

## Letter to [Agnes Livingstone 3], 24 December 1863

*Livingstone, David, 1813-1873*

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[0001]

Private Dec<sup>r</sup> 24.1863

M<sup>rs</sup> Buchanan

has written to me to know  
my mind in reference  
to your going to another  
school either in Scotland  
or England. To Miss  
Fisdells or to what is  
called a finishing school  
in London. the last will  
cost £150 a year But  
I reply as you seem to  
prefer it so do I. But  
dont think pray that because  
it is a finishing school  
you can finish your  
studies after a year there -  
that would be a misfortune  
but you may make  
still higher attainments  
[0002]

in our own cottage if it  
please God to permit us  
that pleasure, by using  
the information acquired  
as stepping stones for future  
use.

She requests me to say  
whether I should like you to  
go to the communion.  
Of course I should if you  
in love to our saviour  
went to obey his command  
” Do this in remembrance of  
me. She would like to  
know if you could go  
with them to their church  
on that occasion. As I see  
much to admire & something

to deplore in all churches,  
I am not anxious about  
what body of christians  
you may join. I communini-  
cate with any body of  
Protestants wherever I have  
[0003]  
the priviledge, and as you  
dont know where your  
lot may be cast it  
may be well to remember  
that all the churches who  
hold Jesus as the Head  
belong to his flock. I  
like the church of  
Scotland as well as  
any, but you must  
be guided by your own  
convictions of what is  
right. the matter is one  
between you & your Saviour

M<sup>rs</sup> B. is right in telling  
you not to sleep with a  
woman much older than  
yourself. A transference of  
vitality often takes place  
the younger person loses  
life or power the elder  
gains. A child often  
[becomes sickly] & old  
[...] [s]leeping  
[0004]  
with an aunt & when put  
into a crib of its own quickly  
recovers without medicine  
this was well known to  
physicians as long ago as  
when King David lived to be  
an old man.

As you dislike the sayings  
of that dreadful woman  
dont imitate them and  
when you see evils in  
others take a lesson to avoid  
them in yourself. and  
always remember who  
makes you to differ from  
the worst. I have told her  
that you could visit Aunt

Helen Vavasseur M<sup>rs</sup>  
Fitch- and M<sup>rs</sup> Bevan  
Braithwaite in London  
we hope soon to be home  
i.e. sometime in summer  
next.