

## Letter to John Kirk, 26 June 1871

*David Livingstone*

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10768] To D<sup>r</sup> Kirk from D. Livingstone 26<sup>th</sup> June 1871

on this page I intended to put an Arabic dismissal to the ringleaders  
I use it now to say please do not be offended with palavers - I am really  
reduced to beggary notwithstanding all the bountiful provision you  
with immense difficulty made for me and that too almost entirely by the  
villainy of the unmitigated drunken blackgaurd Shereef - His Banian owner  
a British subject is in part to blame for he must have known his habits  
and his brandy when they imposed him on us - He is reported to have bought  
ivory with my goods and this ivory ought to be stopped at the custom house  
as is done in case of Arabs till he refunds - If Seyed bin Majid sends the  
list of goods left by Shereef you will judge of the extent of loss - If not then  
the case had better wait till I return - Remember that the list containing  
12 Frasilahs samsam and the watch is that destroyed by Shereef - I have  
that of samsam 6 Frasilahs - Langio 3 D<sup>o</sup> & Pink 3 &c - All Dugumbe's  
people saw the packet and think as he refused it to Dugumbe it is  
hidden = I feel sore most of all about the watch - though it is hard too  
to be living from hand to mouth in beggary while my Banian slaves lived  
sixteen months in clover and idleness earning they supposed from five  
to seven dollars per month - They are independant of the Arabs but so they  
are of us and of honesty - I go West of this to Lomame = 60<sup>o</sup> then buy a  
canoe if Dugumbe will advance the price and go South to the Watershed  
and four fountains = Dugumbe is very friendly and a gentleman with more  
exploring enterprise in him than any other - He is going to sow and be  
here at Nyangwe for three years sending every now & then to Ujiji  
letters sent to him will be safe - His people will bring some  
goods for me from Ujiji and I shall share liberally with him  
I might have mentioned that a dyke of basalt or other igneous rock  
cuts across the river 4 days of the canoe below this and the immense body  
of water is jammed rushing through the jutting ends which are not parallel  
[Livingstone illustrates the portion of the river described in the foregoing sentence.] and form  
whirlpools in which canoes wheel round & round  
helplessly = I am thankful I was not there for I would have been  
foremost in this and a cataract below it and no Makololo to help me  
I thought next of going up river to Kamolondo the broad part of  
Webbs Lake river but another cataract intervenes so I go due  
West on foot on the 2<sup>d</sup> day of New about 9<sup>th</sup> July. In this jumble  
of odds & ends you will see how my mind is confused - I should have  
added up there that I dont go down river at present because in

turning up Lomame from Lualaba I should probably meet the same basaltic dyke in the ascent for such dykes run a long way across country - here I have a chance of cutting Lomame above it

David Livingstone

I had to pay the carriers of Shereefs brandy from first to last his own trade for ivory was what he followed shamelessly