.

"George-street, Hanover-square, April 15th, 1874."

The Dean of Westminster having fixed Saturday the 18th as the day of the interment, the Committee had but two days within which to make all necessary arrangements—the invitation of mourners and representatives of public bodies, and the distribution of tickets for the Abbey to Fellows of the Society and the public. The Dean placed 900 reserved places at the service of the Committee, tickets for which were furnished to them by the undertaker. To aid in the selection of persons to be invited to the funeral, and the distribution of the tickets, the Committee added to their number Mr. E. Hutchinson, Secretary to the Church Missionary Society, and Dr. Birdwood, of the India Office. Meantime, the coffin was placed in the Map-Room of the Society, and visited during Thursday and Friday, the 16th and 17th, by a large number of the Fellows and the public.

The Committee had, at first, the intention of limiting the cost of the funeral to the amount of the Government grant, viz. 250*l.*, and they directed Messrs. Banting accordingly to provide nothing but what was strictly necessary; and prepare for five mourning carriages only, which was all the means at their disposal would admit of. The necessity, however, for providing places in the funeral cortège for the numerous representatives of municipal, scientific, and religious bodies, who requested to be allowed to take part in the ceremony, became so urgent that they were obliged gradually to increase the number of mourning carriages to twelve. Several un-

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\* Relating to his encounter with the lion.

foreseen items of expense also presented themselves, such as a new and suitable coffin, &c., which tended to augment the total cost of the funeral to 500*l.* 19*s.* 1*d.*, viz., Messrs. Banting's bill, 487*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*, and cost of postages, telegrams, &c., 13*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*

As already stated in General Rigby's Report of the Proceedings at Southampton, no expenses were incurred at that place on account of the reception of the body, and the London and South-Western Railway Company made no charge for the conveyance of the same to London.

The following is a list of the mourners at the funeral :—

First coach.—Mr. T. S. Livingstone and Mr. W. Oswald Livingstone (sons), Dr. Moffat, Mr. James Vavasseur (relatives). 2nd coach.—Sir T. Steele, Dr. Kirk, Mr. W. F. Webb, Jacob Wainwright (pall bearers); African boy Kalulu in this carriage. 3rd coach.—Rev. Horace Waller, Mr. Oswald, Mr. E. Young, Mr. H. M. Stanley (pall bearers). 4th coach.—Sir. W. Fergusson, Rev. H. W. Hamilton, Dr. J. Loudon, and Mr. James Hannan. 5th coach.—The Duke of Sutherland, The Right Hon. Sir Bartle Frere, K.C.B. (President Royal Geographical Society), Sir H. C. Rawlinson, K.C.B. (Vice-President Royal Geographical Society), and Mr. Kenneth R. Murchison. 6th coach.—General Rigby, Colonel J. A. Grant, C.B.; Mr. J. Murray, and Mr. J. Young, jun. (of Kelly). 7th coach.—Vice-Admiral Baron de la Roncière le Noury (President French Geographical Society), Dr. Hooker (President Royal Society), Lord Houghton, Mr. H. W. Bates (Assistant-Secretary Royal Geographical Society). 8th coach.—The Provost of Hamilton, Mr. J. B. Braithwaite, Mr. C. R. Markham, and Mr. R. H. Major (Secretaries Royal Geographical Society). 9th coach.—Rev. Dr. Stewart, Mr. T. Nicholson, Mr. Ralston, Mr. J. Young, of Kelly (friends of the family). 10th coach.—The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr. Duncan M'Laren, M.P.; Mr. James Cowan, M.P.; Mr. Josiah Livingstone. 11th coach.—The Lord Provost of Glasgow, Dr. Watson (President, Faculty of Physicians, Glasgow), Baillie Walls (Chief Magistrate, Glasgow), Baillie Bain. 12th coach.—Mr. Edwin Jones (Mayor of Southampton), Sir Frederick Perkins, Mr. A. Laing (in charge of the body from Zanzibar).

C. P. RIGBY.

J. A. GRANT.

1 Savile Row, April 27th, 1874.

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Since the above Report was received and accepted by the Council, Her Majesty's Government have communicated to the President their intention of defraying the whole cost of the funeral.