

## Letter to Thomas S. Livingstone, 7 January 1862

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

River Shire 7 January

1862

My Dear Tom

I send you through  
M<sup>r</sup> Conynham a small canoe  
which I picked up on Lake  
Nyassa. some little boy had  
made it of a light wood of a  
species of *Arschinomena* , and it  
gives a good idea of the shape canoes  
are made on the Lake - It ought to  
be more hollowed out inside -  
then a tin box contains some bits  
of the rocks on the west of the  
Lake, can you tell me what  
they are? [I think I saw rocks of the family at Kendal] One piece was a weight  
to a floating net which boys were  
using to catch fish, you will  
see the line with which it was tied

[0002]

then the house which an insect - a species  
of cricket makes, and trails about while  
its body is still soft. It is formed of  
little sticks. then a number of shells  
from Lake Nyassa, some are rare -  
you may share them with your  
brothers - Lastly a piece of a cake  
made of an insect called Kungo  
no bigger than midges or gnats.  
I don't expect you to eat it but  
to see food made of the smallest  
insect used as food by man -  
send it to James Aspinal Turner  
Esq. Manchester - you remember  
he gave you some apples &c -  
when a little box like this was  
sent through him. Tell him in  
your letter that I sent the Kungo  
to shew the use that these little

insects are put to. He does not  
utilize his insects as people here do.  
[0003]

I have not recieved recieved any letter from  
you for a very long time. I expect  
Mama soon, and am sorry to  
think that baby will not be  
with her for I should like to see  
her - but I am afraid that she  
could not live in the malaria  
of the rivers here. We came through  
the Elephant marsh today and  
it smells so strongly of decayed  
vegetable matter and has so  
many mosquitoes it cannot  
be healthy. If the land were  
cultivated it would be more  
wholesome. the soil is so rich  
it could support millions of  
people where now there are  
but thousands or hundreds.  
[...] [God has provided] ded ample room  
[0004]

for all his creatures in our beautiful  
world but a great many people  
are crowded together in cities in  
Europe and much misery is  
endured in close ill ventilated  
narrow lanes and dwellings &  
to those who dont know the  
world it might seem that the  
discomfort, ill health & misery  
that exist there are necessary  
evils. The Lord is good to all  
and has provided every thing  
we need for time & eternity if  
people will only avail themselves  
of his goodness & grace. the rich  
ought to help the poor to go to other  
lands and all ought to embrace  
Jesus Christ and with him every  
good thing necessary will be added

I have written you another letter  
besides this [...]