

of him yet, and I do not expect to
hear until May at the earliest. It
seems a dreadful long time. My son
Henry who is now in Trichinopoly
after a two years' residence in
Tonghoo, is in pretty good health, but
he cannot yet leave to come home,
nor will he until India is all right
again, if that wished for result ever takes
place, of which I have my doubts. I
am a Company's man, and do not believe
that our Government can ever manage
anything out of England. See what a mess they
have made with all our colonies, until they
have let them govern themselves, which India
cannot do, but by a Company. But I need not
bother you with my speculations, which are perhaps
crude and old-fashioned. If you come to England
I hope I shall see, but I rather wish you may get a
good berth in Africa, where you must be useful.
Believe me my dear friend, very sincerely
Edwin Smith

I understand our Government wants to send men to Japan as British
interpreters, and there is some difficulty about getting them. Of course you
must be a British subject, why not
apply?

BL 151 C 14.29

Foreign Office
20 Dec. 1858
[1858]

My dear Bleek,

I dare say you will
think I have quite forgotten you,
as it is so long since you wrote last
to me; but the truth is that I was
some months away from town,
trying to recover my health, which
had suffered from too much appli-
cation; and since my return I have had
an immense amount of work to do.

My New Zealand grammar that you
speak of was never printed. One sheet
only went through the press, and then the
publisher got alarmed at the expense
and would do no more. I gave all my

miss to Nofer. I wish I could
get the old Danish works that Sir
Grey wants. I had a letter a month
ago from my friend Roestergaard at
Copenhagen, and he says they are very
difficult to get even there, but he is in the
look out for them, and will forward every
he can meet with. My Danish book is
not out yet, but all is printed except
the Preface, title page, &c.

I hardly know how to advise
you in the affair you mention. I
have not yet left this den, the servants
give such poor pensions to their worn out
servants, that I could not keep my family
if I left off work now. I should think
if Sir Grey would be your best friend and

advisor. Your peculiar knowledge of
African languages gives you a preeminent
claim to employment in that part of the world,
and there are few indeed who would
compete with you. Do you intend to
leave the lake and come to England?
There was some report that Sir F. was
coming home, and I conclude that you
would come with him, else I should say
that your best prospects were at the lake.
You know from your London experience
how completely every avenue to employment
is beset by applicants. My son Edwin is
gone to New Zealand because I could
get nothing for him here: he sailed on
the 20th of October last, by the ship
"William Watson". We have heard nothing